

**ABSECON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**Monday, August 19, 2019 - 7:00 PM**  
**Library Media Center**

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Library Media Center of the Marsh School, with the president, Dr. Grites presiding.

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. SUNSHINE LAW

Dr. Grites announced that the meeting is being held in compliance with the Sunshine Law, in that a notice was posted with the City Clerk, and on the Bulletin Board in the City Hall, and the newspapers were notified.

Dr. Grites announced that a mechanical device will be used to record these proceedings.

D. ROLL CALL

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>Present</b>
Mr. Cottrell	X		Tina Maruca	X
Mr. Rynkiewicz	X		Dr. Daniel Dooley	X
Ms. Wallace	X			
Ms. Law	X			
Ms. Marczyk	X			
Mr. Neal	X			
Dr. Grites	X			

THE ABSECON BOARD OF EDUCATION USES A "CONSENT AGENDA" PROCEDURE.

E. CORRESPONDENCE - Letter from Gerald Hoenes supporting the resolution on tonight's agenda to terminate the sending/receiving relationship with Pleasantville School District and establish a sending/receiving relationship with Greater Egg Harbor Regional District for high school.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Meeting open to public at 7:05 pm.

- **William Link**, 317 West Church Street, asked why the Board would give up self-determination by joining with Greater Egg Harbor Regional, agrees we should sever relationship with Pleasantville School District, and asked the Board to consider building a high school for Absecon and combining with another city, i.e. Brigantine City.
- **Harry Hartman**, 632 Woodland Avenue, thanked Dr. Dooley, Mr. Rynkiewicz, and Ms. Maruca for meeting with him earlier in the day to address his questions regarding the feasibility study. Mr. Hartman questioned if it is possible to put a dollar amount on what would happen to taxes with a new send/receive relationship for high school. Mr. Hartman commented on the possible outcome to property taxes if a lot of students choose to attend the new high school. Board member Mr. Rynkiewicz responded by explaining that the Board took steps to do their due diligence to understand the range of scenarios and outcomes to Absecon City from pursuing a change in send/receive for high school. Dr. Grites explained that as part of the agreement to be settled with Greater Egg Harbor

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Special Board of Education Meeting  
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Regional, Absecon students will have the same options as GEHR residents for magnet programs and activities offered by GEHR.

- **Stan Colby**, 11 Cortez Avenue, asked about the decision factors in choosing Absegami High School over Mainland High School as the proposed new send/receive high school. Dr. Grites explained that the feasibility study concluded, as presented by special counsel, that GEHR would be a more favorable choice due to the various factors supporting a change of send/receive for high school.
- **Chris Seher**, 707 Chelsea Road, supports the resolution to sever the relationship with Pleasantville School District. Mr. Seher expressed dissatisfaction with the feasibility study as it did not show cost factors for various scenarios showing a range of students attending a new public high school. Dr. Grites and Dr. Dooley explained the numbers are not available do to the fact that all scenarios cannot be considered. Mr. Seher inquired about the option to keep Pleasantville School District along with adding a new send/receive high school option. Dr. Dooley noted that based upon the results of the feasibility study this is not a recommended option. Mr. Seher spoke about the proposed law to consolidate school districts to reduce property taxes and asked if there has been a discussion about regionalizing with Galloway / Absegami, K - 12.
- **William Link**, 317 Church Street, spoke about Absecon having its own high school. A small community based school is better than a regional school.

Dr. Grites summarized what was said through public comments. The consensus is to terminate the send/receive with Pleasantville School District.

Meeting closed to public at 7:55 pm

**EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE:**

G. **PERSONNEL** - None

H. **CURRICULUM** - None

**FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

I. **FINANCE**

1. **Petition to Terminate Sending-Receiving Relationship with Pleasantville** - Motion to approve the following resolution to authorize special counsel, Porzio, Bromberg, & Newman, P.C. to prepare and submit a petition to the Commissioner of Education seeking to terminate the sending-receiving relationship between the Board and Pleasantville:

**WHEREAS**, the Absecon Board of Education (“the Board”) has a sending-receiving

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agreement with the Pleasantville School District ("Pleasantville"), whereby Absecon's students in grades 9-12 are educated at facilities administered under the authority of Pleasantville; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, the Board has had increasing concerns that the quality of educational services provided to its students is not commensurate with that which its students receive between Kindergarten and grade eight; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to explore appropriate cost-effective alternatives for educating its students, the Board retained Statistical Forecasting, LLC, Peter Carter, M.A. and Steven Cea, M.B.A. for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study on the possible termination of the sending-receiving relationship between the Board and Pleasantville; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2019 Statistical Forecasting, LLC, Peter Carter, M.A. and Steven Cea, M.B.A. issued a report that identified several attractive alternatives for the Board to consider; and

**WHEREAS**, the report, which was authored by a team of consultants consisting of Dr. Richard S. Grip, Peter Carter, M.A. and Steven Cea, M.B.A., concluded -- as required by statute -- that the Board could sever the subject sending-receiving relationship with Pleasantville and establish a new sending-receiving relationship with Greater Egg Harbor Regional without visiting a substantial negative educational, financial, or racial impact on any of the affected districts; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the aforementioned report's analysis that Absecon's students could receive an educational program of superior educational opportunity in other school districts, such as Greater Egg Harbor Regional, the Board entered into extensive dialogue with the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School Board of Education,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, after due consideration, the Board has determined that its students can receive an appropriate education at the 9-12 level from the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District, which is ready, willing, and able to educate Absecon's students on a tuition basis; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, contingent upon termination of the sending-receiving relationship with Pleasantville, the Board will enter into an appropriate sending-receiving relationship with the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School Board of Education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes its special counsel, Porzio, Bromberg, & Newman, P.C., to prepare and submit a petition to the Commissioner of Education seeking to terminate the sending-receiving relationship between the Board and Pleasantville pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:38-13*, and to take any and all appropriate action to obtain the required authorization from the Commissioner of Education and to implement same.

**ABSECON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, August 19, 2019 - 7:00 PM  
Library Media Center**

Mr. Cottrell moved to approve item 1.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rynkiewicz, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote.

J. OTHER BUSINESS - None

K. OLD BUSINESS - None

L. NEW BUSINESS - None

M. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meeting opened to the public, 8:05 pm

- **Stan Kolbe**, 11 Cortez Drive, asked about the timeline to complete the process of changing our send/receive relationship for high school. Dr. Grites answered that it depends on the opposition by Pleasantville School District and when the Commissioner makes a decision.
- **Katie McCabe**, 707 Iroquois Avenue, questioned who would make the decision at Pleasantville School District regarding a response to the petition to terminate our send/receive with Pleasantville High School.

Meeting closed to public at 8:10 pm.

N. NEXT MEETING DATE - August 27, 2019

O. ADJOURNMENT - On a motion by Mr. Cottrell, seconded by Ms. Law and unanimously carried by a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Maruca  
Board Secretary