

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2008
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:32 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:08 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

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APRIL 14, 2008
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I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlucci, Mr. Koch, Ms. McGowan,
Ms. Smith, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Winter, Ms. Woolford

ABSENT: None

III. Executive Session – 5:32 p.m. – Ridge High School Faculty Dining Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss matters pertaining to safety; and further

BE IT RESOLVED that the matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public as soon as and to the extent that such disclosure can be made without adversely affecting the public interest or without violation of the confidentiality of personnel.

On motion by Ms. Winter, seconded by Ms. Woolford, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:32 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Woolford, seconded by Ms. Winter, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:04 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:08 p.m.

IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:08 p.m. – Ridge High School Auditorium

V. Statement of Public Notice

This was a regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Bernards Township. Notice of the time and place of this meeting was provided and copies of that resolution were forwarded to the official newspapers as designated by the Board of Education and to the Township Clerk and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Board of Education Offices in accordance with P.L. 1975 Chapter 231A.

We very much welcome input from the public. There are two times during regular meetings that the public is invited to speak. One time is early in the meeting before the Board votes, and you may speak about any item that is listed on tonight's agenda. Towards the end of the meeting, there is another public forum to address any topic whatsoever.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. We do not have a specific time limit, but we ask that you keep your comments brief. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, a member of the Board or Administration will address it in the Board Response portion of the agenda.

There are times when a member of the public makes a comment or asks a question about an employee. New Jersey statute does not permit us to discuss personnel issues in public. Also as a matter of law, a Board of Education may only vote for or against the hiring of an employee upon the recommendation of the superintendent. If the superintendent does not recommend a person, that person's name is not listed on the agenda and there is no vote on that action. If it is necessary for the Board to go into executive session at the end of the meeting, we will provide an estimated length of time for the session and whether any action is anticipated to be taken upon returning to public session.

VI. Student Representative's Report**VII. Business Administrator's Report****VIII. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger congratulated the students involved in the recent state Destination Imagination tournament, acknowledging the participation of 23 Bernards Township teams from all grade levels.

1) 2008 Governor's Teachers of the Year Recognition

The following recipients of the New Jersey Governor's Teachers of the Year award were recognized for their achievement and honored with a reception:

Cindy Cicchino	Cedar Hill School
Kathy Bubser	Liberty Corner School
Susan Bivona	Mount Prospect School
David Persily	Oak Street School
Carol Marin	Ridge High School
John Clark	William Annin Middle School

2) Voluntary Random Drug Testing

Director of Special Services Monica Butler delivered a presentation on Voluntary Random Drug Testing, assisted by Principal Frank Howlett, Athletic Director Rich Shello, and Student Assistant Counselors Chad Gilliken and Barbara Bush. A public hearing on the issue followed. Questions and comments included: testing protocols, the issue of student/school/family trust, possibility of opting out, loss of extracurricular activities on student transcript, presumption of student substance use, opposition from professional associations, fourth amendment, etc. Board forum comments included: need to protect students, teenage maturity, level of program deterrence, desire for additional parental input, preference to include alcohol testing, etc. On a straw vote, all members except Susan Carlsson indicated approval to forward to the Policy Committee for further study and policy recommendation.

IX. **Committee Reports****Finance Committee**

No report

Personnel Committee

No report

Curriculum Committee

Chairperson Leslie Stevens summarized the March committee meeting minutes, including the Social Studies program review. She indicated that she thought future committee considerations should include additional review of the guidance and enrichment programs.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Susan McGowan reported that the only remaining open item is the 'dashboard' concept, concluding that it cannot be condensed into a one page report. She recommended that future committee review might contain review of the QAAR metrix for additional/elimination for benchmarking reports.

Community Relations

No report

Facilities Committee

Chairperson Lou Carlucci reported on the completion of the punchlists on all but the high school projects. He gave an estimated completion schedule for the remaining work at the high school. Janet Smith presented a solar power financing analysis and summary.

Liaison Reports

No report

X. Public Forum

No comments were made.

XI. Board Forum

1) Lee Field Lights

Ms. McGowan commented on the initial difficulty with the Lee Field lighting in the early spring and the improvement since then. Superintendent Valerie A. Goger explained that a power surge had damaged the electronic lighting controls, and that the replacement system should be installed soon. In the meantime, the lights are being controlled manually.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Stevens, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Ronald Smith
Interim Board Secretary