

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

MINUTES

JULY 20, 2022

The Annual Retreat Meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education was held at the Historic High School, 391 Westwood Avenue, Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mrs. Youngblood Brown called the meeting to order at 1:12 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Youngblood Brown - President	Dr. Critelli	Mrs. Peters
Mrs. Perez - Vice President	Mr. Zambrano	Ms. Benosky – 1:12 P.M.
Mr. Grant	Mr. Covin	Mr. Ferraina

Administrators Present

Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Riley, Dr. Dudick, Mrs. Esposito, Dr. Valdiviezo, Ms. Puleio, Mrs. Aquino, Mr. Genovese, Mr. M. Rodriguez,

A-1. STATEMENT OF THE MANNER OF NOTIFICATION OF THE MEETING

Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary stated adequate notice of the meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education has been provided by a Schedule of Public Meetings published in the Asbury Park Press. Mr. Genovese further stated a Schedule of Public Meetings has been posted in the Board of Education Office and the Office of 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.

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

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

B. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Youngblood Brown, Board President, saluted the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C-1. STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Youngblood Brown 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

C-1. **STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC (continued)**

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

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.

C-2. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No one addressed the Board.

D. **PRESENTATION – SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY**

Nikkia Blair reviewed with the Board of Education the theory behind Social Emotional Learning and the impact that it has on our children. She felt it was important that the Board members know what the teachers are teaching and what the students are learning. Mrs. Blair walked the Board and the members of the cabinet through 2 exercises which highlighted how powerful words can be, especially when you are dealing with children.

Mr. Ferraina left the meeting at 1:45 P.M.

At the end of the presentation, the Board had a brief discussion with respect to the impact of SEL. The Board was also made aware of the fact that we currently have 301 children that are classified as being displaced or homeless.

E. **BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT – DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2022 – 2023**

Mrs. Youngblood Brown reviewed with the Board the current goals for both the district and the Board of Education. She asked that the various committees review their goals to ensure that they are aligned with the Board of Education goals. She also asked that the members bring back that information to the full Board in October after all of the committees have met. The self evaluations and the Board evaluations are due by the August meeting. Mrs. Youngblood Brown stated that she will try to get the Monmouth County School Board representative to attend that meeting to assist us with our goal setting.

Mr. Ferraina returned to the meeting at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the Strategic Plan with the Board. He briefly discussed the highlights from the first year and explained how we defined the new norm, the impact of Social Emotional Learning, programs, pathways and proficiency and the portrait of a graduate.

Mr. Rodriguez showed a video for Diversity Equity and Inclusion and discussed the impact of communication.

Mr. Rodriguez - I want our district to do more than survive, I want us to thrive and I believe the programs in place are geared to help us succeed. We have several partnerships with Brookdale Community College as well as with some local businesses within the community. We have expanded our trade courses. Our graduation rate is currently at 95.6% while the State expectation rate is 93% so the Board has exceeded the State's average. We have a 2 ½% drop out rate. One of the highlights of the communication piece is a text messaging alert system as well as focus groups within the school community. Our students have also experienced summer youth internship programs with the City of Long Branch and during our recent Career Fair we included the 5th grade students to participate.

Mr. Rodriguez also gave the Board a glimpse of what year 2 will look like, where we will be expanding our focus groups, enhance our programs with Brookdale Community College and expand our trade program opportunities within the district.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Youngblood Brown opened the floor up to any discussions the Board members may want to have.

Mr. Zambrano – Has the air conditioner in this room been repaired?

Mr. Rodriguez – Yes, it was done quite awhile ago. The addition of 2 air conditioners was to ensure that it was comfortable for today in light of the heat and the number of people who would be attending this meeting.

Mrs. Youngblood Brown also handed out, for the benefit of all of the members, a summary of positions by school location which had been requested by one of the members.

F. ADJOURNMENT – 3:52

There being no further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Covin, seconded by Mrs. Perez and carried by roll call vote that the Board adjourn the meeting at 3:52 P.M.

Ayes (9), Nays (0), Absent (0)