

4. Resolution authorizing the Board to Change the School Calendar and Take Actions Necessary to Maintain the Original Delivery Date of the New Elementary and Middle School Building transfer of title and opening of New Middle School

RESOLUTION on New Middle School Opening

WHEREAS, the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c.72 enacted on July 18, 2000 provides for, among other things, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (hereinafter "SDA") to undertake all of the school facilities projects in SDA Districts; and

WHEREAS, the SDA has undertaken the development, design and construction of a new Elementary and Middle School (hereinafter the "Project") to be owned and operated by the Gloucester City Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the SDA is the current owner of the property and Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project was originally scheduled to be completed and ownership transferred to the District in late April or early May of 2017, to allow the District to prepare for the opening of the new school in September of 2017; and

WHEREAS, in a July , 2016 correspondence, the SDA informed the District that the Project was ahead of schedule and would be completed in December of 2016, over four months earlier than anticipated; and the SDA has asked to transfer the ownership of the property to the District as early as October of 2016; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that correspondence the District changed the school calendar to allow for more days off at the Winter Recess (December 26, 2016 through January 4, 2017) and less days off at the Spring Recess (April 14, 2017 to April 18, 2017); and

WHEREAS, the transfer of the property and the delivery of the new school in December results in significant operational and other costs to the District that were not planned for in advance, and were unexpected; and

WHEREAS, the Project has significant construction issues that are unlikely to be resolved and/or completed prior to December and threaten the likelihood of a December completion date, including but not limited to, total window replacement, police and fire emergency communication blackout issues inside the school, loading dock construction defects, substitution approval issues; and

WHEREAS, 5th Street will not be operational in time for a January opening of the school because of required underground utility repairs and paving issues and because 5th Street is necessary for deliveries to be made to the school and for traffic related to the safe drop off/pick up of students; and

WHEREAS, the District does not have enough time to establish and test health and safety drills/procedures, prepare constituents for new traffic patterns, set up and test cafeteria equipment, perform necessary building maintenance and custodial tasks to ready the school,

prepare special needs children for the drastic change to their environment, and teachers to move and set up their respective classrooms between the completion date and the students return to school in January of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the task of opening the New Elementary and Middle School in January of 2017 following a Mid-December completion date is insurmountable; and

WHEREAS, the District will be unable to open the New Elementary and Middle School until the September of 2017, as originally planned because the District needs time to address the health and safety needs of the children, mounting construction issues, traffic safety, emergency police and fire communication, and logistical moving issues as described above; and

WHEREAS, the SDA has indicated that it wishes to transfer ownership of the property to the District as early as October 2016, despite incomplete construction and the various outstanding health and safety issues; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of ownership of the property prior to Project completion is problematic for liability and cost issues which negatively impact the District; and

WHEREAS, the District did not anticipate and/or plan for the cost impact of owning the New Elementary and Middle School from October through April in its 2016-2017 school year budget; and

WHEREAS, the negative financial impact imposed on the District by the early transfer of ownership will be extremely detrimental to the District; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes all appropriate actions necessary to maintain the original timing of the transfer of the New Elementary and Middle School from the SDA to the District; and the District shall change the school calendar to reflect the Winter Recess to be December 26, 2016 through January 2, 2017 and the Spring Recess to be April 14, 2017 to April 21, 2017.

Motion made by _____ and seconded by _____	
Approved _____	Not Approved _____ Tabled _____
ROLL CALL:	
Mr. Bennett	_____ Mr. Harris _____
Mrs. Borger	_____ Mr. Hubbs _____
Mrs. Cohan	_____ Mr. Johnson _____
Mr. Dolson	_____ Mrs. Wright _____
Mr. Driscoll	_____ Ms. Farrow _____