

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF LONG BRANCH
NEW JERSEY
SPECIAL COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING
404 INDIANA AVENUE**

MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2013

The Special Community Forum Meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education was held at 404 Indiana Avenue, Long Branch, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Beams, Board President, at 5:00 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Beams – President	Mrs. Perez	Mr. Dangler
Mr. Parnell - Vice President	Mr. Grant	Mr. Zambrano - absent
Mrs. George	Mrs. Critelli	Mr. Menkin - absent

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 Atlanticville and the Asbury Park Press. He 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

Michael Salvatore, Superintendent of Schools, saluted the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECTED FACILITIES PLAN

Mr. Salvatore gave a detailed presentation with respect to the re-organization of the district which will take place for the 2014 – 2015 school year. He reviewed the current grade configuration beginning with the Joseph F. Ferraina Early Childhood Learning Center and moving through the elementary schools into the Middle School and High School. Mr. Salvatore reviewed the current enrollment and showed how the projected enrollment will fit into the new configuration beginning next year.

Mr. Salvatore – The Joseph M. Ferraina Early Childhood Learning Center, Lenna W. Conrow School and Morris Avenue School will house Pre-K 3 through kindergarten. The Gregory School, Amerigo A. Anastasia School and George L. Catrambone School will house elementary grades 1 through 5. Middle School and High School will remain unchanged. The Audrey W. Clark School will become the Alternative School. We may consider taking in tuition

students for certain special education programs. The Morris Avenue School, West End School and Audrey W. Clark School would all be consolidated and moved to the George L. Catrambone School, at which point the Board may consider selling West End School. Church Street School and Chelsea Avenue have previously been listed for sale. Regarding the old High School, we are working closely with the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey School Development Authority to bring that building to resolution. With respect to the Hand in Hand facility, we may bring those students back to 540 Broadway as this was their original location. We could potentially sell the property on Myrtle Avenue as well. We are looking at what our options are for the Holy Trinity School which has 10 classrooms which we are currently renting.

Upon conclusion of Mr. Salvatore's presentation, he opened it up for questions from the general public.

One concern was how busing would be affected when 3 schools are consolidated into 1.

Mr. Salvatore – We are looking to reconfigure all bus routes and have multiple tiers in order to facilitate some cost savings.

Mrs. Beams had a question regarding magnet programs.

Mr. Salvatore – We would like to enhance the magnet programs and have them begin perhaps as early as the Pre-school.

Mrs. Perez was concerned with ensuring that the district remains desegregated.

Mr. Salvatore assured her that the district will always achieve racial balance.

Other concerns were voiced regarding parents of students who currently walk to their elementary school. When those students are bussed across town to the George L. Catrambone School, how will those parents be able to attend school functions.

Mr. Salvatore – The administration will work on dealing with those issues. This is a kick off meeting to introduce the proposed re-configuration.

Mrs. Bonita Potter-Brown
Principal
Lenna W. Conrow School

Mrs. Brown – Is there any opportunity for an aquatic center?

Mr. Salvatore – It is currently not in the forefront during this planning phase.

Mrs. Loretta Johnson
Principal
Joseph M. Ferraina Early Childhood Learning Center

Mrs. Johnson had a concern regarding the pre-school times versus the kindergarten times.

Mr. Salvatore – They will all be adjusted accordingly.

Reverend Aaron Gibson
Second Baptist Church
93 Liberty Street
Long Branch, NJ

Reverend Gibson brought up a concern with the Audrey W. Clark School becoming the Alternate School.

Mr. Salvatore – We are looking at the Audrey W. Clark School for now because the old High School which was originally going to be the alternate school will not be ready until 2015, but it is something that the Board and the administration will look into.

Mrs. Brown – What type of administrative configuration will be at the George L. Catrambone School?

Mr. Salvatore – Similar to that of the Anastasia and Gregory Schools with a principal and vice principal.

Mrs. Bridgette Burt
Principal
Gregory School

Mrs. Burt – I think it is a very good idea to have students in one school for several years.

Reverend Caroline Bennett
McLaughlin Pentecostal Church
148 C.P. Williams Way
Long Branch, NJ

Reverend Bennett expressed concern with respect to the distance students will be traveling on the bus.

Mr. Salvatore – We have had a bus travel to that location before and we do not anticipate any additional time for children to be transported to that site.

D. **ADJOURNMENT – 6:10 P.M.**

There being no further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Dangler seconded by Mr. Parnell and carried by roll call vote that the Board adjourn the meeting at 6:10 P.M. Ayes (7), Nays (0), Absent (2) Mr. Zambrano and Mr. Menkin

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