

**Bass River Elementary School
MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2025**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance led by the Board President, Mr. Swanseen

Time: 6:30 pm

2. ROLL CALL by Board Secretary Mrs. Van Tassel

PRESENT: Mr. Bush, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Swanseen

ABSENT:

Others Present: Katherine Van Tassel, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

3. Work Session - Executive Session

Voice Vote to enter executive work sessions for the purpose of budget matters. Time in: 6:30 p.m.

Ayes: (3) Mr. Bush, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Swanseen

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion carried

Voice Vote to exit executive session announced Time out: 7:00 p.m.

Ayes: (3) Mr. Bush, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Swanseen

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion carried

4. RECOGNITION

The notice was read aloud to the public by the Board Secretary Mrs. Van Tassel

“This is to advise those present at this meeting of the Board of Education of the Bass River School District, in the County of Burlington, that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act. The notice has been posted on the Board of Education Website. The notice was also mailed to the Press of Atlantic City and filed with the Municipal Clerk of Bass River Township.”

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Mr. Curtin to approve the Agenda

Voice Vote

Ayes: (3) Mr. Bush, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Swanseen

Nays: 0

Abstain:

Motion carried

6. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

Motion by Mr. Curtin, seconded by Mr. Bush that the Board of Education approve, by Resolution, to submit the 2025-2026 School Budget to the County Office of Education.

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RESOLUTION

Current Expense	\$	1,734,214.00
Capital Outlay	\$	-
Total General Fund	\$	1,734,214.00
Special Revenue	\$	-
Debt Service	\$	-
TOTAL BUDGET	\$	1,734,214.00

BE IT RESOLVED, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2025-2026 School Year and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the tentative budget to the Burlington County Office of Education for approval as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, to acknowledge that the 2025-2026 school year budget as described results in a general fund tax levy of \$1,099,583 and a debt service tax levy of \$00.00 for a total tax levy of \$1,099,583 and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the school business administrator/board secretary is authorized to advertise said tentative budget in the Asbury Park Press, as directed by the Department of Education in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), the maximum expenditure for travel for the 2024-2025 school year for all staff and board members is \$5,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing will be held in the Bass River Municipal Building on April 30th at 6:30 p.m. for a Public Hearing on the budget for the 2025-2026 School Year.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bass River Board of Education to approve the tentative 2025-2026 school district budget for submission and approval by the New Jersey Department of Education along with the supporting documentation of certain itemized expenditures required under administrative regulations as follows:

2025-2026 School Year

Public relations and professional services; board policies; efficiency

(a) Each school district and county vocational school district board shall establish by policy or policies a strategy or strategies in order to minimize the cost of public relations as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14, and professional services. In accordance with Board Policy 9160, to the extent practicable and cost effective, but need not be limited to, the following provisions:

- 1. A maximum dollar limit, established annually prior to budget preparation, for public relations, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14, and each type of professional service, with appropriate notification to the board of education if it becomes necessary to exceed the maximum. Upon such notification, the board of education may adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal board action.*

Service
Auditing Services

Maximum Amount
\$30,000 for district audit and misc. services

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Solicitor *and* *\$50,000 for district attorney and litigation services*

Roll Call:

Ayes: (3) Mr. Bush, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Swanseen

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion carried

7. OLD BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor is now open to members of the public. The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express with each statement made by a participant limited to three minutes as cited in Policy No. 0167.

Mrs. Bonnie Adams, Resident spoke with the Board regarding the budget and students who attend the LEH schools. Specifically, she inquired about the scholarship that was previously given to Bass River students by the PTO, who are the paid staff at Bass River and a breakdown of students at each school. (opened 7:04 p.m.) closed at 7:15 p.m.

No public comments and session closed. at 7:26

10. BOARD FORUM - None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Bush and seconded by Mr. Curtin to adjourn the meeting:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BASS RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION to adjourn at 7:15 pm

12. MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting - April 30, 2025 at 6:30 p.m work session, 7:00 public meeting.

The Bass River Board of Education meeting will be held at the Bass River Municipal Building located at:

3 North Maple Ave, New Gretna.