

Posted on BT Website 2/22/11

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
JANUARY 10, 2011
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
~~WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL~~**

- I. **Salute to Flag** – page 153
- II. **Roll Call** – page 153
- III. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium** – page 153
- IV. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 153
- V. **Superintendent’s Report** – page 154
- VI. **Board Presentations**
 - 1) **Community Service – Supervisor of Social Studies/World Languages Kristin Fox** – page 154
- VII. **Public Forum on Agenda Items** – page 155
- VIII. **Committee Reports**
 - Finance Committee** – page 155
Report on Progress
 - Personnel Committee** – page 155
Report on Progress
 - Curriculum Committee** – page 155
Report on Progress
 - Policy Committee** – page 155
Report on Progress

Facilities Committee – page 155
Report on Progress

Community Relations Committee – page 156
Report on Progress

Liaison Reports – page 156
Report on Progress

IX. **Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items** – page 156

X. **Board Forum** – page 156

XI. **Adjournment** – page 157

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2011
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order by President Carlsson at 7:00 p.m.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Ms. Carlsson, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon,
Ms. Sherwyn, Mr. Wilke

ABSENT: Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch

III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

IV. 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.

V. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger explained the rationale behind postponing the science presentation. Supervisor of Science & Technology Brian Heineman will present to the Board after completion of curriculum revisions later in the year.

Dr. Goger updated the Board on matters discussed at its previous meeting in regard to the changes to the high school science program, new criteria for placement in honors math classes, a comparison of kindergarten registration between 2010 and 2011, and results of the kindergarten survey.

Dr. Goger explained recent changes in County Departments of Education across the state with the non-renewal of several County Executive Superintendents. In Somerset county, the interim Business Administrator submitted his resignation shortly after the superintendent was released. These changes create concern regarding the upcoming school board election, budget submission and approval on the county level and receiving approvals on numerous items in a timely matter. Currently there is no definitive information on any of these items nor the budget process for the 2011-12. The state Department of Education has several vacancies, as well, including five out of six Assistant Commissioners.

VI. **Board Presentations**

- 1) Supervisor of Social Studies/World Languages Kristin Fox and Ridge High School Principal Frank Howlett presented on the Community Service and Service Learning projects. They highlighted the following:
 - "Power of getting involved"
 - Service learning a balance between learning goals and service outcome
 - Benefits of service learning

- Review of community service website
- Community service as a component of the American History course
- Process for selection, approval and timeline of a service project
- Service opportunities and contact information
- Bernards Township faculty projects

Ms. Fox introduced several students who are participating in the B.R.I.C.K. Avon Academy Tutoring Project where Ridge High students tutor seventh grade students in a Newark school. The students spoke on their reasons for participation and anticipated rewards of this program.

VII. Public Forum on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

VIII. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairperson Susan McGowan reviewed items discussed at the December committee meeting including a presentation by Advantage 3 Marketing Experts who match school district assets with corporate sponsorship. She discussed the projected revenue as well as the district reaching out for legal advice and input from other districts who already have branding. The second item discussed was the Ridge Sports Foundation continuing to fund projects within the district. The organization wanted the district to agree to donate funds as it did with the turf field project. It was agreed that in this economic climate the Board could not make a commitment to direct funds to this organization.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Curriculum Committee

Chairperson Bev Cwerner had no report as the next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 14.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn had no reports as the next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 21.

Facilities Committee

Chairperson Ken Wilke updated the Board on the district energy program and the August – October 2010 reduction of 10% in overall energy usage. Additional comments regarded the Building Energy Star Assessment Program recognition, planning for a reduction in electrical usage during the summer months, the Somerset County

Improvement Authority including Mount Prospect, Ridge High and William Annin Schools in its next grant for solar installation, the current in-house district energy audit, the district's participation in energy cooperatives, and an explanation of the SEE program as a program for behavioral savings while the energy coordinator works for technical savings.

Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Robin McKeon updated the Board of the activities of this committee including attending the recent PTO Presidents Advisory Council meeting and school PTO meetings. At the PTO Presidents meeting the main topic was the concern over what is happening at the county level and what the impact will be on school districts. "Race to Nowhere" a film depicting the pressures on students in high achieving school districts will be shown in the RHS PAC on Wednesday, January 26. She encouraged interested individuals to get tickets early.

Liaison Reports

Susan Carlsson reported that John Malay has been elected mayor. He continues to be interested in exploring areas of shared services with the school district. A bill regarding advertising on school buses has passed. Though the district does not own buses, the sharing of revenues with Somerset County Educational Services Commission should be explored if they decide to pursue branding.

Audrey Sherwyn updated on the Municipal Alliance stating the Drug and Alcohol Survey will be conducted in mid February involving volunteer students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12. The Alliance continues to look for facilitators and hosts for its neighborhood coffees. Also mentioned was the progress of the garden project at William Annin Middle School.

IX. Public Forum on Other than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the B.R.I.C.K. Academy tutoring project. Comments were made on the history, current parent project and update on funding full day kindergarten for the 2011-12 school year, the January 21 cutoff for collection of funds and future 'roundtable' meetings between the Board and parents. Comments were made regarding the reduction and impact of this reduction on the high school science program, as well as the movement of science staff between subject areas.

Responses from Board members included 'roundtable' meetings, changes to the science curriculum at the high school and the availability of the Community Relations Committee at PTO meetings.

X. Board Forum

No topics were brought forward for future meetings.

XI. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. McGowan, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary