

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

A Berkeley Township Board of Education Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at the Berkeley Township Elementary School Auditorium, 10 Emory Avenue, Bayville, New Jersey. Board President, Jim Fulcomer, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Adequate notice of this Meeting was given in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag. Mr. Fulcomer asked for a moment of silence in memory of our brave warriors some of whom have died recently in Afghanistan. Steve Pellecchia lead everyone in prayer for those who died in Afghanistan.

III. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Sal Ferlise, Jim Fulcomer, Keith Fisher,
Sophia Gingrich, Noriko Kowalewski, Patrick Mooney,
Steve Pellecchia, Lauren Ciccone-Zawada

ABSENT: Lou Tuminaro

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. James D. Roselli, Superintendent
Laura Venter, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Bob Budes, Acting Board Attorney

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Thank you, everyone, for coming to this meeting. We welcome your attendance, and we invite you to make suggestions, questions, and criticisms during the public portions of this meeting. Your input during the public portions of this meeting helps our Board of Education to do a better job.

The first message I have tonight is to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year—especially a Merry Christmas. Everyone is invited to partake of the refreshments in the hallway to help us celebrate this Christmas season, and if any refreshments are left over at the end of the meeting, feel free to take the leftovers home.

As educators, it is important to remember that Christmas is not only a religious celebration, but it also is a legal federal holiday. Christmas has been a legal federal holiday since 1870 when President Ulysses S. Grant signed a bill making it a national holiday in a signing ceremony on June 28, 1870. We may legally celebrate Christmas in our schools, but there have been efforts to suppress the celebration of Christmas. When I was a high school

teacher, I once had a principal who tried to outlaw Christmas celebrations, but I led an effort to restore the celebration of Christmas and the Board of Education wisely overruled that principal's attempt to suppress Christmas. Historically, Christmas celebrations on December 25th were outlawed in the 17th century in Puritan New England and in England by the Puritan parliament under the commonwealth regime of Oliver Cromwell. The Puritans found no evidence in the Christian Bible that Jesus was born in December and found evidence that Jesus actually was born in the Spring. One of the slogans supporting the restoration of the British monarchy was the cry from the people: "Give us our Christmas back!" We in the English-speaking world now have our Christmas back, and I hope we will continue to celebrate this Christmas season because it brings great happiness to all who cherish this celebration, especially our children.

We have many blessings in our school district. One is that we continue to have high test scores. Another is that we have the safest schools in our county. Every school has a principal, at least one supervisor, and a policeman on our 2014 payroll plus architectural configurations that foster student safety. Our Superintendent has received an award for student safety.

Our latest labor contract puts us in an increasingly competitive position to continue to attract the finest teachers in Ocean County. We will be appointing two new teachers, Bonnie Bednarz and Ashley Walder, to our faculty. We welcome them to our educational community.

There has been an increase in our total student enrollment since December 2012. As of November 2014, our largest regular class size is 26 students and our smallest regular class is 15 students. Compared to December of last year, the enrollment at the Bayville School is down from 447 to 415. It is up at the Clara B. Worth School from 606 to 624. The H.&M. Potter School enrollment went up from 463 to 502 and the Berkeley Township Elementary School enrollment went up from 531 to 568. Based on that fact that in November four 3rd grade classes had at least 26 students at CBW, I asked that the Superintendent investigate whether it would be prudent to hire an additional 4th grade teacher for the 2014-2015 academic year. Every study that I have read on student achievement indicates that overcrowded classes are detrimental to student success. It is important that we maintain reasonable class sizes for all students as part of our school program. The federal government through HUD is providing \$50,000 forgivable loans for affordable housing clients who move into Berkeley Township. Therefore, we may have a larger increase in student enrollment in 2014-2015 than was last predicted by our demographer.

One of the most important factors in having a successful school system is a good tax ratable base. To that end, we will be considering three resolutions which, if implemented by higher governmental authorities, would increase revenue for the funding of Berkeley Township schools and create a better climate for the expansion of our tax ratables. These resolutions concern the dunes at Island Beach State Park, the Fair School Funding Act, and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. The first resolution asks the Governor and state legislature to grant easements to the Army Corps of Engineers to build state-of-the-art dunes for the entire length of Island Beach State Park. During Superstorm Sandy, low points at Island Beach State Park acted like water cannons pointed at Good Luck Point in

Bayville and helped to raise the flood levels in Barnegat Bay. Army Corps of Engineers dunes at Island Beach State Park would lessen the damage caused by future super storms and create facts that would lessen the planned drastic increases in flood insurance policies. The second resolution directs our Board Secretary to send letters to other school boards that would benefit from the proposed Fair School Funding Act in the hope that they would help persuade their state legislators to move in the direction of the proposed Fair School Funding Act. If adopted, the Fair School Funding Act would be very beneficial to our school district. The third resolution urges the U.S. Congress and our New Jersey Congressional delegation to support the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act. This act would delay the planned drastic floor insurance increases under the Biggert-Waters Act and develop studies to analyze to what extent they eventually can be avoided. The present prospect of drastically increased flood insurance premiums already has begun to have a chilling impact on real estate values in the maritime areas of Berkeley Township. If these drastically increased flood insurance premiums are allowed to prevail, then it will be very unlikely that we will be able to restore our pre-Sandy tax ratables in time to start paying off our CDL loan.

This concludes the President's report.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

I. SCHOOL REPORTS

Bayville School:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences were well attended by parents.
- A student from the MATES Program presented an assembly on Terrapins to our 3rd graders.
- Several classes and grade levels participated in Thanksgiving Feasts.
- Representatives from ShopRite visited the school for The Young Consumers Program.
- The PTA held a very successful Holiday Night and Gift Shop. Over 170 students and their families participated in this event.

Clara B. Worth School:

- Commission for the Blind visited. Kindergarten students were tested for visual impairments.
- PTA Holiday Family Fun Night - 500 visitors - Holiday hands-on activities for families and children.
- 4th Grade Chorus Concert.
- 3rd Grade Chorus Concert.
- PTA Holiday Gift Shop for Students - provides students a great opportunity to buy holiday presents for their families at an inexpensive rate.

H. & M. Potter School:

- Created a wellness committee of staff members who will be having a wellness fair at the end of the year.
- The Mobile Dentist saw over 50 students in the school. (This was an initiative by Mrs. Olsen, School Nurse).
- Fun with Santa was a huge success.
- Teachers have been using the new computer lab and completed our "Hour of Code" for science education week.

Berkeley Township Elementary:

- 11/20/13 - Over 130 parents visited as part of American Education Week.
- 11/25/ & 11/26/13 - Held Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- 12/12/13 - Held a chorus concert for students and families.
- 12/19/13 - Held a band concert for students and families
- Participated in a Giving Tree Program that aided 13 BTES families this holiday season.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**Nov. 18-22:**

American Education Week celebrated in all 4 schools.

Nov. 21:

Administration Meeting BOE.

Attended BTES MD Room Thanksgiving Feast.

Nov. 22:

Meeting with Architect Mass Yezzi and Laura Venter. Explored possibly placing bus garage on CBW property to assist with bus repair. Project was deemed cost prohibitive and not feasible for the district. Bus garage will not be built on CBW property. We are hoping to meet with the Pinelands Commission soon to revisit our denial to expand our bus facility opposite the Police Department/Town Hall.

Nov. 28/29:

Closed Thanksgiving. Hope everyone had a very enjoyable holiday with family.

Dec. 3:

Attended HMP PTA President Meeting.

Harlem Wizards Community Event to be held **Saturday, May 3rd at 7:00 pm** at Pine Belt Arena. Police Chief has agreed to play. She played Division 1 in college.

Dec. 4:

School Security Meeting at BOE with Berkeley Township Police Dept. and Office of Emergency Management.

Dec. 9:

Conducted CST meeting.

Dec. 10:

Attended meeting with Laura Venter at Ocean County Superintendent's Office with County Superintendent/BA - Preliminary Budget Meeting for 2014-15 school year.

Dec. 11:

Attended Supt.'s Academy at Monmouth University with Dr. DeClerico and Mr. Prima.

Dec. 12:

BOE Committee Meetings with Mr. Fulcomer, Mr. Ferlise, and Laura Venter.

Dec. 13:

Walked BTES gym floor with Patrick Sullivan, B&G, Laura Venter, BA, and engineer from Remington, Vernick & Vena - addressing expansion gaps/voids present in all gym floors.

NorthEastern Rep. B.B. Fenton will be in district next week.

Dec. 17:

Attended Superintendent's Roundtable.

As required by the new HIB (Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying) Law, I am required to report at public meetings (first period: September 1 and December 31; second period: January 1 and June 30) any incidents that took place during the period. I am pleased to report there have been no incidents for the first period.

DR. ROSELLI: I would like to say thank you our outgoing board members, Lauren Ciccone-Zawada and Sophia Gingrich their service to the Berkeley Township School District. I really appreciate everything that you've done for us.

MS. GINGRICH: Tonight, my last night as a school board member, I would like to say that working with this school board, our administrative office, our teachers and our students and the community for the past three and a half years has been a very rewarding experience. I will miss each and every one of you, and again, I would like to say thank you.

MS. CICCONE-ZAWADA: I just want to thank everyone for your support. It's been a great year. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to wish all the members of our Board of Education, staff, and community a happy and healthy holiday season and a happy new year.

This concludes my Superintendent's report.

VI. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS:

KATHY FULCOMER, 356 Roberts Avenue, South Seaside Park: I would urge you to support all three resolutions, and I did want to mention one thing about the Island Beach resolution. Since Berkeley is such a maritime area, I am sure that most of our students and staff were either personally affected by Superstorm Sandy or they have a friend or relative who was, and I want to make one point about the importance of dunes. Midway Beach—the little section of the little cottages at Midway Beach—didn't have a drop of water because they have dunes, and they are also classified for flood insurance as an "X." That means they don't have to have any flood insurance, and many of them are oceanfront homes, so dunes make a tremendous amount of difference, and I would urge you to vote "yes" on that.

I would also urge you to vote "yes" on the other resolution about the Biggert-Waters Act. To delay it would give more time for more study as to the accuracy of those maps. A lot of us that have been going to many city council meetings we have spoken about that quite frequently. The other thing too about the Biggert-Waters Act delay—it would give them more time to do an affordability study which is supposed to accompany the Act, so I would urge all of you to support all of those resolutions.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Education and Liaison to Central Regional: Keith Fisher, Chairperson

No report.

2. Personnel & Negotiations: Jim Fulcomer, Chairperson.

The Personnel & Negotiations Committee met last Thursday and recommended that the Board approve the appointments recommended by the Superintendent for this meeting which include two new teachers who I am sure the Superintendent will introduce if they are here.

3. Meeting Scheduling Committee: Jim Fulcomer, Chairperson

The Meeting Scheduling Committee met and made recommendations for the Annual Meeting Schedule to be voted on for the next reorganization meeting. They will be considered on January 7, 2014. What it is is the third Tuesday, and it is in this packet here which everyone should read, because we are required to get this information prior to the board meeting, and our employees will not be back until after New Year's Day, so you have it, and new board members will get it so all legalities will be followed.

4. Buildings & Grounds/Cafeteria/Transportation: Sal Ferlise, Chairperson

The plan to build a bus garage at CBW has been scrapped.

We will try to meet with the Pinelands Commission again to see if they will change their stand on the expansion of the existing bus garage. Something must be done to get our mechanics out of the weather.

I must comment on the transportation of our students during the snow storm. First, Barbara Fitzpatrick did a good job communicating with the police and passing street conditions on to the bus drivers, and second, our bus drivers did an excellent job in safely transporting our students—job well done!

5. Finance: Sophia Gingrich, Chairperson

The bills list was reviewed and approved for payment.

Also reviewed and approved were the purchase orders numbered 14-00870 through 14-00978 totaling \$192,961.35.

6. Community Relations: Patrick Mooney, Chairperson

No report.

7. Consolidated/Shared Services Ad Hoc: Jim Fulcomer, Chairperson.

The Committee met twice this month to review the progress of the Committee and the Board made in shared services this year.

8. Policy and Legislation: Steve Pellecchia, Chairperson

No report.

9. School Safety: Patrick Mooney, Chairperson

No report.

10. Alternate Energy: Noriko Kowalewski, Chairperson

No report.

11. Stokes Forest Field Trip: Sal Ferlise, Chairperson

Our Antique Car Museum is open again. Students on the way to Jenkinson's could stop for a half hour tour of the museum. Because of the size of the museum, we could

accommodate only about 30 students at one time. I would be happy to show the students through the museum.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S AGENDA

MOTION by Mr. Pellechia that upon recommendation of the Superintendent Items A1 – A10 be approved.

SECOND by Mr. Ferlise.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstains). Motion carries.

A. PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS:

1. Leave(s) of Absence: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve a leave of absence (new or revised) for the following staff members (start and end dates are subject to change):

- a) I.D. #6277-LLD-HMP:
Maternity leave to start 2/19/14 and continue through 6/3/14.
- b) I.D. #6028-Aide-HMP:
Unpaid leave to start 1/20/14 and continue through 5/16/14.
Anticipated return: 5/19/14
- c) I.D. #5706-LLD-CBW:
Maternity leave to start 2/18/14 and continue through 6/30/14.
- d) I.D.#5516-Gr. 4-BAY:
Unpaid **medical** leave to start 11/6/13 and continue through 1/1/14.

2. Approval of Long Term Substitute: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the following individuals as long term substitutes, meeting the criteria established by the Superintendent, at the rate of \$100 per diem (start and end dates subject to change):

<u>Name</u>	<u>In For</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Sandra Liguori	I.D. #6277-LLD-HMP	02/19/14-06/03/14
Susan Cameron	I.D. #5706-LLD-CBW	02/18/14-06/30/14

3. Salary Adjustment: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve a salary adjustment for the following individuals, effective January 1, 2014: (Does not include longevity)

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Jennifer Spinoso	\$46,115 (Step 1-BA)	\$48,215 (Step 1-BA+30)	College Credits
Angela Frawley	\$48,822 (Step 2-BA+15)	\$49,022 (Step 2-BA+30)	College Credits
Jason Miller	\$55,685 (Step 8-BA+15)	\$57,385 (Step 8-MA)	College Credits

4. New Hires: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the appointment of the following individuals in the position listed, for the 2013-2014 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/School</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Ashley Walder	Gr. 5 - BTES	\$46,115 (Step 1-BA Guide)	1/13/14
Bonnie Bednarz	Gr. 6 - BTES	\$46,115 (Step 1-BA Guide)	◆ TBD

◆ Current district to provide release date

5. Homebound Instructor: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the following teaching staff member as a homebound instructor, at the hourly contractual rate of pay, for the 2013-2014 school year:

Adam Steinmetz – BTES

6. After Hours Events: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the following staff members, to be paid for 3 hours at the contractual rate of pay, for participation in after hours events scheduled at the Clara B. Worth School:

- Melia Hoffman - Literacy Night - 1/12/14
- Kristen Reiser - Physical Education Night - 1/27/14
- Janet Beck - Music Night - 1/31/14
- Melissa Davenport - 3rd Grade Computer Night - 2/6/14
- Karen Roth - Art Night - 2/20/14

7. Substitutes: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the following individuals as substitutes for the assignments listed below during the 2013-2014 school year:

- A. Non-Instructional:**
- Baron Black.....Custodian
 - Angelo Diaz.....Custodian
 - Mary Evans.....Aide
 - Stephanie Halphen.....Aide

Colette Shea.....Aide/Clerical Worker
 Jacqueline Tortorello.....Aide/Clerical Worker
 Patricia Zieser.....Aide

Note - All substitute aides approved by the Board will also be able to substitute as bus/school/teacher aides.

B. Instructional:

Rachel Blood.....Teacher
 Sheri Bruns.....Teacher
 Christina Gubitosa.....Teacher
 Stephanie Halphen.....Teacher
 Michael Lantz.....Teacher
 Teresa Manuszak.....Teacher
 Anthony Melillo.....Teacher
 Kathleen Miller.....Teacher
 Gina Puorro.....Teacher
 John Sengotta.....Teacher
 Kristin Youngblood.....Teacher

8. Rescind Long Term Substitute: ACTION

Recommend the Board rescind the appointment of Sandra Liguori as the long term substitute for the maternity leave of I.D. #6277-LLD-HMP, effective 2/9/14.

9. New Long Term Substitutes: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the following individuals as long term substitutes, meeting the criteria established by the Superintendent, at the rate of \$100 per diem (start and end dates subject to change):

<u>Name</u>	<u>In For</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Christina Gubitosa	I.D. #6277-LLD-HMP	02/13/14-06/02/14
Emily Rodriguez	I.D. #5507-Gr. 6-BTE	12/17/13-01/17/14
Bethany Wozniak	I.D. #5960-Gr. 5-BTE	01/27/14-05/02/14

10. Leave of Absence: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve a leave of absence (new or revised) for the following staff member (start and end dates are subject to change):

I.D. #5507-Gr. 6-BTE:

Medical leave of absence to start 12/17/13 and continue through 1/17/14.

MOTION by Mr. Mooney that upon recommendation of the Superintendent Items B1 – B5 be approved.

SECOND by Mr. Pellecchia.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstains). Motion carries.

B. OTHER BOARD ACTION:

1. Acceptance of Grant Program:

ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the acceptance of a grant program valued at \$10,000 for a musician in residence program at Bayville School. (This grant was awarded through a Sandy Relief Arts Education initiative partly funded through the NJ Recovery Fund and Young Audiences NJ and PA.)

2. Approval of Internship:

ACTION

Recommend the Board approve Jeanmarie Stefanacci for a School Psychologist Internship, under the direction of Nelia Ziobro, School Psychologist for the district, effective 1/6/14 through 6/30/14.

3. Out-of-District Placement:

ACTION

Recommend the Board approve out-of-district placement of the following student for the 2013-2014 school year:

I.D. #997038 - YCS, George Washington School - effective 10/9/13

4. Additional School Trip:

ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the following additional school trip for the 2013-2014 school year:

Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ

5. Use of Facilities:

ACTION

Recommend the Board approve the following date/activity for building use scheduled beyond custodial work hours, weekends or holiday breaks:

CBW

January 12, 2014	Literacy Night	6:30 pm-7:30 pm
January 27, 2014	Physical Education Night	6:00 pm-7:00 pm
January 31, 2014	Music Night	7:00 pm-8:00 pm

February 6, 2014	Computer Night (Gr. 3)	6:00 pm-7:00 pm
February 20, 2014	Art Night	6:00 pm-7:00 pm

IX. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S AGENDA:

MOTION by Mr. Mooney that upon recommendation of the Business Administrator Items 1 – 7 be approved.

SECOND by Mr. Ferlise.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Abstains – Ms. Ciccone-Zawada on Items 1a, 2 and 3; Mr. Fisher on Items 1b and 3; Ms. Gingrich on Item 1a; Mr. Pellecchia on Item 1a). Motion carries.

1. Minutes: ACTION

- a. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 13, 2013 be approved.
- b. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2013 be approved.

2. Payment of Bills: ACTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following items as reviewed by the Finance Committee, be approved:

Bills List (Attachment B1) dated December 17, 2013.	\$ 863,684.51
Purchase Order Report (Attachment B2) listing purchase orders numbered 14-00870 through 14-00995 totaling	\$ 192,961.35

3. Payroll Approval: ACTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the monthly payroll be approved:

Payroll – November 2013	\$1,810,268.40
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4. Appropriation Transfers: ACTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Appropriation Transfers for the month of November 2013 to the 2013-2014 budget be approved. (**Attachment B3**)

5. Board Secretary’s Report: ACTION

RESOLVED that through the adoption of this resolution, we, the Berkeley Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4 certify that as of November 30, 2013, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations

section) and upon consultation with the Business Administrator and other appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Attachment #B4)

6. Report of the Treasurer of School Monies: ACTION

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Township Board of Education accept the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month ended November 30, 2013, and that the Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer of School Monies Report are in agreement. (Attachment #B5)

7. Travel Approvals: ACTION

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Township Board of Education approve the following travel:

Name	Seminar/Workshop	Dates	Not to Exceed
DyAnn DeClerico	Monmouth County Consortium	12/4/13 & 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 6/4/14	\$100.00
DyAnn DeClerico	Apple iPad Training	12/18/13	\$75.00
Christina Lee	2014 Conference for NJ K Teachers	2/24/14	\$230.00
DyAnn DeClerico	Common Core State Standards – Train the Trainer	1/24/14	\$250.00
Jeff Zito			\$260.00
Steve Rieder			\$260.00
Toniann Palmieri Christine Firetto	Pre-K Convention	2/ 24-2/25/ 2014	\$750.00
James Roselli Laura Venter Joseph Reid	Techspo 2014	1/30-1/31/2014	\$1,200.00

MOTION by Mr. Mooney that upon recommendation of the Business Administrator Items 8 – 10 be approved.

SECOND by Mr. Pellecchia.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain – Ms. Ciccone-Zawada on Items 8, 9 and 10). Motion carries.

8. Transportation Jointure End: ACTION

Recommend the Board end the transportation jointure between Berkeley Township School District (Jointer District) and Central Regional School District (Host District) for the following students:

- I.D. #994801 – Jackson Regional Day School - eff. 11/27/13
- I.D. #994386 – Jackson Regional Day School - eff. 11/27/13

9. Special Education Transportation Route: ACTION

RESOLVED that the Berkeley Township Board of Education approve Special Education Transportation Route #29 to Jackson Regional Day.

10. Transportation Jointure: ACTION

Recommend the Board approve a transportation jointure between Berkeley Township (Host District) and Central Regional (Joiner District) to transport one student from Central Regional High School to Habitat for Humanity and one student from Central Regional High School to home at the per diem rate of \$87.00.

X. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION by Mr. Ferlise to adopt New Business Item 1.

SECOND by Ms. Ciccone-Zawada.

MR. FULCOMER: The motion is to ask the Army Corps of Engineers to build dunes on Island Beach State Park. A similar resolution was adopted by the Municipal Council and a letter was sent by the Mayor to the appropriate authorities. This merely takes the same position as the Mayor and the Municipal Council of Berkeley Township and other groups in the Barnegat Bay Watershed. Is there any further discussion on this motion?

MR. PELLECCIA: I would like to postpone this resolution at this time.

MOTION by Mr. Pellecchia to postpone New Business Item 1 until the next Board of Education Meeting.

SECOND by Mrs. Kowalewski.

MR. FULCOMER: Is there anyone who would like to discuss whether this should be postponed. I will hand the gavel over to the attorney. One of the reasons why neighborhoods have flooded in Berkeley Township is because of low points on the dunes. It is very important that as many resolutions as possible be adopted urging the Governor and the State Legislature to have Army Corps of Engineers standard dunes built at Island

Beach State Park to protect our citizens. This not only affects the victims, but it also will affect the senior communities, because if there is not a major improvement in the dunes system, there is no doubt that insurance rates are likely to skyrocket for flood insurance and this will have a negative impact on rates in the maritime areas and ultimately end up with substantial property tax increases in the senior communities, so if you want property taxes in the senior communities to go up, then I would suggest you vote for this. If you want people to suffer because dunes are not built, then I would suggest you vote for this postponement. Otherwise I would urge you to vote “no” for the good of the people of Berkeley Township.

MR. PELLECCIA: I didn't say it was not good for the community. I said that I believe that Council is taking care of this. We are a non-political organization, so if the Council is taking care of it and can get it done, then I think they should do it.

MR. FULCOMER: Is there any further discussion? A “yes” vote is to postpone; a “no” vote would allow us to vote on the resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 Abstains). Motion to postpone carries.

1. Dunes at Island Beach State Park:

ACTION

WHEREAS, low points in the deficient dunes at Island Beach State Park acted like water cannons pointed at Good Luck Point in Bayville, New Jersey, and helped to raise the flood levels that adversely affected the maritime areas of Berkeley Township and other municipalities on the Barnegat Bay basin during Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers would build dunes that would do a much better job protecting the residents and vacationers in the Barnegat Bay watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Township Board of Education requests the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Legislature grant easements to the Army Corps of Engineers to build state-of-the-art dunes for the entire length of Island Beach State Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Township Board of Education directs our Board Secretary to send a letter, along with a copy of this resolution, to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the State Senate President, the Speaker of the State General Assembly, all State legislators representing Ocean County districts, and State Senator Bob Smith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Township Board of Education directs our Board Secretary to send a copy of this resolution to all Boards of Education representing constituents in municipalities with maritime areas in the Barnegat Bay Basin.

MOTION by Ms. Gingrich that New Business Item 2 be approved.

SECOND by Mr. Ferlise.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstains). Motion carries.

2. Fair School Funding Act:

ACTION

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Township Board of Education repeatedly has adopted resolutions endorsing the proposed Fair School Funding Act; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of similar resolutions by school boards that benefit from this proposed Act would be helpful in promoting its adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Township Board of Education direct our Board Secretary to send appropriate letters to other school boards that would benefit from this proposed Fair School Funding Act, along with copies of the last two resolutions we adopted on this issue.

MOTION by Mr. Ferlise that New Business Item 3 be approved.

SECOND: None.

Motion fails.

3. Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act:

ACTION

WHEREAS, the Biggert-Waters Act is in the process of drastically increasing flood insurance rates in Berkeley Township and other affected areas;

WHEREAS, these drastic increases could have a very negative impact on the ratable base that supports public education in Berkeley Township and greatly hurt many residents in Berkeley Township; and

WHEREAS, the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act has been proposed in the U.S. Congress to delay the drastic flood insurance increases and develop studies to analyze to what extent they eventually can be avoided; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act would be beneficial to the tax base of our Board of Education and our constituents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Township Board of Education urge the U.S. Congress to adopt the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Township Board of Education direct the Board Secretary to send a letter to all members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation urging them to support this legislation and to respond to our letter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Township Board of Education directs the Board Secretary to send a copy of this resolution to the Mayor of Berkeley Township and governing body and to the Business Administrator of the Central Regional Board of Education.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

KATHY FULCOMER: I want to congratulate and wish well the two members who are leaving the board. I think that in America where we have such a wonderful spirit of volunteerism the Board of Education is one of the highest and most noble and helpful areas and even when my husband decided to run for the board, I said, "Oh my gosh, 42 years in a public high school and elementary. You know what you guys would be doing!" I think all of you from all walks of life, you are willing to give your time and your dedication and you are willing to learn, and I think it's a wonderful thing. I want to thank those two members and continue to thank the members who are presently seated here.

I would also like to say a word about the outgoing President of the Board of Education because this would be the last meeting that you are presiding over. Some of you may chuckle at this but I have watched the president, Mr. Fulcomer, preside over meetings for 49 years starting when I was 17 years old and a freshman at then Newark State, now Kean University, and I would like to say that he has always done it with expertise and made the public feel at ease, and I think he's always done wonderful job, as you all have, at conducting yourselves at these meetings. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year and look forward to January.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Board Meeting adjourned by Jim Fulcomer at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Venter, CPA, RSBA, RSBO
Business Administrator/Board Secretary