

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

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

The Agenda Meeting of the Long Branch Board of Education was held at 540 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dangler, Board President, at 7:00 P.M.

**A. ROLL CALL**

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

**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**

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

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

Mr. Dangler 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.

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

Time may be allocated for public comment at this meeting. Each speaker may be allotted a limited time 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. 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

Mr. Salvatore opened the meeting.

Mr. Richard McOmber reviewed with the Board the Long Branch school districts nepotism policy with respect to voting.

Mr. McOmber – I have received calls from a few districts with regards to voting no or abstaining and whether or not it is required to give a reason. In my research, there is no statute that requires a Board member to give justification or reason as to why they chose to vote no or abstain from a given motion. Obviously, a Board members decision should not be arbitrary or capricious and if the affected member were to challenge the Boards decision in court it is possible that a judge may compel the member to give a reason for their vote.

A further guideline by Mr. McOmber was that the Ethics Commission seems to balance many of their decisions on public perception and therefore when deciding whether to vote no or abstain from a motion involving a relationship to the member, careful consideration should be used.

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Parnell reviewed with the Board the various accomplishments by Facilities, Buildings and Grounds and Technology.

Mr. Parnell spoke regarding the solar project, the hot water in the classrooms at the Lenna W. Conrow School, the storm repairs, the concession stand, air conditioning replacement at JMFECLC, the generator at the Middle School and the districts move from a 20 Mbs. pipe to a 100 Mbs. pipe to the internet.

**INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Critelli briefed the Board on behalf of the committee chairwoman. Mrs. Critelli outlined the many initiatives that are taking place this year such as Study Island, Ramapo for Children, PD360, Academic Vocabulary Observation 360, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of SFA for language arts, writing workshops at the Middle School, Read 180 and everyday mathematics.

Mr. Zambrano – Are we looking into any other power source for the generator at the Middle School?

Mr. Salvatore – Yes, we are looking at the ability to use natural gas as an alternative.

Mr. Salvatore reviewed the Agenda with the Board.

Mr. Salvatore reviewed the 3 incidents that he had received with regards to bullying,

10. **CONSOLIDATED CHANGE ORDER #3 – CONSTRUCTION OF CONCESSION STAND, TOILETS AND STORAGE FACILITY AT HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. Parnell – Can I get a complete report as to the original cost for the concession stand project as well as all change orders?

Mr. Genovese – I will compile a report for the Board.

15. **STUDENT TEACHER/INTERN PLACEMENT**

Mr. Salvatore - I would like to have all student/interns finger printed. Upon graduation, one of these students could possibly become a potential employee them and this would preclude them from having to wait an extended period of time to be able to work in the school system. I have checked with other districts and this seems to be a common practice.

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Salvatore read the letter he received from a parent requesting that their daughter be able to spend her senior year here even though they moved out of town.

The Board agreed.

Mr. Salvatore reviewed the Addenda with the Board.

1. **PERSONNEL**

c) **EMPLOYMENT OF COMPUTER NETWORK MANAGER**

Mr. Parnell – What do you mean by part time?

Mr. Salvatore explained the lengthy process the administration has engaged in with regards to securing a professional in the area, from getting quotes for services to negotiating for someone to be here without providing them with benefits in order to meeting the needs of the districts and continue to save money. Currently the Board is paying \$250. per hour for a company to provide these technical services for us. With the hiring of this individual we will be able to reduce or eliminate the contract with that company.

1. **PERSONNEL**

g) **COACHING APPOINTMENTS - WINTER 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

Mrs. Beams – I have extreme concerns with regards to Don Covin, who is a lead principal, taking on the responsibility of head basketball coach for varsity. I am concerned about the conflict with his Middle School duties. There are low test scores in that building and if a situation were to arise, and a parent was not able to reach the principal because he was coaching basketball I would be extremely upset. I think it sends a mixed message that instruction is not as important as athletics. I cannot support this recommendation. I know Don Covin is an extraordinary coach but it sets a bad precedent to have a principal involved with anything that will take them out of their building. Has the union been consulted due to the fact that you are taking a stipend position away from them?

Mr. Salvatore – I have not discussed this with the union, I wanted to discuss it with the Board members first and get their input. Due to fact that Don Covin is an administrator he would not be eligible for a stipend. His primary responsibility is as an administrator and principal, basketball coach would be secondary. If there was a situation that prevented him from showing up to practice then someone else would have to assume the position for that day.

Mr. Parnell – Did you meet with Don Covin?

Mr. Salvatore – No.

Mrs. George – If we were to take the names out of this equation and just look at having a principal as head coach, where are we really going with this?

Mr. Salvatore – Based on a concern that Mrs. Perez had at the last meeting, I pulled together the policies dating back to 1996, policy #41131, which specially addressed administrators not being able to coach, not as a paid position or as a volunteer. In January of 2000, the policy was amended and all reference to administration was taken out. I was not involved when this amendment took place so I am not clear why the Board felt it was no longer an issue in this policy.

Mrs. Beams – Technically V.J. Muscillo could coach and be an administrator.

Mr. Salvatore – I would not recommend that. I feel that Don Covin is a seasoned administrator and would be in a much better position to facilitate both positions.

Mrs. Beams – I want to insure that as part of the Board's minutes, that I go on record stating that I am vehemently against this appointment. If I were a parent that needed to meet with the principal on an emergency issue and found out that he was coaching basketball, I would be livid.

Mr. Zambrano agreed with Mrs. Beams and felt that the administrators should stay in their respective buildings and leave others to become head coaches.

Mrs. Critelli – I would like to think that there are other administrators in the building that would be able to be relied upon in case of an emergency and that it doesn't all lie on one individual.

Mr. Dangler – I also agree that the success of the schools certainly isn't dependent on one individual.

Mr. Salvatore – The Board should rest assured that I will monitor this particular recommendation and if I feel it's not working, I will make an adjustment.

Mr. Dangler called for a consensus of the Board on the recommendation –

Yes – Mr. Dangler, Mrs. Perez, Mr. Grant, Mrs. Critelli, Mr. Parnell and Mr. Menkin.

No – Mrs. Beams, Mrs. George and Mr. Zambrano.

## DISCUSSION

### Pre-K Audit

Mr. Salvatore – A disgruntled employee contacted the Department of Education and alleged that my children, Mr. Genovese's child, Mr. Ferraina's grandchild and Jason Corley's child were all attending school here and receiving free lunch. The audit showed nothing of the kind. I obviously have the means to send my children anywhere but I strongly believe in our educational system and I feel it sends a message to parents reassuring them that since I bring my children here, that they should feel comfortable sending their children here as well. The one concern the auditor did have that notwithstanding Board policy, that staff members who bring their children to our pre school program, the Board would have to charge tuition. Over the past several years, we annually have an audit on pre-school. Early on the auditors had suggested that we take all non-resident children and self contain them in the classroom so that they would be excluded from being funded through Pre-School aid. We had complied since their early recommendation. Now it appears that they want us to charge tuition based on a law that changed in 2009. In researching we found no record of the law in 2009 however it appears that in 2010-2011 there was some type of change so I asked the auditor to give us a recommendation in writing on how they want us to proceed. I advised them that we would comply as we have in the past.

Mr. Parnell asked for an update on the old High School.

Mr. Salvatore – The SDA had anticipated that \$3.8 million would be necessary to renovate the old high school originally, but now they feel it could be as much as \$9 million or \$10 million and they said they couldn't fund that much money for the project. I asked for them to provide me with a letter as to what they would fund and how much so that the Board can make a decision.

Mr. Zambrano – I read an article in the Patch that discussed the overcrowding in the district.

Mr. Salvatore – Sometimes the media will embellish the facts however the Anastasia and Gregory Schools were both built for 550 students. At last count there were 747 students at the Anastasia School and 812 students at the Gregory School. At this moment we have an excess of children of over 200 which is rationale for why we need the George L. Catrambone School built.

Mr. Zambrano – Will we receive the Shore Conference card that we get each year that allows us to get into sporting events for free?

Mr. Salvatore – I will look into it.

Mr. Grant suggested to Mr. Salvatore that he look into developing a local mentoring program and generate a list of people willing to participate.

Motion was made by Mr. Menkin, seconded by Mr. Parnell and carried by roll call vote that the Board approve the following item (1).

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

1. **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – 10:00 P.M.**


**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975) allows for the exclusion from discussion at the public portion of a meeting of certain matters which might endanger the public interest or risk the deprivation of individual rights, and

**WHEREAS**, the Long Branch Board of Education wishes to discuss matters falling within the **attorney/client privilege concerning litigation against the Board of Education and the discussion of sale of real property** with the resulting action being made public when a proper conclusion has been reached and there is no longer a need for confidentiality;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Long Branch Board of Education will hold a closed executive session immediately in the Board Conference Room, 540 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey.

It is expected that the closed executive session will last not more than twenty minutes. At the conclusion of the closed executive session, the Long Branch Board of Education may return to the public portion of the meeting and may take action.



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

Ayes: 9  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0  
Date: September 20, 2011

The Board returned to open session at 10: 15 P.M.

A. **ROLL CALL**

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

Motion was made by Mrs. George, seconded by Mrs. Perez and carried by roll call vote that the Board approve the following item (2 – 1).

Ayes (6), Nays (0), Abstain (Mr. Dangler, Mrs. Beams and Mrs. Critelli), Absent (0)

2. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

1. **BILLS AND CLAIMS – JULY 21 – 30, 2011, AUGUST 1 – 31, 2011 AND SEPTEMBER 1 – 21, 2011 FOR CHRIST THE KING PARISH, BILL DANGLER, TARA BEAMS AND MICHELE CRITELLI**

I entertain a motion that the Board approve the July 21 – 30, 2011, August 1 - 31, 2011 and September 1 – 21, 2011 bills and claims for Christ the King Parish, Bill Dangler, Tara Beams and Michele Critelli (**APPENDIX A**).

Motion was made by Mr. Parnell, seconded by Mrs. Critelli and carried by roll call vote that the Board approve the following item (2 – 2).

Ayes (6), Nays (0), Abstain (Mrs. George, Mrs. Perez and Mr. Grant), Absent (0).

2. **BILLS AND CLAIMS – JULY 21 – 30, 2011, AUGUST 1 – 31, 2011 AND SEPTEMBER 1 – 21, 2011 FOR MARY GEORGE, LUCILLE PEREZ AND AVERY GRANT**

I entertain a motion that the Board approve the July 21 – 30, 2011, August 1 - 31, 2011 and September 1 – 21, 2011 bills and claims for Mary George, Lucille Perez and Avery Grant (**APPENDIX A**).

Motion was made by Mrs. George, seconded by Mrs. Perez and carried by roll call vote that the Board approve the following item (2 – 3).

Ayes (6), Nays (0), Abstain (Mr. Zambrano, Mr. Parnell and Mr. Menkin), Absent (0).

3. **BILLS AND CLAIMS – JULY 21 – 30, 2011, AUGUST 1 – 31, 2011 AND SEPTEMBER 1 – 21, 2011 FOR ARMAND ZAMBRANO, JAMES PARNELL AND ALLAN MENKIN**

I entertain a motion that the Board approve the July 21 – 30, 2011, August 1 - 31, 2011 and September 1 – 21, 2011 bills and claims for Armand Zambrano, James Parnell and Allan Menkin (**APPENDIX A**).

3. **ADJOURNMENT – 10:20 P.M.**

There being no further discussion, motion was made by Mrs. George, seconded by Mrs. Critelli and carried by roll call vote that the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:20 P.M.

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



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