



***Barnegat Township  
School District***

**BARNEGAT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**October 27, 2014  
Monday, 6:00 PM – Special Meeting**

Barnegat Board of Education Offices  
550 Barnegat Blvd. North  
Barnegat, NJ 08005

*Our collective mission is to nurture and educate our children in accordance with all curriculum standards to prepare them for responsible citizenship and success in life.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT**

The notice of this meeting has been forwarded to the Asbury Park Press, and placed in the foyer of the Barnegat High School, in the Barnegat Township Municipal Building and has been filed with the Barnegat Township Municipal Clerk, in conjunction with the Open Public Meeting Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-10.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Becker:	Absent
Mr. Cloke:	Present
Mrs. Kropf	Absent
Mrs. Murphy:	Absent
Mrs. Paulhus:	Present
Mr. Sarno:	Absent
Mrs. Sawicki:	Present
Mr. Sheiken:	Present
Mrs. Pilovsky:	Present

Also present: Ms. Karen Wood, Superintendent  
Mrs. Lourdes LaGuardia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Ben Montenegro, Esq., Board Attorney

**IV. FLAG SALUTE**

Mrs. Pilovsky: Please stand for the Flag Salute.

All: Pledge of Allegiance

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND/OR ADDITIONS**

Mrs. Pilovsky: Approval of the Agenda and/or Additions?

Mrs. Sawicki: So moved

Mr. Cloke: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye

Mrs. LaGuardia: Any opposed?

None

## VI. PUBLIC SESSION

The Barnegat Township Board of Education appreciates and welcomes public comment, advice and suggestions especially when it is intended to assist/help the Board of Education. Please feel free to speak to the Board during the public session. Comments and discussion will be limited to one five (5) minutes period per individual unless requested by the chairperson to continue on a point of clarification. Public comment at special meetings of the Board shall be related to the call of the meeting. In accordance with the Board of Education Policy, each participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation, if appropriate. Your anticipated courtesy to the member of the public and the Board is appreciated.

Mrs. Pilovsky: May I have a motion to open to Public Session?

Mrs. Sawicki: So moved

Mr. Cloke: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye

Mrs. LaGuardia: Any opposed?

None

Mrs. Pilovsky: Would anyone want to address the Board?

Mr. Aviles: Yes, my name is Chris Aviles, I teach English here at Barnegat High School. I wanted to let the Board know that I resigned from my position as an English teacher here this morning. It is one of the hardest things I have had to do in my life, because I have been here for nine years. This is my first job out of college, and I have grown to love the staff and students. I am going to be pursuing an opportunity at Fair Haven as a Ed Tech Coach working with teachers to implement new technology and stuff like that. First and foremost I wanted to thank the Board and everybody here for their support over the years. Hopefully I have left Barnegat a better place than when I came in which has always been my goal. I met with Ms. Wood this morning, we had a great meeting. Unfortunately, I guess with the short notice the Board was unable to attend, so I wanted to let you know. I have some ideas and some thoughts on my time here and also some of you know I am working on some projects with Google and others. As I transition out of here I am willing to talk to, or address any, or hopefully I can address my thoughts on my time here. I am available to hang out today if you guys would like to talk to me. If not I

am more than willing to come back to another meeting. I can leave you the letter that I gave Karen as well if you would like a copy of that. I just wanted to make myself available hopefully to speak with the Board before I leave, because I would like the transition with some of the projects, Bengal Buzz and stuff like that, to be smooth. Also, I think I have some ideas on how we can make Barnegat a better place which has always been my goal here. So that's my piece, if you can't talk to me tonight, like I said I can hang out. Just let me know whenever. I can leave my letter and maybe the next Board Meeting or whenever is convenient for your guys.

Mrs. Pilovsky: We will take a copy of the letter.

Mr. Aviles: Yes, I just want to say thank you very much. Absolutely I have loved my time here, this District is fantastic, the staff and students are amazing. It's the hardest decision I ever had to make in my life so I appreciate everything you guys have done.

Mrs. Pilovsky: I have to say thank you for not just leaving the District. It is nice to have somebody who is leaving the District that is willing to give us ideas and information for the next person coming up.

Mr. Aviles: The projects too, I don't want you guys to lose out on the furniture situation which is an ongoing thing. I am in talks with Arrow to hopefully get some access points for the school to improve the Wi-Fi. I would like to hopefully see that transition, because I think it's beneficial to our students. That is all, I will excuse myself.

Mr. Cloke: I got to tell you something, I am just at a loss for words. I enjoyed listening to you every time. You showed up to the meetings; all your information, bringing the students with you to demonstrate.

Mr. Aviles: We just got back from New York on Friday. If you didn't hear, I took four students with me to Tarrytown, NY to represent Barnegat and talk about Bengal Buzz at the Be About It Project. I know I started to work with the Economics Committee in Barnegat to develop that. Again, I don't want to lose that that is the kind of stuff that makes the school district great. Some of my thoughts and ideas and projects I would like to, however we can, transition that to someone so that it doesn't die, you know what I mean? Especially Bengal Buzz, we know the quality, all I can say as a teacher in the District I know the change it has made in the school. Attendance is up, positivity is up, so I want to make sure there is somebody there to fill those roles. Like I said I have a lot of ideas and thoughts on my time here and ways that I think the District can grow and become a better place.

Mrs. Pilovsky: I have to tell you that we have lost an amazing teacher. For myself, I would be selfish and I am going to say I don't accept the letter of resignation. I am going to be selfish.

Mr. Cloke: I second that, I would never accept your resignation ever.

Mrs. Pilovsky: You're an amazing, amazing teacher. Kids come to school just to listen to you and learn. The time you have put in this District is just incredible. It is just not teaching it is everything else that you do. We are at a big loss.

Mr. Aviles: Hopefully one day I will be back, we will see what happens.

Mr. Cloke: I have to say something I just feel a hole in me.

Multiple Speakers: Inaudible

Mr. Aviles: It's hard; it's the hardest thing I ever had to do.

Mrs. Pilovsky: He is very honest.

Mr. Aviles: It's not over. I have already talked with a coach and some of the other schools. Hopefully I will be taking over the Rec Wrestling Program, so I still plan on being involved somehow. I am not that easy to get rid of. That way we can keep the wrestling program alive. As pride we talk about wrestling all the time. I know Pete Jennings is looking to move on, and so I had a conversation with Mr. Germano and Coach Carp and I think that would be a great fit. It wouldn't start until I got out of work, and I would be able to come down and still be on the mat a couple of days a week. Hopefully I still can be involved. It is hard to describe what my time here has meant with all of you, and especially the kids, even the great things that we go to do. (Recording Inaudible). It is forty to eighty thousand people so I just submitted for my students and I to present there. I know some people that are there, and it looks like we are going to be getting it, so I will be to take the kids back on the road. Anything I can do before I leave to make the transition smooth, or any advice I can give, or anything I can do please don't hesitate to ask.

Board Members: Thank you

Mr. Cloke: I am hoping that some kind of time frame. When does this resignation go into effect?

Mr. Aviles: I signed my contract today. I believe I am going to be held until however long it takes to get my position filled. Right now my contract date with Fair Haven is January 5<sup>th</sup> is my start date.

Mrs. Pilovsky: I have to say I am sorry I wasn't there, but I received the notice at 1:10. Please don't think I wasn't there, because you know how I support the teachers. Believe me if I knew it I would have been there.

Mrs. Wood: May I make a few comments as the Superintendent of Schools? I would like to congratulate Chris on his new appointment. I think we also have a very good

meeting today. I did convey to Mr. Aviles that I was sorry that either you or Mr. Sheiken could not be there and that I have reached out to the leadership of the Board. I did indicate to Chris that I did reach out late, because I was conducting another item of business that the Board directed me to do so this morning. Unfortunately, by the time I heard back from Chris and got to you guys there was not enough time for you to appear. I did convey to Mr. Aviles today that I knew that you would be deeply disappointed in Chris tendering his resignation. I knew that that would be the feelings of the Board and it's my feelings as well. I think Chris and I had a very good conversation today and I think he has brought a lot of awareness to our school district and that he has brought a lot of great programs. I think if he and I have not sat down at the end of the summer some of these things that he talked about might not have happened. I hope that the Board and the District understand that through collaboration that you can do these things. So when Chris came and said I want to do Tech and Learning, or I want to do, I said OK, because if it's good for kids it's good for us. I think we have always seen eye to eye on that and I really think Chris has done an amazing job in his time here. I did tell him honestly that unfortunately the position that he is taking up in Fair Haven is not a budgeted position at this time in Barnegat. It doesn't mean it's not on the list of things that we will be talking about really soon when we talk about the budget. I don't know where we will be in a year, and I did tell Chris that if it's there in a year that I hope that he applies for it, because I think he would make an excellent candidate in that position. I think he has brought a wealth of knowledge and opportunity to our students. I have asked him to reach to the Economic Development Commission and I knew that he had started working on that, and I am pleased to hear. Mr. Fiore sent me a couple of e-mails to say that he is really pleased to hear about some of the initiatives such as Chris's Be About it Project has brought to kind of the forefront of entrepreneurs and where kids really should be looking for the future and how to impact Barnegat. I realize that as an English/Language Arts teacher Chris has had more of an impact than just in the area of VLA. I think that is very special because you don't find that with a lot of candidates or a lot of teachers. I know that he has given a lot of time here in the District. I thank him for his contributions. He did give me some suggestions when he left today that I promised I would listen to, but I also respectfully said that I would have to decide on, and I hope that he understands that.

Mr. Cloke: Can I add something? Are we talking, are we looking to get more money, or are we looking to change a title? To me, I am just like, when I hear that it wasn't budgeted there are a lot of things that are not budgeted but somebody got a job here and there for an unbudgeted thing. I am not trying to be malicious or nothing, but this is somebody that is making the District.

Mr. Sheiken: Joe, just one second I'm sorry. I think this out of order now.

Multiple Board Members Speaking: (inaudible)

Mrs. Pilovsky: We will have the discussion at the next meeting if you don't mind.

Mr. Cloke: My emotions in this are very high. There are only certain people that you know, and administrators, that I feel about, certain things about. I just feel that, I don't know.

Mrs. Pilovsky: We will bring it up at the next Board Meeting. We will bring it up in Executive and we will have a discussion about it OK. Like Art did say, he didn't give me a chance to open my mouth; we have some staff members here that those questions you can address to the Board and not anyone else.

Mr. Cloke: I understand.

Mr. Aviles: You guys don't want me to hang out, I'll see you guys....

Mrs. Pilovsky: You could if you want. Maybe one or two of the Board Members have questions for you later on.

Mrs. Aviles: Ok, thank you guys, thank you very much.

Mrs. Pilovsky: Anyone else want to address the Board?

Mrs. Pilovsky: Can I have a motion to close Public Session?

Mr. Cloke: So moved

Mrs. Sawicki: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye

Mrs. LaGuardia: Any opposed?

None

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

Mrs. Pilovsky: Do I have a motion to go into Executive Session?

Mrs. Paulhus: So moved

Mr. Sheiken: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye

Mrs. LaGuardia: Any opposed?

None

Request a resolution for Executive Session at this point in the meeting of the Barnegat Township Board of Education on October 27, 2014 for the purpose of discussing confidential student items.

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Township of Barnegat in the County of Ocean and State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion on the actions upon the hereinafter specified subject matter(s): student information.

The general nature of the subject matter(s) to be discussed is listed under Executive Discussion.

It is anticipated at this time that the subject matters will be made public, if and when, confidentiality is no longer needed. Action may be taken.

This resolution shall become effective immediately.

## VIII. EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION

1. Student hearing

## IX. CALL TO ORDER

## X. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Becker:	Absent
Mr. Cloke:	Present
Mrs. Kropf	Absent
Mrs. Murphy:	Absent
Mrs. Paulhus:	Present
Mr. Sarno:	Absent
Mrs. Sawicki:	Present
Mr. Sheiken:	Present
Mrs. Pilovsky:	Present

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Pilovsky: Do I have a motion?

Mr. Sheiken: So moved

Mr. Cloke: Second

Mr. Cloke:	Yes
Mrs. Murphy:	Yes
Mrs. Paulhus:	Yes
Mr. Sarno:	Yes
Mrs. Sawicki:	Yes
Mr. Sheiken:	Yes
Mrs. Pilovsky:	Yes

1. Motion to end the current suspension of pupil 9009675977 and return to pupils regular education program in accord with pupil IEP effective 10/28/14, the board having conducted pupil hearing pursuant to NJSA 18A:37-21.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Pilovsky: May I have a motion to close?

Mrs. Paulhus: I'm sorry do we have to have a finding that we agreed with everything they said, did you say that we had to do that.

Mr. Montenegro: No, I just needed that for the findings, the findings were that it occurred. For the public vote we just need to mention the (inaudible) or do the long term suspension.

Mrs. Pilovsky: Do I have a motion to close?

Mrs. Sawicki: So moved

Mr. Cloke: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye

Mrs. LaGuardia: Any opposed?

None

The next date for the Barnegat Township Board of Education meeting is November 18, 2014. The meeting will be held at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Lourdes LaGuardia  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

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### **Board of Education**

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

1. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. I will make decisions in terms of educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
3. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
4. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
5. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
6. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
7. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
8. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
10. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

# **BARNEGAT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Denise Pilovsky, President

Arthur Sheiken, Vice President

Lisa B. Becker

Joseph Cloke

Kim Murphy

Grace Paulhus

Scott Sarno

Kelly Sawicki

VACANT