

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF LONG BRANCH
NEW JERSEY**

MINUTES

APRIL 3, 2020

The Emergency Meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education was held in the Long Branch Administrative Office, 540 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Covin called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A. ROLL CALL

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| Mr. Covin - President | Dr. Critelli – 10:05 – call in | Ms. McCaskill – call in |
| Mrs. Youngblood Brown – VP – call in | Mr. Zambrano – 10:05 – call in | Mrs. Peters - call in |
| Mr. Grant | Rev. Bennett – absent | Mrs. Perez – call in |

Administrator's Present

Dr. Salvatore Mr. Genovese

B. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Covin, Board President, saluted the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Covin and carried by roll call vote that the Board approve the following item (C).

Ayes (6), Nays (0), Absent (3) Dr. Critelli, Mr. Zambrano and Rev. Bennett

C. APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY MEETING

That the Board recognize the necessity for the emergency meeting and adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Long Branch Board of Education (herein referred to as the "Board") agrees to hold an emergency meeting for the sole purpose of adjusting the school calendar; and

WHEREAS, a vote of two-thirds of this membership is required in order to hold this meeting; and

WHEREAS, upon approval to have this meeting the School Business Administrator will advertise accordingly,

C. **APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY MEETING - continued**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by roll call vote the Board agrees to hold the emergent meeting.

Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 3 (Dr. Critelli, Mr. Zambrano and Rev. Bennett)
Date: April 3, 2020

D-1. **STATEMENT OF THE MANNER OF NOTIFICATION OF THE MEETING**

Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary stated notice of this Emergency Meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education will be given in the appropriate newspapers in accordance with law regarding emergency meetings. Mr. Genovese further stated notice of this meeting was also forwarded to the City Clerk, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Genovese made the following announcement: Fire exits are located in the direction indicated. In case of fire, you will be signaled by bell and/or public address system. If so alerted to fire, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest smoke-free exit.

D-2. **OBJECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE VALIDITY OF THE MEETING**

Mr. Genovese stated that the objecting member must give supporting reasons.

E-1. **STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Covin made the following announcement: Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases by unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent of Schools is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate Board committee. The members of the Board committee work with the administration and Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting. All agenda attachments are available for public review. In rare instances, matters are presented to the Board of Education for discussion at the same meeting that final action may be taken.

E-1. STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC (continued)

Time may be allocated for public comment at this meeting. Each speaker may be allotted up to three (3) minutes and one (1) opportunity to address the Board when recognized by the presiding officer. Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the presiding officer and shall give their names, addresses and the group, if any, that they represent. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its presiding officer, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not in keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. With the exception of those individuals whose names are on the agenda this evening, the Board will not respond to questions during the public participation portion of this meeting involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, negotiations, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific, prospective or current employee.

E-2. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one addressed the Board.

F. ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Salvatore stated that he spoke to the President of the union and explained what we are looking to do which is work through the spring break, keep the long Memorial Day weekend which will be a 4 day weekend and finish up on June 10, 2020.

Motion was made by Mrs. Perez, seconded by Mrs. Peters and carried by roll call vote that the Board approve the following item (F1).

Ayes (6), Nays (0), Absent (3) Dr. Critelli, Mr. Zambrano and Rev. Bennett

1. APPROVAL TO ADJUST THE 2019 – 2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

That the Board approve the adjustment of the 2019 – 2020 school calendar.

G. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No one addressed the Board.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Salvatore gave a brief instructional update for the benefit of the Board members, explaining how we have partnered with TMobile in order to provide internet access and devices for the nearly 1,000 households that are not connected with distribution to the Middle School and High School students scheduled for today.

Dr. Critelli and Mr. Zambrano joined the meeting at 10:05 A.M.

Dr. Salvatore discussed how meals are being prepared and served, stating that almost 10,000 meals per week have been distributed.

Dr. Salvatore also explained the grading process to the Board.

Mr. Grant – Is this information getting out to everyone?

Dr. Salvatore – Yes it is.

Mrs. Perez – What are we doing with long term substitutes?

Dr. Salvatore – We have approximately 38 regular substitutes. They are all being paid and helping with the instructional delivery to the students.

Mr. Covin – If a staff member is out on medical leave and would like to come back are they able to do that?

Dr. Salvatore – Yes.

Mr. Grant – Is everyone getting paid?

Dr. Salvatore – Yes, including our contracted vendors as well as therapists who are providing services to our students.

Mr. Covin – If families in low income housing are struggling to pay for Wifi access is there something the Board can do?

Dr. Salvatore – Yes, we are looking into that as well.

Mrs. Youngblood Brown expressed concern about reaching every child that needs internet access.

Dr. Salvatore – Approximately 300 devices are being distributed at the High School and Middle School today. Next week we will be distributing to the elementary schools and pre-schools. Our plan is fluid and we have all of our teachers and staff reaching out to 100% of all students to make sure they can access educational content.

Mr. Covin – Is there a possibility for parents, either through us or through a vendor, to secure a discount to purchase devices?

Dr. Salvatore – We are looking into that to see who can help.

Mrs. Peters inquired regarding the translation issue.

Dr. Salvatore – Many of the applications that are being used bridge that gap and we have several staff members that are helping as well.

Mrs. Peters – The Latino Association has extended their scholarship application submission deadline to May 1, 2020.

Mrs. Perez expressed concern about the pending legislation to allow municipalities to adjust the fourth quarter tax payments to schools.

Dr. Salvatore – Although this has passed in the Assembly it is currently frozen in the Senate because they are concerned about hurting schools.

Dr. Salvatore stated that he had received a text from a parent regarding the meals being served and how helpful it was not to have to worry about lunch especially because these individuals are unemployed. It is making a difference.

Mr. Grant inquired about graduation.

Dr. Salvatore – We are working with the Education Law Center to waive certain standards to ensure that students who qualify are able to graduate.

H **ADJOURNMENT – 10:47 A.M.**

There being no further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Zambrano, seconded by Dr. Critelli and carried by roll call vote that the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:47 A.M.

Ayes (8), Nays (0), Absent (1) Rev. Bennett

Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary