

BEACH HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

PUBLIC MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING

PLACE: Beach Haven Elementary School
DATE: May 4, 2023
TIME: 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Beach Haven Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be given by having the date; time and place mailed into the Clerk of the Municipality; advertised in Asbury Park Press, Press of Atlantic City and mailed to the County Superintendent of Schools.

ROLL CALL:

Name	Present	Absent
Irene Hughes	X	
Carol Labin	X	
Jane Romanowski	X	
Jen Tomlinson	X	
Meredith O'Donnell	X	

Also present were Steven Terhune, Business Administrator, and Theodore Loeffler, Superintendent

FLAG SALUTE: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Beach Haven Board of Education meet in Executive Session to discuss the following:

A Personnel

Minutes of Executive Session proceeding will be made available to the public to the extent it does not divulge legally protected, confidential information and after the approval of said minutes by the Board. The Board anticipates returning to public session in approximately 15 minutes.

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes	1st	X		
Carol Labin		X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson	2nd	X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

The Board of Education entered Executive Session at 5:02 pm

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ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board of Education returned to Public Session at 5:23 pm

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes	2nd	X		
Carol Labin		X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson	1st	X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

This meeting will now be open to the public for comments on specific Agenda Items only. If your comment pertains to students, personnel, litigation or negotiations, we would ask that you see the Administrator after the meeting since the Board does not discuss such items in public.

Prior to the start of public comment, Mr. Terhune communicated that the Board could not discuss or respond to personnel related items but that they would be closely listening to all of the public comment.

John Moritz addressed the Board of Education regarding the staff member not on the agenda for employment next school year. He addressed her importance to the school district.

Dan Allen urged the Board of Education to reconsider the omission from the agenda.

Margaret Fay also urged the Board of Education to reconsider the omission from the agenda. She feels this individual is a fantastic teacher who has embraced the community and feels that she has failed her as her mentor.

Deb Harkness echoed Margaret Fay's comments. She indicated that this person is a remarkable teacher who volunteered with a variety of technology assistance for the staff during COVID, she also organized and scheduled the WIN program. She feels that it would be a shame for the district to lose her.

Patrice Pottichen spoke about how it feels not to achieve tenure as a teacher.

Julie Chapul spoke about this teacher's positive impact on her daughter while she was in kindergarten.

Matt Bekelja indicated that he has three children in the district and two have been taught by this teacher. He feels that we have a terrific staff and that this decision reflects poorly on the district and leadership. He spoke about how this teacher rose above throughout COVID and the WIN program. He also spoke about the lower pay scale that Beach Haven staff has combined with the higher cost area and how that could impact our ability to find a quality replacement. He spoke about how the community appears shell shocked by this decision, how this makes the district appear less stable and how it could impact students' desire to be at school. He provided the Board of Education members with a copy of a community petition that contains 70 signatures. He indicated that he feels this petition reflects the concerns of the community and his concern that if this decision stands it could negatively impact staff.

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Matt Kelce spoke about how he does not understand the decision after seeing the positive impact this teacher has had on his daughter. He is concerned about the impact this will have in attracting staff to the district.

Julia Baumiller spoke as student about the impact this teacher has had on her and her brother in class and through the WIN program.

Kristen Bekelja expressed confusion about the decision. She spoke about the positive experience two of her children had with this teacher. She expressed that she found her to be a firm but warm teacher. She also expressed concern that this has happened in the past and that if this decision stands it will be the community's loss.

Jaime Baumiller expressed how hard it is to work in Beach Haven due to the cost of living, the salary and the commute as well as the limitation on single health benefits for the first four years of employment. She expressed that the district needs to value the staff that are in Beach Haven School. She recommended that the resolution be tabled to a special meeting on a future date prior to May 15th.

Matt McKee and his brother spoke about the positive impact this teacher has had on them and on their sister both in class and in the WIN program.

Nate Allen expressed that this teacher is his sister's favorite teacher.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Actions to Be Taken:

Finance/Operations:

1. To accept and award bids for the Exterior Building Envelope Project

WHEREAS, the Beach Haven School District advertised for bids on the Exterior Building Envelope Project on March 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the following bids received were publicly opened at 2:00 pm on April 19, 2023; and

Company Name	Base Bid	Alternate 1	Alternate 2	Alternate 3	Alternate 4	Alternate 5	Alternate 6	Base plus all alternates
Madina Restoration Inc	\$185,000.00	\$11,200.00	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$273,200.00
A1 Construction Services Inc	\$210,000.00	\$78,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$92,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$598,000.00
Premier Building Restoration Inc	\$320,056.02	\$6,577.92	\$15,975.65	\$ 2,771.09	\$3,694.78	\$4,352.49	\$3,943.88	\$357,371.83
Arista Renovation Inc	\$280,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$395,000.00

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Pax Mundus Enterprise LLC \$437,000.00 \$10,000.00 \$25,000.00 \$24,000.00 \$2,900.00 \$5,000.00 \$3,000.00 \$506,900.00

WHEREAS, the submitted bids have been reviewed for compliance with the project budget by the district and compliance with statutory requirements by the district counsel; and

WHEREAS, the bid from Madina Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$185,000 plus alternates 1 and 2 has been found in compliance with the project requirements and as the lowest qualified bid;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Beach Haven Board of Education awards the bid for the Exterior Building Envelope Project to Madina Restoration Inc in the amount of \$211,200.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent and Business Administrator are authorized to work with the district architect to implement the project.

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes		X		
Carol Labin		X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson	1st	X		
Meredith O'Donnell	2nd	X		

EDUCATION:

1. To approve the following field trips:
 - a. To approve a 6th Grade Field Trip to Six Flags, Great Adventure, Jackson NJ on June 9th, 2023 from 9:15 AM to 2:30 PM.

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes		X		
Carol Labin	2nd	X		
Jane Romanowski	1st	X		
Jen Tomlinson		X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

PERSONNEL:

1. To approve the employment for the 2023-2024 school year of the following tenured staff members at the BHEA Agreement salaries:
 - a. Christine Bresley
 - b. Stephanie Cecchini
 - c. Suzanne Henry
 - d. Jessica Wiehr
 - e. Robert Barrett
 - f. Ann Marie Deakyne

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Motion by Jane Romanowski, seconded by Meredith O'Donnell to table Item 2 until later in the meeting. All members voted aye.

2. *To approve the employment for the 2023-2024 school year of non-tenured staff members at the BHEA Agreement salaries.*
 - a. *Jill Falletta*
 - b. *Katelyn Desmond*
 - c. *Sara Holleran*
 - d. *Joseph Elmo Jr.*
 - e. *Holly Herriger*
3. *To approve the employment for the 2023-2024 school year of the following non-unit staff members at their approved agreement salaries:*
 - a. Brian Ball
 - b. Robert Barrett
 - c. Vern Berube
 - d. Kimberly Carey
 - e. Sharon Dugan
 - f. Catalina Martone
 - g. John Palombo

Motions and Roll Call for Items 1 and 3.

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes	1st	X		
Carol Labin		X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson	2nd	X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

EXECUTIVE SESSION II:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Beach Haven Board of Education meet in Executive Session to discuss the following:

A Personnel

Minutes of Executive Session proceeding will be made available to the public to the extent it does not divulge legally protected, confidential information and after the approval of said minutes by the Board. The Board anticipates returning to public session in approximately 30 minutes. Action will be taken upon return to Public Session.

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes	1st	X		
Carol Labin	2nd	X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson		X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

The Board of Education entered Executive Session at 5:50 pm

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ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION II:

The Board of Education returned to Public Session at 6:24 pm

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes	2nd	X		
Carol Labin		X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson	1st	X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

PERSONNEL

2. To approve the employment for the 2023-2024 school year of non-tenured staff members at the BHEA Agreement salaries.
 - a. Jill Falletta
 - b. Katelyn Desmond
 - c. Sara Holleran
 - d. Joseph Elmo Jr.
 - e. Holly Herriger

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes		X		
Carol Labin	1st	X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson	2nd	X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON GENERAL TOPICS ONLY

This meeting will now be open to the public for comments on General Items only. If your comment pertains to students, personnel, litigation or negotiations, we would ask that you see the Superintendent after the meeting since the Board does not discuss such items in public.

Prior to public comment, Mr. Terhune communicated that the Board of Education took action on the final personnel recommendation so that those non-tenured staff members would have their contracts renewed. A failure to take action would have left those employees without a contract for the next school year.

Dan Allen asked for a discussion of the appeal process. Mr. Terhune provided the steps provided for in statute for the employee.

Dan Allen expressed disappointment that this teacher has been non-renewed and is not sure that the community has been heard. He indicated that the Board of Education has a difficult job but is not sure why this is the decision and is concerned that this question will go through town.

Matt Bekelja expressed support for Dan Allen's statement and that he feels this shows poor leadership. He expressed that the community is urging reconsideration. He is disappointed and is concerned that every family

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should question the Board of Education and Superintendent decisions being made on behalf of the students. He indicated that he is concerned that we are not listening to one another.

Kristen Bekelja expressed concern about why the district is not holding another meeting to approve non-tenured staff.

Sonny McCosky expressed concern that this is the second time this has happened in four years.

Matthew Kelce is concerned about the need to rush and how the decision makes it appear that the Board of Education is not listening to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 6:37 pm

Name	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain
Irene Hughes	1st	X		
Carol Labin		X		
Jane Romanowski		X		
Jen Tomlinson	2nd	X		
Meredith O'Donnell		X		

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Terhune

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary