

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:00 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**I. Salute to Flag**

**II. Roll Call**

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

ABSENT: Ms. McGowan

**III. Executive Session – 6:01 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: litigation; 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. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:01 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 6:51 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

**IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 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. Student Representative**

Student Representative Maggie Peterpaul updated the Board on Ridge High's first Student Council meeting, recent class elections, activities scheduled for Anti-Bullying week and Homecoming the weekend of October 21.

**VII. Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the 2011 **Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.**

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Shah, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

**VIII. Public Forum on Agenda Items**

No comments were made

**IX. Approval of Minutes**

September 12, 2011 – Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, the foregoing was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

**X. Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated September 26, 2011 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$6,315,738.62.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the August 2011 Financial Reports from the Board Secretary, the monthly Investment Report for August 2011, and the Treasurer of the School Monies Report for August 2011.

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), the Bernards Township Board of Education, after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, and to the best of their knowledge, certifies that as of the date of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report, no major account or fund has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the August 2011 line item transfers totaling \$237,000 to the 2011-12 school budget, list on file in the Board office.

4) Authorizing execution of an agreement with the **Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council** to renew membership therein for the period of October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2016.

**WHEREAS**, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (“MCCPC”) was created in 1974 to conduct a voluntary cooperative pricing system with municipalities, boards of educations, and other public bodies located in the County of Morris and adjoining counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the MCCPC is to provide substantial savings on various goods and services to its members through the cooperative public bidding process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bernards Township Board of Education desires to enter into an Agreement with the MCCPC, which is administered by Randolph Township as Lead Agency to **renew** its membership in the MCCPC for the period of October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2016.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Bernards Township Board of Education, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council by the Township of Randolph as Lead Agency dated October 1, 2011 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5). Said Agreement is for **renewal** of membership in the MCCPC for a five (5) year period from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2016.

2. The Bernards Township Board of Education is hereby directed to submit a copy of this adopted Resolution, along with an executed Agreement, to Randolph Township as Lead Agency of the MCCPC.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage according to law.
4. All appropriate Bernards Township Board of Education officials are authorized and directed to perform all required acts to affect the purpose of this Resolution.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the following **out-of-district students** for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Student #:</u>	<u>School District:</u>	<u>Annual Tuition:</u>	<u>ESY:</u>
304638	West Morris Regional High School District	\$64,271	
304633	Somerville Borough School District	\$36,087	
304579	Warren Twp. Public School District	\$64,271	
304639	State of New Jersey	\$12,075	
304104	Watchung Borough Public School District (Includes ESY & 1:1 Aide)	From: \$36,087 To: \$77,370	From: - To: \$5,361

- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **field trip** destination for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Group Attending:</u>	<u>Number of Students:</u>
Brick Academy, Basking Ridge, NJ	Liberty Corner Students	51

- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **professional development expenses** in accordance with P.L. 2007 An Act Concerning School District Accountability and annual Board resolution for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
A. Read	Autism NJ Annual Conference	\$150	10/13/2011 – 10/14/2011
C. Deitchman	Autism NJ Annual Conference	\$150	10/13/2011 – 10/14/2011
J. O’Connell	Autism NJ Annual Conference	\$300	10/13/2011 – 10/14/2011
B. Lee	AP Physics B/C Training	\$850	8/8/2011 – 8/12/2011
L. Howard	AP Workshop	\$205	10/10/2011
C. Kupiec	AP Workshop	\$205	10/10/2011
V. Goger	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011

R. Rudolph	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
N. Markarian	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
E. Kusel	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
P. Shah	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
L. Wooldridge	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
S. Carlsson	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
R. McKeon	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
A. Sherwyn	NJSBA Workshop	\$450	10/24/2011 – 10/26/2011
C. Deitchman	D&I Student Training	\$265	10/19/2011 – 10/21/2011

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **related services** for the following student for the 2011-12 school year:

<b><u>Student #:</u></b>	<b><u># of Sessions:</u></b>	<b><u>Hourly Rate:</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Dates:</u></b>
201082	1 hour/week	\$128	9/1/2011 – 6/30/11

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the application of the **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)** grant for FY12.

Title II – Part A	\$65,670
Title III	\$7,070
Title III Immigrant	\$20,675

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **out-of-district placements** for the 2011-12 school year:

<b><u>Student #:</u></b>	<b><u>Tuition:</u></b>	<b><u>ESY:</u></b>
301284	\$36,853.92	\$6,142.32
303807	\$40,248.00	
303888	\$43,789.59	

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the use of state contract number 77349 with **ADT Security Services** for the procurement of closed circuit security camera systems for Ridge High School. Contract value not to exceed \$84,098.33; subject to attorney review and mutually agreeable terms.

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, Items #1 through 11 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson
- “Noes”- None
- “Abstain” - None

**PERSONNEL**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Catherine Hall** Secretary Curriculum Office Ridge High School effective October 21, 2011.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid child care leave for **Antonia Kizoulis** Grade 2 Teacher Mount Prospect School effective December 12, 2011 through January 27, 2012 utilizing 30 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective January 28, 2011 through March 10, 2012 running concurrently with Federal Family Leave effective January 28, 2012 through April 28, 2012, then an unpaid child care leave effective April 29, 2012 through June 30, 2012 returning September 1, 2012.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid child care leave for **Amy Soltis** Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School effective November 28, 2011 through January 37, 2012 utilizing 39 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective January 28, 2011 through March 10, 2012 running concurrently with Federal Family Leave effective January 28, 2012 through April 28, 2012, then an unpaid child care leave effective April 29, 2012 through June 30, 2012 returning September 1, 2012.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the following **resignations from extracurricular assignments** for the 2011-12 school year:

Tom Blackwell	Fall Fitness Center RHS 2 days
Katie Paul	Math League MPS

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **change in assignments and/or locations** for the 2011-12 school year:

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
Tara Cantagallo	Fall Fitness Center Ridge High School 3 days/week \$1,767 7 years/1 point/\$198	Fall Fitness Center Ridge High School 5 days/week \$2,945 7 years/1 point/\$198
Leslie Caffrey	Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School Step 2 \$24.43 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School Step 1 \$23.93 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective 2011-12 school year

Megan Hunt	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School Step 2 \$24.43 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School Step 1 \$23.93 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective 2011-12 school year
Katherine Darby	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School Step 2 \$24.43 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School Step 1 \$23.93 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective 2011-12 school year
Paul Davis	Step 7 BA \$50,660 effective 2011-12 school year	Step 7 MA \$57,245 effective 2011-12 school year
Alexandra DeVleechower	Step 5 BA \$48,660 effective 2011-12 school year	Step 5 BA+30 \$52,065 effective 2011-12 school year
Anne Boyle	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School effective 2011-12 school year
Dorothy Vignali	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective 2011-12 school year
Marguerite Marky	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 6.5 hours per day 150 days 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 6.5 hours per day 148 days 2011-12 school year
C. Jaime Scott	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 6.5 hours per day 150 days 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 6.5 hours per day 148 days 2011-12 school year
Carolyn Howe	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 6.5 hours per day 150 days 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 6.5 hours per day 148 days 2011-12 school year
Michelle Hallak	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 2.5 hours per day 150 days 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 5 \$26.29 per hour 2.5 hours per day 148 days 2011-12 school year
Loredana LoChiatto	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 3 \$25.00 per hour 6.5 hours per day 150 days 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 3 \$25.00 per hour 6.5 hours per day 148 days 2011-12 school year

Lynne Barrueco	Instructional Aide Oak Street School at a salary of Step 4 \$25.62 4 hours per day effective September 8, 2011 through June 22, 2012	Instructional Aide Oak Street School at a salary of Step 4 \$25.62 6.5 hours per day effective September 19, 2011 through June 22, 2012
Michael Schmidt	Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School effective 2011-12 school year
Sarah Dawson	Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective 2011-12 school year
Kristen Wallace	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School effective 2011-12 school year	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective 2011-12 school year

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **extracurricular assignments** for 2011-12 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Stipend/Longevity:</u>
Josh Ganz	Math League MPS	\$2,812/none
Rebecca Murphy	Math League MPS	\$2,812/none
Anastasia Ferdman	Head Girls Fencing	\$7,417/n/a
Theresa Foy	Math League OSS	\$2,812/none
Kerry Sedorak	Math League CHS	\$2,812/none
Andrew Henthorn	Winter Intramurals/4 days per week	\$2,356/20 years/4 points/\$797
Jonathan Florio	Assistant Forensic-Speech CFL	\$1,626/n/a
Jonathan Florio	Assistant Forensic-Speech National Circuit	\$1,626/n/a
Jonathan Florio	Assistant Forensic-Speech NFL	\$1,626/n/a

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following individuals as **Teachers in Charge** for the Before/After School Care Program listed at a stipend of \$1,000 for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>
Sherri Jakubowski	Mount Prospect School
Deborah Reynolds	Mount Prospect School
Peggy Greaney	Mount Prospect School
Deb Len	Liberty Corner School
Gail Truppi-Homza	Liberty Corner School
JoEllen Giunta	Liberty Corner School
Vivian Meisner	William Annin Middle School
Amy Lynn	Cedar Hill School
Elizabeth Messier	Cedar Hill School

Chris Sosanie Cedar Hill School  
 Janean McElyea Oak Street School

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following individuals as **translators of Spanish and Portuguese** for at a salary of \$50 per hour for the 2011-12 school year:

Stephanie Villarino  
 Graciela Caldero

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **After School Staff** at a salary of \$50 per hour:

Dan Georgetti  
 Bridgette Ritchcoff  
 Marianne Abbaticola

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Lynne Coyne Permanent Substitute** Ridge High School at a salary of \$90 per diem effective September 19, 2011 through June 22, 2012.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following staff for **At Home Visits** effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Michele Ebert	Teacher	\$60 per hour
Erin Stutz	Teacher	\$60 per hour

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Staff College Instructors** for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Course:</u>	<u># of Hours:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Brian Heineman	Using the tablet PC Course	3	\$195
Brian Heineman	21 Century Skills	8	\$520
Beth Kulik	Add Pizzazz to Your PowerPoints & Turn Them Into Transparent Teaching Tools	6	\$150

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **student interns** for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>College/University:</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher:</u>
Lisa Andreacchi	Montclair	Music/Terry Weniger William Annin 10/1/11-12/21/11 60 hours

Niall Caldwell	Rutgers	Administration/Joe Mollica Cedar Hill 9/18/11-12/22/11
Heather Rolandelli	Caldwell	LDTC/Nancy Rayner Oak Street 9/7/11-6/25/12
Rachel Beckert	Drew	English/Lisa Costanza Ridge High 9/26/11-10/28/11 15 hours
Abbey Sumas	Columbia	Elementary/Heather Ray Liberty Corner 10/1/11-2/25/12

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **substitute teachers and/or nurses** for the 2011-12 school year at a salary of \$80 per diem for substitute teachers and \$120 per diem for substitute nurses:

Pamela VonBargen  
Laura Worstell  
Maureen Stanford  
Denise Bellino  
Alix Marsters  
Kathleen Maurice  
Robin Youtkus  
Matthew Germann  
Joan Jackson-Zadroga

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **volunteer** for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>School:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>
Stephen Cochran	Ridge High	Marching Band

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, Items #1 through 15 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson

“Noes”- None

“Abstain” - None

**AD HOC FACILITIES**

## BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following general contract change orders for **Andy Matt, Inc:**

<u>Change Order #:</u>	<u>Change:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
GC – 01	<b>Extra charge</b> to furnish labor and material to excavate, remove and dispose of concealed asphalt at the new patio area.	\$1,490
GC – 02	<b>Credit</b> for substitution of concrete pavers for brick pavers.	\$5,768

Net reduction to contract price of \$4,278.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Shah, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson  
 “Noes”- None  
 “Abstain” - None

**CURRICULUM**

## BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the **purchase and use** of the following textbooks for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Book:</u>	<u>Course:</u>	<u>Publisher:</u>	<u>Qty:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>
Allons au-delà!	AP French	Pearson Learning	32	\$2,034.18
Leyendas del Mundo Hispano, Third Edition	Topics in Latin American Culture & Society	Pearson Education	60	\$2,011.02
Panoramas Literarios: América Hispana, Second Edition	Topics in Latin American Culture & Society	McDougal Littell	60	\$5,032.50
Qua e là per l'Italia	Pre-Advanced Italian	Alma Edizioni	95	\$3,547.78
Sentieri, Levels 1-2	Novice Italian 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Years Intermediate Italian 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Years Italian 7 & 8	Vista Higher Learning	150	\$13,662.56
Business and Personal Finance	Personal Finance	Glenco	60	\$4,659.80

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Shah, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson  
“Noes”- None  
“Abstain” - None

## **POLICY**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following policies on first reading:
  - a) Policy File Code: 2361 Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources for Students
  - b) Policy File Code: M23431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries
  - c) Policy File Code: M5512 Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Hazing
  - d) Policy File Code: M5516 Personal Technology
  - e) Policy File Code: M6820 Financial Reports
  
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following policy on second reading and adopt said policy:
  - a) Policy File Code: 0142 Board Member Qualifications & Code of Ethics

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, Items #1 & 2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson  
“Noes”- None  
“Abstain” - None

## **XI. Board Forum**

- 1) Discussion of Student Stressors

The discussion of student stressors is a full-year district initiative and will be discussed at each Board of Education meeting. Tonight’s discussion included:

- articles from Wall Street Journal focusing on testing and stress, and the future of technology
- articles from New York Times focusing on the trouble with homework (finding better ways) and the secret of success being failure (teaching students to be resilient in the face of failure and preparing children to handle rigor and staying with a project)
- over scheduling of students after school as demonstrated in the movie, *Race to Nowhere* and where the district's responsibility lies

Director of Curriculum Sean Siet answered questions raised by the Board. He stated he will speak on testing at each PTO meeting in October and will include the cluster score breakdown. Additionally, Mr. Siet will be scheduled to present this report at an upcoming Board meeting. He answered questions regarding elementary test results and why in certain years one building will perform better than another. Mr. Siet also gave a brief overview of the college process beginning with the rationale for the number of applications sent per student, the cost of applications and more students choosing to apply early action/early decision lowering the number of applications, the Ridge High School Profile that is included with each application, a pilot program having recommendation letters sent electronically, the continued rise of applications received by colleges/universities changing the dynamics of acceptances and the trend being seen of more of our students applying locally. He explained the difference between the SAT and ACT tests and the reason why one test is chosen over the other. Method Test Prep, a new test preparatory program is being utilized this year at the high school for sophomores, juniors and seniors. This program will customize to a student's ability showing their weaknesses and building a program to meet their needs.

## **XII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items**

A comment was made thanking the Board of Education for placing the cost of the 2011-12 full day kindergarten program back into its budget. Other comments included student busing, student stressors in Honors courses, the length of time athletic team practices run, and scheduling of sporting events during mid-terms.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Mr. Koch, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian  
Board Secretary