

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOROUGH OF SEA BRIGHT**

AUGUST 19, 2022 (Friday)

RIGHT, NEW JERSEY

TO ATTEND THIS MEETING REMOTELY PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING:

<https://meet.goto.com/300225765>

OR DIAL: (224) 501-3412

Access Code: 300-225-765

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and requested those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT (N.J.S.A. 10:4-18)

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

48 Hour Notice Requirement:

This meeting is now called to order. In line with the Borough of Sea Bright's longstanding policy of open government, and in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act", I wish to advise you that the 48-hour notice requirement for this meeting has been met. A copy of the agenda was sent to the Asbury Park Press and other local newspapers on August 16, 2022 and posted on the bulletin board in the Borough office. This meeting is open to the public.

PRESENT: Mayor Brian P. Kelly
Councilmember's Erwin Bieber, Kevin Birdsall, Jefferey M. Booker, Sr.,
Samuel A. Catalano, William J. Keeler, John M. Lamia, Jr.

OTHERS: Attorney Roger McLaughlin, Clerk Christine Pfeiffer

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: (limited to 3 minutes)

The Public Comment portion of this meeting allows members of the audience to bring their concerns or comments to the Mayor and Council's attention. Pursuant to Borough Ordinance 3-2011, a member of the public who wishes to speak shall give his/her name and address for the record and may have up to three minutes to state his/her comments to the Mayor and Council as a Body. If additional time or information is requested, an appointment can be made with the Administrator's office during regular business hours.

No one wished to be heard.

Mayor Kelly explained that this is a special meeting to authorize the school referendum question - there has been a lot of back and forth discussion between Sea Bright, Highlands, and Atlantic Highlands to agree on a funding formula that works for everyone (85% enrollment and 15% assessed value). Councilman Booker thanked Mayor Kelly and everyone else involved for all their hard work and diligence.

RESOLUTION:

No. 153-2022 Authorizing School Regionalization Referendum Questions for the November 2022 Ballot

Councilmember Catalano introduced and offered for adoption the following Resolution; seconded by Councilmember Booker:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Sea Bright ("Sea Bright") has filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education, jointly with the Boroughs of Atlantic Highlands and Highlands and the Boards of Education of the Henry Hudson Regional School District, Atlantic Highlands School District, and Highlands School District (hereinafter Petitioners), seeking authorization from the Commissioner of Education to place a referendum before the voters in its community to withdraw from the Oceanport and Shore Regional School Districts and join the Henry Hudson PK-12 Regional School District; and

WHEREAS, the joint petition included proposed referendum questions to be presented to the voters in each of the three communities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed referendum questions did not include the tax allocation methods to be presented to the voters, as the tax allocation methods to be presented to the voters had not yet been agreed upon by the municipal governing officials; and

WHEREAS, the municipal governing officials from Sea Bright, Highlands and Atlantic Highlands have engaged in negotiations and have agreed upon tax allocation methods to be presented to the voters in the three communities, which they have determined to be fair to all three communities and which would provide all three communities with significant annual savings off the status quo; and

WHEREAS, the municipal governing officials agreed upon the following tax allocation methods to be included in the proposed referendum questions as follows:

Referendum question to be presented to the voters in Highlands and Atlantic Highlands:

Shall the Boards of Education of the Highlands School District, Atlantic Highlands School District, and Henry Hudson Regional School District join together to convert Henry Hudson Regional into an all-purpose PK-12 regional school district, with the annual and special appropriations for such a two-constituent PK-12 regional school district to be apportioned upon the following basis: **80% on each municipality’s equalized valuation allocated to the regional district as provided by state law, and 20% on the proportional number of pupils enrolled from each municipality on the 15th day of October of the prebudget year;** and

Upon conversion of Henry Hudson into a PK-12 regional district, shall the PK-12 regional school district include the Borough of Sea Bright as a constituent member, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education of its withdrawal from Oceanport and Shore Regional School Districts, and approval by the voters of Sea Bright to join the Henry Hudson PK-12 Regional School, with the annual and special appropriations for the newly expanded three-constituent PK-12 regional school district to be apportioned upon the following basis: **15% on each municipality’s equalized valuation allocated to the regional district as provided by state law, and 85% on the proportional number of pupils enrolled from each municipality on the 15th day of October of the prebudget year?**

Referendum question to be presented to the voters in Sea Bright:

Upon approval by the voters of Atlantic Highlands and Highlands to convert the Henry Hudson Regional School District to a PK-12 regional school district and approval by the Commissioner of Education for Sea Bright to withdraw from the Oceanport and Shore Regional School Districts, shall Sea Bright join the Henry Hudson PK-12 Regional School District, with the annual and special appropriations for the newly expanded three-constituent PK-12 regional school district to be apportioned upon the following basis: **15% on each municipality’s equalized valuation allocated to the regional district as provided by state law, and 85% on the proportional number of pupils enrolled from each municipality on the 15th day of October of the prebudget year?**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, after due consideration, Sea Bright has determined that the above tax allocation method(s) are fair and reasonable to the taxpayers of Sea Bright; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sea Bright seeks to have a referendum placed on the November 2022 ballot, or as soon thereafter as may be authorized by the Commissioner of Education, with regard to its joining the Henry Hudson PK-12 Regional School District as a constituent member and authorizes its designated special counsel to submit this agreed upon tax levy allocation and revised referendum questions to the Commissioner of Education for consideration and approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sea Bright authorizes its designated special counsel to take any and all appropriate action to obtain the aforementioned authorization from the Commissioner of Education and to effectuate same.

Roll Call: Bieber, Birdsall, Booker, Catalano, Keeler, Lamia
 Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bieber offered a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilmember Booker:

Roll Call: Bieber, Birdsall, Booker, Catalano, Keeler, Lamia
 Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pfeiffer
Borough Clerk