

Posted on BT Website 1/12/12

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
JANUARY 9, 2012
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:11 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- I. **Salute to Flag** – page 155
- II. **Roll Call** – page 155
- III. **Executive Session – 6:30 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room** – page 155
- IV. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:11 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium** – page 155
- V. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 156
- VI. **Board Presentation**
 - 1) Post Secondary Report – Director of Curriculum Sean Siet – page 156
 - 2) Homework Survey Summary – Director of Curriculum Sean Siet – page 157
- VII. **Public Forum on Agenda Items** – page 158
- VIII. **Committee Reports**
 - FINANCE** – page 158
Report on Progress
 - PERSONNEL** – page 158
Report on Progress
 - AD HOC FACILITIES** – page 158
Report on Progress
 - POLICY** – page 158
Report on Progress

CURRICULUM – page 158
Report on Progress

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – page 158
Report on Progress

LIAISONS – page 158
Report on Progress

IX. Board Forum

1) Student Stressors – page 159

X. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items – page 159

XI. Adjournment – page 159

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2012
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:11 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by President Carlsson.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon,
Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge

ABSENT: Mr. Byrne

III. Executive Session – 6:30 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: negotiations; 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. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:30 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:07 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:11 p.m.

V. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:11 p.m. – William Annin Middle 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. Board Presentations

Mr. Siet began his two presentations by stating both were available, in full, on the district website. He will be highlighting each this evening.

- 1) Post Secondary Report – Director of Curriculum Sean Siet

to view presentation click [here](#)

This report is a summary of student data not included as part of the state standardized testing report. Portions of Mr. Siet's data were gathered from Naviance the student tracking system. Students input their information into this system. Other data is gathered from the NJ State School Report Card information reported from the previous year.

Mr. Siet highlighted the following:

- Class of 2011 data (student matriculation 4-year colleges 90%, 2-year colleges 6%, other 4%)
- 2009-10 HSPA results
- SAT Prep Program Evolution (parent paid, College Board online, Naviance Method)
- SAT Mean Scores (Critical Reading, Math, & Writing)
- 2007-11 ACT Trends (total number of test takers, many schools now have dual test acceptances)
- SAT II Tests (trends by subject area)
- 2011-12 AP Participation & Results(Bernards Township compared with other districts)
- Trends in AP Resting (total numbers of test takers & by subject areas)
- Trends in college acceptances (aid packages, applying to specific school within a school, Early Action/Restrictive Action/Early Decision, priority deadlines, gender balance, increase in State school applications, waitlist numbers rising, self reporting of grades/online applications, and impact of instant decision/interview days)
- 2008-11 Matriculation Data (by state location)
- Comparison of 2007-11 Class Profiles
- RHS Class of 2011 (data in regard to most selective colleges & college comparisons)

2) Homework Survey Summary – Director of Curriculum Sean Siet
to view presentation click [here](#)

Mr. Siet summarized the following from the results of the Homework Survey:

- Total number of participants (1,931 parents, 236 staff, 2,756 students grades 6-12)
- Assignment of homework/projects over recess periods
- Method to obtain information on homework (parent)
- Amount of time spent on homework (parents vs. students opinion)
- % of students using tutors
- Frequency of homework/impact on grade/% formally assessed (teachers)
- Environment when completing homework (students)
- Time expectations for homework at high school/middle school levels (teachers)
- Comments (more lead time, weekend/recess periods back to family, some work

- considered busy, issues with group projects, appropriate levels of work for honors/AP, cheating at honors/AP levels)
- District response (development of homework procedures at all three levels, staff development/training, curriculum revisions summer 2012, all assessments given back to students, better coordination of tests, possible elimination of midterms for 2012-13, spring 2012 survey on student stressors)

VII. Public Forum on Agenda Items

Comments on Mr. Siet's Post Secondary Report presentation included differentials in regard to the gender gap data, colleges attempting to balance their ratios, district follow up with colleges on the impact to future students when accepted students chose not to matriculate, GPA gender differences and demographics, comparison with similar districts on amount of homework assigned, background on procedure for establishment of initial homework guidelines, accuracy of student data feedback from survey, and district follow-up procedure after all data is compiled.

VIII. Committee Reports

FINANCE

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the committee's next meeting is scheduled for January 18.

PERSONNEL

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the committee recently met with BTAA members regarding contract negotiations.

AD HOC FACILITIES

Chairperson Bill Koch stated the committee's next meeting is scheduled for January 17.

POLICY

Chairperson Elaine Kusel stated the next committee meeting has not yet been scheduled.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated she was not available for the last meeting and asked Ms. Wooldridge to report. Ms. Wooldridge stated discussion at the meeting included results of the homework survey, and class size at Ridge High and William Annin.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn distributed a list of upcoming PTO meetings at each of the schools.

LIAISONS

No comments were made.

IX. Board Forum

1) Student Stressors

Comments were made regarding the effect of student stressors.

X. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding use by students of personal technology equipment in the classroom and inclusion of an additional holiday in the school calendar. Mr. Siet responded to the technology inquiry by stating a policy and procedure regarding bringing your own technology to school is in its final stages of completion.

XI. Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Shah, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary