

Minutes - Special Board of Education Meeting - April 9, 2025

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

Mrs. Peter, Board President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Peters - President	Mrs. Youngblood Brown - 5:04 P.M.	Mr. Torres
Mrs. Dangler - Vice President	Mr. Ferraina - 5:10 P.M.	Mr. Zimmerman
Mr. Zambrano	Mr. Garlipp	Mr. Sama

Board Attorney - Janice Arellano, Esq.

B. STATEMENT OF THE MANNER OF NOTIFICATION OF THE MEETING

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

C. OBJECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE VALIDITY OF THE MEETING

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

D. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

E. STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Peters made the following announcement: Oftentimes 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.

Time may be allocated for public comment at this meeting. Each speaker may be allotted up to five (5) 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.

F. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

Alex Smiga

LBSEA Representative

Mr. Smiga stated that he grew up in Long Branch and has stayed in Long Branch by choice. He recognizes that as everything around us changes, as a public school we remain the constant. He stated that the Health Center works. It brings staff members and their families to Long Branch and we should take the opportunity to grow forward rather than cut it back. He stated that the Health Center can build community. He asked the Board that as they deliberate they keep the Health Center as a key stone for Long Branch as a long term community investment.

Kristen Clarke
LBSEA President

Ms. Clarke stated that she recognizes there were a lot of hard decisions to be made during this budget season after the loss of State Aid. She thanked the Board and the administration for continuing to put staff and students first. She stated that she knows that in balancing the budget the Board is taking a hard look at the Health Center. She continued by stating that the Health Center is a huge incentive for the staff due to its convenience as well as a cost savings. She shared statistics of the Health Center usage with the Board and believes that the convenience of the Center cuts down on staff using a sick day and in turn creating the need for substitutes, driving up insurance premiums due to staff consulting urgent care facilities or the emergency room. She urged the Board to find a way to maintain some or all of the services provided by the Health Center.

Shannon King
LBAFT President

Mrs. King related a personal story regarding a family members recent health battle. She stated that the staff at the Health Center were instrumental in helping her family navigate this very difficult time. She is confident that her story is just one of many. She stated her concern that if the Health Center should close, where would families go to receive the services that the Center has provided.

Mrs. Peters thanked the union representatives for attending the meeting and stated that the Board voted at the last meeting to close the Health Center.

2. STUDENT ACTION - The Superintendent of School recommends the following:

A. FIELD TRIPS

That the Board approve the Field Trips indicated below and made part of the permanent minutes upon Board approval.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Tasha Youngblood Brown.

Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman

Motion Carries

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5:12 P.M.

That the Board approve the following Resolution:

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 FY2026 budget and personnel matters 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 in the Conference Room, 540 Broadway, Long Branch, New Jersey. It is anticipated that the closed session will not

last longer than 30 minutes. Action may be taken in the public portion of the meeting upon recessing of this Executive Session back into the open public meeting.

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

Motion by Tasha Youngblood Brown, second by Rick Garlipp.

Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

The Board returned to open session at 6:36 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Peters - President	Mrs. Youngblood Brown	Mr. Torres
Mrs. Dangler - Vice President	Mr. Ferraina	Mr. Zimmerman
Mr. Zambrano	Mr. Garlipp	Mr. Sama

4. PERSONNEL ACTION - The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following:

A. SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEE WITH PAY - RESOLUTION

That the Board approve the suspension with pay of employee (ID# 7559), effective April 8, 2025.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Theresa Dangler.

Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman

Nay: Joseph M Ferraina

Motion Carries

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

No one addressed the Board.

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated Janice Arellano, Board attorney, for being named as a New Jersey Super Lawyer.

6. ADJOURNMENT - 6:39 P.M.

Motion by Rick Garlipp, second by Tasha Youngblood Brown.

Yea: Violeta Peters, Armand Zambrano, Joseph M Ferraina, Rick Garlipp, Tasha Youngblood Brown, Theresa Dangler, Tony Valdiviezo, Dominic Sama, Jon Zimmerman

Motion Carries

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