

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

The LBI School (Ship Bottom) & The Ethel Jacobsen School (Surf City)

November 4, 2019

Members of the Joint Council of LBI Taxpayers Associations (“JCTA”) have produced this document for the benefit of all LBI property owners and parents of the students. Every effort has been made to make this document a factual, unbiased comparison. Sources for the information included here are cited in each section below. This document can be updated based on new information as it becomes available.

Many people have indicated an interest in learning more about Governor Phil Murphy’s plans to consolidate New Jersey school districts. Here are two recent articles that may be helpful: “Taking aim at high taxes, N.J. earmarks funds for school district consolidation studies,” by Michaelle Bond, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 25, 2019 and “Big Move On Plan To Eliminate 300 NJ School Districts,” by Tom Davis, *Patch*, October 3, 2019. Access these articles through your subscription to each source or by Googling.

Topic	LBI School (Ship Bottom)	Ethel Jacobson (EJ) School (Surf City)
1. Year school was opened to students	1951 Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019	1967 Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019
2. Location & building ownership	201 20 th Street Ship Bottom LBI Board of Education (BOE) owns the building	200 South Barnegat Avenue Surf City LBI Board of Education (BOE) owns the building
3. Useful area within the school building	48,165 square feet Does not include the bus terminal, which is 6,776 square feet. Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019 Includes three additions: 2K sq. ft. two offices (1961); 5K sq. ft. media center (1994); 3K sq. ft. science lab (1995) Sources: Ship Bottom Municipal Clerk, 10/30/19; Bill Fenimore, LBI BOE President, 11/4/19	33,135 square feet Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019 The buses serving EJ School are currently housed at the Ship Bottom school
4. Current district enrollment	223 students in grades K – 6 as of 9/30/19 Source: Handout prepared by the LBI Board of Education & distributed to the public at the 10/15/19 board meeting	
5. Total district enrollment 5 years ago	232 students in grades K – 6 as of 10/15/14 Source: Long Beach Island Consolidated School District website, 2015 - 2016 Budget, 10/14/2014 Actual, page 1	

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6. Enrollment in 2000	<p style="text-align: center;">300 students</p> <p>Source: Photograph on the school's wall; Bill Fenimore at LBI BOE Special Meeting, 8/28/19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">158</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>																				
7. Projected district enrollment for the 5 years	<p>The district has seen a steady decrease in enrollment for the better part of a decade and the expectation is that it will continue to see a decrease or remain flat for the foreseeable future, Peter Kopack [Superintendent] said during his August 28, 2019 presentation in the school board meeting.</p> <p>Source: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i> 9/3/19</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>2020 – 2021</td><td>219</td></tr> <tr><td>2021 – 2022</td><td>218</td></tr> <tr><td>2022 – 2023</td><td>219</td></tr> <tr><td>2023 – 2024</td><td>217</td></tr> <tr><td>2024 – 2025</td><td>no data provided</td></tr> </table> <p>Source: Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019 based on April 2019 Demographic Study performed by Statistical Forecasting</p>		2020 – 2021	219	2021 – 2022	218	2022 – 2023	219	2023 – 2024	217	2024 – 2025	no data provided										
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<p>10. Cost per student</p>	<p>[Superintendent] Peter Kopack [noted that] the current cost-per-pupil figure to educate students in the consolidated school district is a little over \$33,000.</p> <p>Source: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="569 318 1917 602"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Total School Levy</th> <th>Students Per Town</th> <th>Cost Per Pupil</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Barnegat Light</td> <td>\$472,930</td> <td>15</td> <td>\$31,529</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harvey Cedars</td> <td>\$585,264</td> <td>9</td> <td>\$65,029</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Long Beach Twp</td> <td>\$4,042,297</td> <td>62</td> <td>\$65,198</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ship Bottom</td> <td>\$648,814</td> <td>42</td> <td>\$15,448</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surf City</td> <td>\$856,762</td> <td>32</td> <td>\$26,774</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Sources: Total School Levy for each town is posted on the LBICSD website in "2019-2020 User Friendly Budget Summary" Generated on March 29, 2019, pages 9 - 13. Students Per Town is from "SRSD (Southern Regional School District) Estimated School Tax Information By Town 2019 - 2020 (Generated 2 May 2019)" made available through the Harvey Cedars Taxpayers Association. Although this document focused on the tax assessment for the SRSD, it also included the number of elementary students per town as of that time.</p>			Total School Levy	Students Per Town	Cost Per Pupil	Barnegat Light	\$472,930	15	\$31,529	Harvey Cedars	\$585,264	9	\$65,029	Long Beach Twp	\$4,042,297	62	\$65,198	Ship Bottom	\$648,814	42	\$15,448	Surf City	\$856,762	32	\$26,774												
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<p>11. Interdistrict Public School Choice Program ("Choice")</p> <p>Current total district enrollment is 38 Choice students</p> <p>2018 total district enrollment was 41 Choice students</p>	<p>2019 Choice students (16) by grade</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="793 748 1010 911"> <tbody> <tr><td>Grade 2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 6</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2018 Choice students (21) by grade:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="793 967 1010 1130"> <tbody> <tr><td>Grade 2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 5</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 6</td><td>8</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Handout prepared by the LBI Board of Education & distributed to the public at the 10/15/19 board meeting</p>	Grade 2	0	Grade 3	3	Grade 4	4	Grade 5	2	Grade 6	7	Grade 2	0	Grade 3	3	Grade 4	3	Grade 5	7	Grade 6	8	<p>2019 Choice students (22) by grade</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1482 748 1698 878"> <tbody> <tr><td>Pre-K</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Kindergarten</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 1</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 2</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2018 Choice students (20) by grade:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1482 935 1698 1065"> <tbody> <tr><td>Pre-K</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Kindergarten</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 1</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Grade 2</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Handout prepared by the LBI Board of Education & distributed to the public at the 10/15/19 board meeting</p> <p>[Superintendent] Peter Kopack [noted that] the current cost-per-pupil figure to educate students in the consolidated school district is a little over \$33,000 [actual: \$33,026]. The school board expects to receive \$542,024 from the state in School Choice Aid, which averages out to \$14,263 per pupil. The difference is \$18,763 per pupil.</p> <p>Source: Dr. Kopack's comment--"School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19; School Choice Aid figure--Long Beach Island Consolidated School District website, 2019 - 2020 Budget, Generated on 3/29/1019, page 2, 2019-20 Proposed</p>	Pre-K	0	Kindergarten	9	Grade 1	8	Grade 2	5	Pre-K	0	Kindergarten	7	Grade 1	6	Grade 2	7
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12. Size of the land parcel	<p>4.2 acres</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>	<p>5.05 acres—the property is split evenly between Surf City & Ship Bottom; however, a “paper street” runs between the two properties. Including the paper street, the acreage is 5.8 acres.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>
13. Ownership of the land	<p>LBI Board of Education</p>	<p>Part of the school property is in Ship Bottom and part is in Surf City.</p> <p>Ship Bottom owns 2.5 acres of the property</p> <p>The E.J. School was deeded to the school district in 1962 with the caveat that once the property was no longer “used for school purposes, the Borough of Surf City shall have the option to repurchase the land for a sum equal to the sale price paid to the borough by the Board of Education, plus interest thereon at the rate of 4 percent annum from the date hereof,” according to part of the 1962 deed.</p> <p>Source: “LBI School Referendum Expected to Top Agenda at Next Surf City Council Meeting,” by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 10/16/19</p>
14. Flood elevation	<p>The last flood certifications were taken in the 1980s and at the time, this school was at 9 feet above sea level. Base flood elevation sits at 7 feet for this school.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>	<p>The last flood certifications were taken in the 1980s and at the time, this school was at 8.25 feet above sea level. Base flood elevation sits at 7 feet for this school.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>
15. Sandy flooding	<p>[Did not flood during Sandy, however] The school incurred flood damage to the boiler room and main electrical distribution service due to their location below the flood elevation.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>	<p>Did not flood during Sandy</p>
16. FEMA flood hazard requirements	<p>The scope of the project would not require raising the building, either in part or in totality.</p> <p>Source: Frank Little as reported in “School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public,” by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19</p>	<p>Because the majority of improvements to the existing building are structural repairs, those repairs do not count toward the 51% FEMA threshold and, therefore, the current structure would not have to be raised.</p> <p>Source: Frank Little at the LBI BOE Special Meeting, 8/28/19</p>

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<p>17. Repairs/renovations needed to meet required safety and educational standards</p> <p>NOTE: The \$s do not include any aesthetic improvements to the inside or outside of the LBI School</p> <p>NOTE: The \$s do not address the need for bus parking at the EJ School</p> <p>Source data: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>		Necessary/ Safety/Structural	Improvements		Necessary/ Safety/Structural	Improvements
	Structural Repairs	\$ 3,000,000		Structural Repairs (1)	\$ 165,000	\$ 726,000
	ADA improvements	\$ 800,000		ADA improvements(1)	\$ 126,500	
	HVAC improvements			HVAC (AIR) improvements(1)		\$ 1,826,000
	Electrical distribution			Interior renovations (1)		\$ 715,000
	Plumbing	\$ 113,000		Addition 22,000 sq. ft. (2) including 6 new classrooms 1 admin office 1 STEAM lab 1 new gym**	\$ 8,800,000	
	Contingency	\$ 480,000				
	Fees	\$ 471,500				
	Media Center roof (1)	\$ 150,000				
	Classroom lighting (1)					
Interior renovations (1) (2)	\$ 150,000					
TOTAL	\$ 5,164,500		TOTAL	\$ 9,091,500	\$ 3,267,000	
<p>(1) These expenditures were not included in the Referendum estimate</p> <p>(2) These renovations are necessary for consolidation if that happens</p>			<p>NOTE: These figures are from an outdated 2015 estimate and do not include the number of necessary classrooms and other school features required to make an apples-to-apples comparison between the two schools.</p> <p>Source for note above: Bill Fenimore, LBI BOE President, 10/25/19</p> <p>(1) Source is the DeCara report. The \$726,000 above is for doors and windows.</p> <p>(2) Source 12/5/15 presentation "Benefits of One School District" based on \$400/sq. ft., which would include "soft costs."</p>			

Continued next page--

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		<p>** NOTE: A bigger gym would be required to consolidate into the EJ School. Students (grades 6-8) have a larger gym requirement than K-5 students. The figure above is based on a 13,250 [sq. ft.] addition to the EJ School.</p>
<p>18. Variance required to perform repairs or renovations?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p> <p>Frank Little, the Professional Civil Engineer retained by the board to oversee the update of the April 2015 structural review of the LBI School, said there is nothing in the proposed plan that would require the district to appear before the Ship Bottom Land Use Board seeking a variance.</p> <p>Source: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala in <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Need answer from the school board</p>
<p>19. Cost of the renovations & improvements</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$7.68 million is the bond referendum</p> <p>Sources: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala in <i>The Sandpaper</i> 9/3/19 and confirmed by Bill Fenimore, LBI BOE President, 10/21/19</p> <p>Total of renovations and improvements above in #18 is \$8,069,500.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>	<p>Total of renovations and improvements above in #17 is \$12,358,500, however, please note that this figure is from an outdated 2015 estimate and does not include the number of necessary classrooms and other school features required to make an apples-to-apples comparison between the two schools.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019; Source for note: Bill Fenimore, LBI BOE President, 10/25/19</p>
<p>20. Debt Service</p>	<p>Repairs to the LBI School are eligible for UP TO 40% Debt Service Aid, meaning the cost to the taxpayers would be reduced by an amount up to 40%, which is approximately \$3.2 million if the cost is \$8 million.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p> <p>As of now, the district would receive roughly 34% in aid from the state for the project, according to Tony Solimine, bond counsel for the district</p> <p>Source: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19</p>	<p>Repairs to the EJ School are eligible for UP TO 40% Debt Service Aid, however, the NJ DOE will only contribute \$143 per square foot for <u>new construction</u>. The estimate [based on the figures in #17 above] would be \$1.4 million debt service and \$3.1 million for new construction (22,000 sq. ft.), which is a combined total of \$4.5 million.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>

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<p>21. What is <i>not</i> included in the stated cost of renovation?</p>	<p>The cost of repairing all of the pilings was determined by the engineer by extrapolating, based on the damage sustained in the visible ones.</p> <p>If the extent of the damage on the non-visible pilings provide to be more pervasive than originally planned, repair costs would increase, which is why a \$480,000 contingency fund has been included in the \$7.68 million amount requested in the bond referendum.</p> <p>Source: Bill Fenimore, LBI BOE President at the Ship Bottom Town Hall Meeting, 10/21/19</p>	<p>An estimated \$3 million of work was not included in the September 2017 bond referendum *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A drainage pipe running through the EJ property would need to be moved if the building were to be expanded. Moving this pipe would add additional cost to the building project. <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical infrastructure would have to be moved * <input type="checkbox"/> The water system would need to be upgraded to handle an expansion * <input type="checkbox"/> Some sort of garage-type structure would have to be built as well as an area or structure for storage & maintenance facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper street on EJ School grounds in Surf City needs to be addressed * <p>* Source: LBI BOE members at the BOE Special Meeting, 8/28/19</p>
<p>22. The “moonshot” comment related to the 2017 referendum</p>		<p>“ ‘This is apples to oranges,’ James Donahower, former school board president, said of comparing the failed referendum with what is being proposed at the LBI School. “We wanted a wow school (with what was proposed in 2017). That was a moon shot. This is a Band-Aid.’ ”</p> <p>Source: “School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public,” by Gina Scala in <i>The Sandpaper</i> 9/3/19</p> <p>The original plan submitted to the LBI BOE by the architect was several million dollars higher than the final number. After several rounds of cuts requested by the BOE, the \$18.4 million was established as the minimum amount required to complete necessary renovations and the desired expansion. Source: Georgene Hartmann, LBI BOE Board Member, 11/4/19</p> <p>At the July 2017 JCTA meeting, Jennifer Bott (VP LBI BOE) and Peter Kopack (Superintendent) stated that \$18.4 million was the lowest figure they could bring in. Source: Bill Hutson, JCTA President, 10/14/19</p>

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23. How will renovations or repairs be paid for?	By additional taxes authorized by a referendum, if approved by the voters	
24. Impact on taxpayers	<p>Taxpayers with a home assessed at \$300,000 can expect to see an [annual] school tax increase of \$8, according to the [LBI BOE's] presentation. It's a \$17 spike in [annual] school taxes for a home assessed at \$600,000 and \$28 for a \$1 million assessed value home.</p> <p>Sources: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19; School Board's presentation at Town Meetings 10/17 – 10/23/19</p>	<p>[Laura of Laura Bishop Communications] pointed out, "If both Questions 1 [EJ expansion] and 2 [EJ renovation] are approved [in the referendum], the average annual tax impact of the referendum on a home assessed at \$600,000 would be \$55 more per year. If just Question 1 [EJ expansion] is approved, the tax impact would be \$43 more per year. This does not take into consideration, however, cost reductions realized through the sale of the Long Beach Island Grade School, debt service aid and annual savings of \$350,000 to \$450,000 from the consolidation. Those additional savings will reduce the tax impact.</p> <p>"The LBICSD is eligible for \$1.6 million in debt service state aid, which further would reduce the local tax share. The debt service aid only is available, however, if Question 2 [EJ renovation] is approved."</p> <p>Source: "Long Beach Island School District Prepares for September Referendum" by Juliet Kaszas-Hoch. <i>The Sandpaper</i> 7/19/17</p> <p>NOTE: Ms. Bishop's figures above about the savings from consolidation differ from the \$450,000 figure provided by Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator. Please see #32 below.</p>
25. How long will it take to complete the repairs/renovations?	<p>Since the majority of the work is structural in nature, renovations would take place over the summer months with an estimate of 3 – 4 summers when students are not in the building.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>	<p>Since the majority of the work is new construction, then construction would take place year-round starting the day school lets out. Anticipated timeline would be 18 – 24 months.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>
26. What further capital expenditures might be required over the next 5 years?	Need an answer from the school board	Need an answer from the school board

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<p>27. What happens to the land and the school if it is closed?</p>	<p>This school is wholly owned by the LBI Board of Education and it may be sold at the board's discretion.</p> <p>This project [bringing the referendum vote to fruition] has been in the works since 2010 when the board was asked to consider merging the two schools to save money, according to LBI Consolidated District Superintendent Peter J. Kopack. . . . The LBI School was listed for \$9.5 million in 2011 when the school district decided to merge the two schools. The price was later lowered.</p> <p>Ship Bottom officials, who do not want to see the LBI Grade School property become residential housing, offered \$4 million to purchase the school and property with the intention of keeping the building and open space. Their offer went nowhere, too.</p> <p>Source: "Voters Shoot Down Ethel Jacobsen School Referendum" by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/26/17</p> <p>At different times between 2014 – 2016, bids were received for the property and each bid had different restrictions. The bids ranged between \$9 million and \$10 million and were contingent on the initial [September 25, 2017] referendum passing.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>	<p>In 2014, then-Surf City Mayor Leonard T. Connors Jr. asked the school district to consider an offer to sell the Jacobsen school property to the borough. It went nowhere.</p> <p>Source: "Voters Shoot Down Ethel Jacobsen School Referendum" by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/26/17</p> <p>The EJ School sits on 5.05 acres with 2.53 acres in the borough of Surf City. Based on the original deed, dated June 22, 1962, the borough of Surf City deeded the EJ School the 2.53 acres for \$35,000 with the "Option to Repurchase" at the original price plus 4% interest per year if the property was no longer being used as a school. The original deed refers only to the land; the deed does not contemplate the school building. Based on the deed and as of this writing, using simple interest, the sale price would be approximately \$115,000 vs. a compound interest formula of \$350,000. The final determination, however, will most likely be settled in a court of law.</p> <p>Source: Chris Kelly, LBI BOE Business Administrator, Oct. 2019</p>
<p>28. Paper Street</p>	<p>No paper street involved</p>	<p>The term "paper street" refers to the street shown on a recorded plan but never built. Paper streets generally occur when city planners or subdivision developers lay out and dedicate [land for] streets Sources: lawinsider.com & Wikipedia</p> <p>There is a paper street on the Surf City property with some electrical infrastructure, which would have to be looked at.</p> <p>Source: Bill Fenimore, LBI BOE President, 8/28/19</p>

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<p>29. Can students be in the school during the renovation process?</p>	<p>The board must make the decision of whether students can be safely housed in the grade school during renovations and, if so, what the protocol would be to accomplish that.</p> <p>Source: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19.</p>	
<p>30. Engineer's comment about the LBI School</p> <p>Note: Frank Little, a Civil Professional Engineer with Owen, Little & Associates, Inc. in Beachwood, NJ, was retained by the LBI BOE to oversee the entire project of updating the April 2015 structural review of the LBI School. The actual structural review was performed by Harrison Hamnett, P.C. Consulting Structural Engineers in Pennington, NJ.</p>	<p>ORIGINAL QUESTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:</p> <p>Please include an explanation of the comment made by the structural engineer hired by the district to assess the LBI School's physical structure that the "...structural system for this building is approaching the end of its lifespan and if a major and permanent renovation is not implemented, then the existing building will need to be demolished and a new facility constructed."</p> <p>PER FRANK LITTLE: As indicated in the statement, "if a major and permanent renovation is not implemented" is the key wording in the structural report. As discussed, the permanent structural renovation of the floor beams and the pile caps has been included in the design for the building renovation. Plans have been prepared by the structural engineer and submitted to DOE for this structural repair work. The costs of this work have been included in the construction estimate submitted and approved by DOE for the referendum.</p> <p>We note that in or around 2002 structural repairs (17 years ago) were made to the floor beams in the easterly wing of the school along 20th street. The more recent inspections of those beams indicated that the repairs were intact and did not require further work. Similarly beams identified on</p>	

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	<p>the plans approved by DOE will be repaired along with the approximately 14 piles in need of new concrete pile caps. To be conservative we included up to 30 piles in the DOE estimates.</p> <p>Based on excavations around the footings of the building performed by the contractor who installed the temporary shoring the exposed piles at those locations were not compromised. This supports the inspection that the 14 piles identified deteriorated as a result of soil settlement and exposure at the footing. Based on the above we are not anticipating any additional major structural repairs to the building.</p> <p>Source: Email from Frank Little 10/30/19, forwarded by the LBI BOE</p>	
<p>31. Frank Little is a Civil Professional Engineer who works with LBT and Ship Bottom and is paid by these municipalities to do that work. Why is his involvement in the LBI School's review not a conflict of interest?</p>	<p>Both the structural engineer and Mr. Little are licensed by their appropriate licensing organizations, the NJ State Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors and the National Council for Examining Engineering & Surveying, respectively.</p> <p>Sources: New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs website, 10/20/19 and Harrison Hamnett P.C. Consulting Structural Engineers website 10/20/19</p>	
<p>32. Projected cost savings by consolidating into one school</p>	<p>Consolidating into one school is expected to save the district \$450,000, according to the Aug. 28 presentation [by the LBI BOE]. The bond payment per year averages out to be around \$367,000, Tony Solimine [bond counsel for the district] said.</p> <p>The \$83,000 difference is not the district's savings, Chris Kelly [School Business Administrator] said. "It's two different baskets," she said when the question arose during public comment, noting money from the district's general fund and the referendum money cannot be merged. "The \$450,000 allows us to grow. We need to find savings to continue to operate." The proposed savings are earmarked for curriculum and staff, at some point down the line, Peter Kopack [Superintendent] said</p> <p>Source: "School Merger Proposal Continues to Divide LBI BOE, Public," by Gina Scala, <i>The Sandpaper</i>, 9/3/19</p>	

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