

LITTLE EGG HARBOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 21, 2010 – Special Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Frog Pond Elementary School – Media Center

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gina Frasca, Board President at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mr. Cimino	- Physically not present; participated by phone	Mr. Sanzari	- Yes
Mr. Daleo	- Yes	Mr. Wood	- Yes
Mr. Held	- Yes	Ms. Frasca	- Yes
Dr. Newman	- Yes		

Also present were: Dr. Frank Kasyan, Barbara Smith, Lynn Coates and Joseph Coronato, solicitor sitting in for Paul Carr, Robert Garrison, Jr. – Garrison Architects, Ronald Ianole – McManimon, Scotland

**Pledge of
Allegiance:**

**Open Public
Meeting Act:**

This is to advise the general public that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Little Egg Harbor Board of Education caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 307 Frog Pond Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ and faxed on June 14, 2010 to the Asbury Park Press, Atlantic City Press and to the office of the Municipal Clerk of Little Egg Harbor, a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

Executive Session:

Motion by R. Wood. Seconded by R. Newman.

To enter into Executive Session at 5:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of contractual obligations of building an Early Childhood Center. Action may or may not be taken upon return to regular session.

Roll Call:

Mr. Cimino	- Absent	Mr. Sanzari	- Yes
Mr. Daleo	- Yes	Mr. Wood	- Yes
Mr. Held	- Yes	Ms. Frasca	- Yes
Dr. Newman	- Yes		

Mrs. Coates stated the motion carried.

Out of Executive:

The board returned to public session at 7:05 p.m.

**Superintendent's
Report:**

Dr. Frank Kasyan, Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Kasyan thanked Mr. Coronato for attending this evening's meeting. Dr. Kasyan thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and noted the board had a very long discussion on the possibility of an Early Childhood Center, referendum or addition. Dr. Kasyan also noted that Little Egg Harbor is very fortunate to be one of five districts to receive the Early Childhood Center funds and thanked Mr. Ron Ianole, McManimon and Scotland and Mr. Robert Garrison, Garrison Architects.

Open to Public:

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The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest as cited in Policy No. 0167.

The public may comment on any item on the agenda at this time. General public comment will occur later in the meeting.

Ms. Christy Conway – Kangaroo Court – Ms. Conway distributed a letter to the board. Ms. Conway compared Medallion to privatization now. Dr. Kasyan noted that we moved away from Medallion because of curriculum. Dr. Kasyan stated that if we privatize now, Little Egg Harbor will oversee it, that's why we feel more confident at this point. Ms. Conway noted that five or ten years from now things may change, right now we are not providing kindergarten through sixth grade with everything they need. Dr. Kasyan noted the quality of instruction is there because of staff's commitment. We have the people, but not the money for "things". Ms. Conway stated that 88,000 families left New Jersey last year. She questioned what the current enrollment is – apparently it is lower but you are moving forward. Dr. Kasyan replied Stafford and Little Egg Harbor has continued to grow according to Joe Coronato (Mr. Coronato is attorney to 5 different planning boards). Mr. Coronato stated Little Egg Harbor was the last to be affected by the economy and first to be rebounding. Age restricted developments are moving to market rates (since no funding for senior housing). Dr. Kasyan stated the district has 277 children signed up and that he feels we will meet our targeted population. Dr. Kasyan stated they are right on par with our live birth rate = 434. Dr. Newman left at 7:16 p.m. and returned at 7:18 p.m. Ms. Conway stated that she located the law, where does it stand now? Ms. Conway stated the funds may be re-appropriated. Dr. Kasyan stated that A and B districts are funded, C & D must meet 40% free and reduced lunch population. We are one of the five districts according to the legislative policy brief. Ms. Conway inquired about the lease. Dr. Kasyan stated we must move incrementally, the first step will be to have a board resolution to vote in favor and the second step will be to move forward with the lease document, then engineering and planning board gets involved. Little Egg Harbor is not paying for the engineering, TARA Developers are. Mr. Ianole, McManimon and Scotland stated this is correct. Ms. Conway asked who chooses staff? Dr. Kasyan replied the employment contract is for the year and that the state creates the contract and that we can modify it. Dr. Kasyan noted currently employed teachers will be on our pay scale, our pension, our teachers association, etc., new teachers will be hired by the private provider. Ms. Conway asked if teaching assistants could stay in association. Dr. Kasyan stated that will be discussed at a later date. Ms. Conway inquired if they can have other usage if the classrooms are not full (Private Providers)? Dr. Kasyan stated that his vision is not one for infants or toddlers, our focus is on three and four year olds. Dr. Kasyan stated that the committee will listen to recommendations. Mr. Held asked if we can ask question of public. Mr. Coronato replied yes. Dr. Kasyan asked Mr. Held if he was not clear in stating this earlier. Dr. Kasyan stated there are 5 districts associated with Abbott – we have been given the right to continue funding. Mr. Ianole stated we are trying to determine where the bill will go. Mrs. Hoden inquired if the district had an agreement with a provider? Mrs. Hoden also asked how many current teachers and how many years? Dr. Kasyan replied for as long as he is here and that current teachers will remain in association, tenure, contract, and pension. Mrs. Hoden inquired when will new teachers not be in association. Dr. Kasyan responded when the contract is signed those teachers will remain. Dr. Kasyan also noted that the 28th teacher will be a private provider employee. Mrs. Hoden asked there was a pay differential in salary? Dr. Kasyan responded that Head Start salaries were the same. Mr. Held asked is your question, "would it behoove a private provider to your replace you with at a lower cost"? Mrs. Hoden responded yes, plus the animosity of staff having different benefits, etc. Mr. Coronato stated it depends on the terms of the contract, but the Superintendent has said that has to be the terms.

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Board Forum:

Dr. Newman – as a follow-up to the open to the public conversation – inquired if the subsequent teachers not be allowed to join union? Dr. Kasyan stated that they can join the union. Mr. Ianole stated that the private provider will be the employer, not the board of education. If they can benefit from the association, then they can join. Mr. Held stated, if the private provider can save money, won't they find a way, to hire their own people. Mr. Ianole stated that the superintendent is adamant about this point. Mrs. Hoden stated that private provider teachers cannot join the association; at least she thought they couldn't. Mrs. Hoden also noted that the teachers could not be represented fairly. Ms. Frasca noted that they could join the association.

Mrs. Sherwood – Pre-School Teaching Assistant – Mrs. Sherwood inquired if the Teaching Assistants could be grandfathered in. Ms. Frasca stated that is what we are trying to do, to include everyone. Ms. Conway stated that the vision is not infants/toddlers, will that be stated in contract and will the facility be able to be used in any other manner? Dr. Kasyan stated that his major concern is to take fiscal responsibility away from the taxpayers and board, then quality preschool with 1 of 5 curriculum models. Dr. Kasyan stated his vision is 3, 4, 5 and 6 year olds, not the other way 1 and 2 year olds. Mr. Held inquired if this is a sample contract. Mr. Ianole responded that it's a sample ground lease that was provided.

NCLB FY 2010:

Motion by R. Wood. Seconded by R. Sanzari.

To approve the submission of an amendment to the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) FY 2010 consolidated grant application. The purpose of the amendment is to allocate carryover funds from the FY 2009 NCLB funding in the following titles for the following amounts:

NCLB Title IA	NCLB Title IIA	NCLB Title IV
\$36,410	\$3,894	\$814

All carryover monies above will be spent in accordance with the intent and purpose outlined in the original NCLB FY 2010 grant application approved by the Little Egg Harbor Board of Education on September 21, 2009.

**2010/2011 School
Calendar –
Revision:**

To approve the revised 2010/2011 School Calendar.

**Policy and
Procedures:**

To approve a resolution regarding hiring for the 2010/2011 School Year:

WHEREAS, in the interim between the special meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Township Board of Education held on June 21, 2010 and the next regular scheduled Board of Education meeting of August 9, 2010, the Little Egg Harbor Township Board of Education authorizes the following:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

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The Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, to conduct interviews and offer employment to perspective candidates for the 2010/2011 School Year. Said candidates will be appointed at the Regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Township Board of Education to be held on Monday, August 9, 2010.

Roll Call:

Mr. Cimino	- Absent	Mr. Sanzari	- Yes
Mr. Daleo	- Yes	Mr. Wood	- Yes
Mr. Held	- Yes	Ms. Frasca	- Yes
Dr. Newman	- Yes		

Mrs. Coates stated that the motion carried.

The call between Mr. Cimino and Ms. Frasca ended at this time.

Amend Agenda:

Motion by R. Wood. Seconded by K. Held.

To amend the agenda for one action item.

Roll Call:

Mr. Cimino	- Absent	Mr. Sanzari	- Yes
Mr. Daleo	- Yes	Mr. Wood	- Yes
Mr. Held	- Yes	Ms. Frasca	- Yes
Dr. Newman	- Yes		

Mrs. Coates stated that the motion carried.

Early Childhood Center:

Motion by R. Wood. Seconded by A. Daleo.

To approve the board to authorize the building of an Early Childhood Center which will include a ground lease and a private preschool provider utilizing a 501C non-profit (Torain model).

Ms. Frasca asked for comments from the board.

Mr. Held stated he is concerned brining a private provider in and that he felt there are options of a referendum or small addition with less of a risk and the district could maintain control.

Dr. Newman stated he also felt there are other alternatives than to go to a private provider and went on to state that the board should look more in depth and this process should go through the public approval. Dr. Newman explained that a smaller facility would also be satisfactory and that he has concerns over the Torain approach and that it would be irresponsible on his part to support. Dr. Newman also stated that the union/non-union issue is basis for conflict.

Mr. Daleo stated that the board is trying to do what's right by the school and not impact tax payers, that the district needs to invest and see what all options are.

Mr. Wood stated he would like to see the project proceed with the whole building being constructed instead of seeing addition after addition being put on after we add on, this is the proper way to go.

Dr. Newman stated that he is a member of the citizens on patrol and has had occasion to drive through town, Dr. Newman noted there is an abundance of homes for sale and this should be considered when deciding to build add more classrooms. Mr. Daleo replied that the number of homes for sale has dropped dramatically and the market has stabilized, he feels the township is coming out of the

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recession.

Mr. Held stated that the board should go to referendum or move with smaller building and went on to say that the board should provide the services and protect the taxpayer from increases in rates.

Mr. Wood stated that a referendum is not an option with today's economy climate and that if the board starts all over again, the district will never get the building.

Mr. Coronato advised it is legal to call Mr. Cimino for his participation for this vote and placed the call on speakerphone. Ms. Frasca called Mr. Cimino at this time.

Roll Call:

Mr. Cimino	- Yes	Mr. Sanzari	- No
Mr. Daleo	- Yes	Mr. Wood	- Yes
Mr. Held	- No	Ms. Frasca	- Yes
Dr. Newman	- No		

Mrs. Coates stated that the motion carried.

Mr. Coronato stated that the board decided to enter into contract negotiations with provider with conditions that the Superintendent and Board put forward.

Ms. Frasca appointed committee for the Early Learning Childhood Center: Dr. Newman, Mr. Daleo and Mr. Held.

Mr. Garrison explained why a long range facilities plan was not needed.

Open to the Public

II:

Mrs. Clifton asked about the playground area, if it was equitable since the Frog Pond school has a field. Mrs. Clifton also inquired who was responsible for money put out so far. Mr. Ianole stated that the district would negotiate. Mrs. Clifton reiterated that the district is responsible and Mr. Ianole replied that he did not know.

Mrs. Clifton inquired how the board would protect teachers for more than one year? Dr. Kasyan stated that he is confident that we can meet these obstacles and we would meet each factual hurdle put in front of us. Dr. Kasyan stated that a one year is there to protect Little Egg Harbor. Mrs. Clifton inquired if the reason is a playground there. Mr. Garrison replied no. Mrs. Clifton stated that she is actively involved in all aspects of the community.

Mr. Carnes stated that he is concerned having teachers on two scales and that a referendum will not pass. Mr. Carnes noted that he hopes the board continues to listen to all concerns. I don't want a vital teacher to be moved out the door. Dr. Kasyan replied that no teacher that is currently teaching will not be with the private provider. We are very fortunate to have this investor reach out. We could always fall back on an 8-room addition. Dr. Kasyan stated, let the board do what they were elected to do and that they can always move to Plan B.

Mr. Carnes stated he has heard concern that tenured teachers can be replaced. Dr. Kasyan replied there are tenure laws that govern this. Dr. Kasyan also noted that every effort was made after the budget was defeated. Mr. Held asked Mr. Carnes if he was concerned that with funding cuts the teachers would lose their jobs? Mr. Carnes replied, yes, everything would have to happen at once. The "What if Scenario". I don't want to see any of that reduced (what the district currently has).

Mr. Coronato reminded the board they can ask questions, but cautioned the board that this is public session and please don't have a conversation or banter.

Mrs. Sink inquired if the board has funds to attend workshops. Ms. Frasca replied yes. Mrs. Sink stated she knows the protocol not to banter back and forth and went on to say that she is not in favor of privatization. Mrs. Sink stated she knows the board will do what is in the best interest of the public.

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Mr. Carnes asked if workshops are required. Ms. Frasca stated yes they are and training is scheduled for next week.

Board Forum:

Mr. Held asked if he was bantering. Mr. Coronato responded that he was borderline on it and went on to say that when you ask leading questions, you are giving additional information to the public and that the Doctrine of Fairness is to be applied here.

Mr. Wood stated that he has been in construction all of his life and that he feels 100% safe with Mr. Ianole and Mr. Garrison and that the board couldn't have put themselves in better hands.

Dr. Newman inquired if the district could go over the timeline ? Mr. Ianole stated with non-profit, ground lease, default all will be discussed, and went on to say that there are big issues to be discussed.

Mr. Ianole stated that the contract with the private provider and board of education, then the planning board needs a use requirement, and site plan lease needs to go to the Department of Education for approval. Mr. Ianole stated the timeframe is 60-90 days to get through these issues and the board has agreed to the concept. Mr. Ianole will review the private provider, referendum and 8-room wing and that nothing has been signed, despite the board of education working on this for 3 years.

Mr. Held inquired if this has ever been done before what experience does Mr. Torain have?

Mr. Ianole replied that Mr. Torain has done this with other models and this project is a hybrid.

Ms. Frasca thanked Mr. Coronato for his insight and also thanked Mr. Ianole and Mr. Garrison.

Ms. Frasca stated it has been a long, hard journey and we are only at the beginning. Ms. Frasca thanked everyone for their comments and invited the audience to attend and share their concerns.

Ms. Frasca also thanked the board for all their hard work, dedication and time and stated that the board will continue to look at every detail.

Miscellaneous:

Adjournment:

Motion R. Wood. Seconded by A. Daleo

To adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Voice Vote: All Ayes

Absent: Mr. Cimino

Mrs. Coates stated that the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Coates

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary