

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
FEBRUARY 13, 2017
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:02 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium** – page 231
- II. **Salute to the Flag** – page 231
- III. **Roll Call** – page 231
- IV. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 231
- V. **Student Representative** – page 232
- VI. **Superintendent’s Report** – page 232
 - 1) Affirm Receipt of **HIB Report** Dated February 13, 2017
- VII. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – page 232
- VIII. **Approval of Minutes** – page 233
- IX. **Committee Reports** – page 233

FINANCE

- 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated February 13, 2017 – page 233
- 2) Approve **Professional Development Expenses** 2016-17 School Year – page 233

PERSONNEL

- 1) Accept Resignation **Adele Markey** Instructional Aide Ridge High School 2016-17 School Year – page 234
- 2) Approve Child Care Leave for **Kellie Eck** Science Teacher Ridge High School 2016-17 & 2017-18 School Year – page 234
- 3) **Change in Assignments/Salaries/Locations** 2016-17 School Year – page 234
- 4) Appoint **Meghan Ingram** Grade 5 Teacher Mount Prospect School 2016-17 School Year – page 236
- 5) Appoint **Sydney Lynn** Grade 3 Teacher Cedar Hill School 2016-17 School Year – page 236
- 6) Appoint **Kaitlyn Maloney** Grade 2 Teacher Mount Prospect School

- 2016-17 School Year – page 236
- 7) Appoint **Kaitlin Solon** Kindergarten Teacher Mount Prospect School
2016-17 School Year – page 236
- 8) Appoint **Extra-Curricular Assignment** 2016-17 School Year – page 236
- 9) Accept Resignation **Megan Kern** 2016-17 School Year – page 237

POLICY – page 237
Report on Progress

CURRICULUM – page 237
Report on Progress

ADVOCACY – page 237
Report on Progress

LIAISON REPORTS – page 238
Report on Progress

- X. **Public Comment** – page 239
- XI. **Board Forum** – page 239
 - 1) Grading from the Inside Out - Part 3
- XII. **Adjournment** – page 239

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2017
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:02 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. by President Cwerner.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: None

IV. Statement of Public Notice

This is 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. In order to run efficient meetings and to allow maximum opportunity for members of the public to speak, the Board reserves the right to set a time limit for individual comments and/or public comment portions of the agenda. Please understand that public comment portions of our agendas are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. Any Board responses to public comment will be addressed during Board Forum, or during committee reports.

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. **Student Representative - Lucas Miller**

Mr. Miller reported that the student government held their annual Pennies for Patients drive this past week with a competition between each grade and the faculty called the Penny Wars. Students and faculty donated to their respective jars for our most successful drive in years. All proceeds will go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He reported that plans for the male pageant for seniors at Ridge called "Mr. Ridge" are underway. Mr. Ridge will be held on April 20th in the Ridge PAC at 7:00pm. Finally, the student government continues to sell Camelback water bottles as a fundraiser.

VI. **Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated February 13, 2017.

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, and Ms. Wooldridge
 “Noes” - None
 “Abstain” - Mr. Fry

Superintendent Nick Markarian noted that recently the teachers from the American Sign Language program visited the Basking Ridge Fire Department to teach them sign language and congratulated the William Annin Middle School Math Counts team for winning first place.

VII. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following minutes:

January 23, 2017 – Board Retreat Minutes
 January 23, 2017 – Executive Session Minutes
 January 23, 2017 – Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Dr. Dunten seconded by Ms. Wooldridge the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne (Executive Session Minutes and Regular Session Minutes only), Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon (Regular Session Minutes Only), Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, and Ms. Wooldridge
 “Noes” - None
 “Abstain” - Mr. Byrne (Board Retreat Minutes), Mr. Fry, Ms. McKeon (Board Retreat Minutes, Executive Session Minutes)

IX. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated February 13, 2017 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$5,655,378.10.

2) 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 2016-17 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
J. Koppes	NJTESOL Conference	\$355	05/31/2017 and 06/01/2017
K. Stotler	NJTESOL Conference	\$225	06/02/2017
D. Schwartz	NJTESOL Conference	\$345	05/31/2017 and 06/01/2017
V. Cetrulo	NJTESOL Conference	\$340	06/01/2017 and 06/02/2017
M. Scheffler	NJ Kindergarten Teachers Conference	\$500	02/27/2017 and 02/28/2017

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Shah Items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon
Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, and Ms. Wooldridge
 “Noes” - None
 “Abstain” - None

Ms. Wooldridge provided a brief description of the finance items and noted that the next committee meeting would be held on February 22, 2017.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Adele Marky** Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective March 3, 2017.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Kellie Eck** Science Teacher Ridge High School effective June 15, 2017 through June 30, 2017 utilizing 3 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective September 1, 2017 through October 13, 2017 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective September 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017 then an unpaid child care leave effective December 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018, returning February 1, 2018.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change In Assignments/Salaries/Locations** for the 2016-17 school year:

Staff Member:	From:	To:
Mary Ellen Peters	Secretary RHS Step 9+4 Tests \$55,607	Secretary RHS Step 9+5 Tests \$56,107 effective 2/1/17
Ann Sobine	Secretary RHS Step 9+3 Tests \$55,107	Secretary RHS Step 9+5 Tests \$56,107 effective 2/1/17
Mary Russoniello	Secretary RHS Step 9+4 Tests \$55,607	Secretary RHS Step 9+5 Tests \$56,107 effective 2/1/17
Judee Schroeder	Secretary RHS Step 9 \$54,057	Secretary Step 9+1 Test \$54,407 effective 2/1/17
Georgiana Paril	Secretary RHS Step 9+5 Tests \$56,107	Secretary Step 9+6 Tests \$56,607 effective 2/16/17
Antoinette DiNizo	AP Board Office \$62,028	AP Board Office \$62,528 effective 2/1/17

Jon Dyer	Systems Administrator \$79,099	Systems Administrator \$79,799 effective 2/1/17
Brittany Storie	Secretary-Benefits at salary of \$50,000 effective 9/26/16-2/15/17 as a maternity leave replacement for A. Dunker	Secretary-Benefits at salary of \$50,000 effective 9/26/16-2/20/17 as a maternity leave replacement for A. Dunker
Kathryn Marvel	Paid Child Care Leave effective May 25, 2017 through June 30, 2017 utilizing 16 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective September 1, 2017 through October 13, 2017 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective September 1, 2017 through November 24, 2017 returning November 27, 2017	Unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective September 1, 2017 through October 13, 2017 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective September 1, 2017 through November 24, 2017 returning November 27, 2017
Kim Sweet	Ethics Club RHS \$1,195	Ethics Club RHS \$1,550
Tracy Curcio	Co-Director Before & After School Cedar Hill \$8,500 9/1/16-6/30/17	Co-Director Before & After School Cedar Hill \$5,100 9/1/16-1/31/17
Amy Lynn	Co-Director Before & After School Cedar Hill \$8,500 9/1/16-6/30/17	Co-Director Before & After School Cedar Hill \$11,900 9/1/16-6/30/17
Julie Adam	Grade Level Leader-Gr. 2 Mount Prospect \$2,179 2016-17 school year	Grade Level Leader-Gr. 2 Mount Prospect \$1198.45 9/1/16-2/15/17
Connie Rus	Accept the resignation of Connie Rus Instructional Aide Pre-School PALS Program Mount Prospect School effective January 13, 2017	Accept the resignation of Connie Rus Instructional Aide Pre-School PALS Program Mount Prospect School effective February 9, 2017
Michael Loupis	Student Assistance Counselor at a salary of	Student Assistance Counselor at a salary of

	Step 1 MA \$54,515 effective February 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017 as a leave replacement, salary to be prorated to reflect actual dates worked	Step 1 MA \$54,515 effective February 1, 2017 through March 29, 2017 as a leave replacement, salary to be prorated to reflect actual dates worked
Kristy Shovlowsky	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 5 \$28.24 per hour 7.5 hours per week effective January 3, 2017 through June 16, 2017	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 5 \$28.24 per hour 7.5 hours per week effective January 3, 2017 through February 14, 2017 then Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of Step 5 \$28.24 per hour 7 hours per day effective February 15, 2017 through June 16, 2017

- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Meghan Ingram** Grade 5 Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 1 MA \$54,515 effective March 13, 2017 through June 30, 2017 as a maternity leave replacement for B. Georgiana. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing-Mentoring required.
- 5) The Bernard Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Sydney Lynn** Grade 3 Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$48,426 effective March 8, 2017 through June 30, 2017 as a maternity leave replacement for A. DeVleeschouwer. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing-Mentoring required.
- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Kaitlyn Maloney** Grade 2 Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$48,426 effective February 16, 2017 through June 30, 2017 as a maternity leave replacement for J. Adam. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing-Mentoring required.
- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Kaitlin Solon** Kindergarten Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 1 BA 48,426 effective February 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 as a medical leave replacement.
- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2016-17 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>16-17 Stipend:</u>	<u>Longevity:</u>
MP	Brooke Zammit	Grade Level Leader	\$980.55	none

		Grade 2 MP (2/16/17-6/30/17)		
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9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Megan Kern** .5 Theater Teacher Ridge High School effective April 15, 2017 and approve separation of employment agreement.

On motion by Ms. McKeon seconded by Ms. Wooldridge Items #1-9 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Duntun, Mr. Fry Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon
Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, and Ms. Wooldridge
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - None

Ms. McKeon noted that during the week of February 20, 2017 interviews will be held for the Ridge High School Principal position and the need for Substitute Teachers in the district was recently advertised in the Friday Folder.

POLICY

Mr. Fry discussed the school calendar and the committee’s discussion regarding adding Martin Luther King Jr. Day to the 2017-18 School Year Calendar. Mr. Fry asked for Board of Education member feedback on the subject.

Mr. Markarian noted that decisions to change the following school year calendar must be completed no later than March first of the current school year.

Board Members discussed adding Martin Luther King Jr. Day to the school calendar and its potential impact on the school calendar such as a later graduation date or earlier start date in the year, the impact the BTEA contract might have on the decision and several board members commented on the idea of performing a community survey.

By a show of hands, 6 ayes and 3 nays, the Board of Education requested calendar options for it’s February 27, 2017 meeting that would add the Martin Luther King Jr. Day to the 2017-18 School Year Calendar.

Superintendent Markarian indicated that he would bring calendar options to the Board Meeting on February 27, 2017.

CURRICULUM

No report.

ADVOCACY

Ms. Richman noted the following upcoming events and dates:

Board of Education Meeting Minutes February 13, 2017

- March 1, 2017- Internet Safety and Social Media at the RHS PAC
- March 7, 2017- Empowering Teens presentation
- March 8, 2017- Dr. Barbara Bush presentation on Suicide Prevention
- March 22, 2017- Michael DeLeon- Steered Straight presentation
- March 25, 2017- Medication drop off at the Bernards Township Police Department
- April 7, 2017- Chris Herren presentation
- April 12, 2017- Pathways to Mental Health at the Bernards Township Library
- April 19, 2017- Social media and teens presentation at William Annin Middle School

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge reported on her recent meeting at the Somerset County Educational Services Commission (SCESC) where an overview of the budget was provided by Jeff Siipola, Business Administrator. The SCESC projects an increase of 1.7% over the 2016-17 budget. Transportation, both General and Special Education, represents 60% of the SCESC budget. The bus driver shortage continues. Superintendent Hal Dunsavage spoke about a new initiative that involves partnering with other ESCs. For example, other ESCs want to make use of the Career Center such as the Shop Rite program. A new Life Skills classroom for the Career Center is nearly complete.

The Municipal Alliance met on February 7, 2017. A booth at Ridge is planned for February 15, 2017 with the topic of healthy relationships. Ms. Wooldridge also provided additional information on the events reported by Advocacy.

Community in Crisis met on January 26, 2017. The Millington Baptist Church is partnering with Community in Crisis to present a community program on heroin and opiate addiction that will be held on March 4, 2017 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm at the Millington Baptist Church. The group is incorporating the data from the December 2016 American Drug and Alcohol Survey into the Drug Free Communities grant application, which is due March 15, 2017. Andi Williams is coordinating fundraising for the Chris Herren presentation at Ridge High School on April 7, 2017.

The District Safety Team met on February 1, 2017. During summer 2017, Rich Shello will be looking at mental health & suicide prevention in the K-12 health curriculum. The group talked about the March 1, 2017 program that Melissa Straub will present on internet safety and social media. Ms. Straub is scheduled to do an assembly for 9th and 10th graders in the morning, an in-service program for the entire staff in the afternoon and a parent program in the evening. The group talked about a possible spring survey on school culture, climate and stress.

Other board members commented on Community in Crisis, the upcoming William Annin Middle School Washington DC Trip and that Ms. Cwerner was recently appointed to the New Jersey School Boards Association Legislative Committee to represent the Bernards Township School District.

X. **Public Comment**

Public comments were regarding the addition of Martin Luther King Day to the 2017-18 School Year calendar, the student club at Ridge High School that provides support for anxious students called “Ridge Chill” along with a request for more areas of the building to be converted to relaxing spaces, PARCC testing and legislation, acknowledgement of William Annin Middle School group AMC-8 for their superior performance in the international math competitions, advanced placement classes and the school calendar and STEAM course concerns.

Superintendent Nick Markarian noted that the topic of adding Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be revisited at the February 27, 2017 Board of Education meeting, that the district is waiting for the public release of New Jersey School Performance reports, that STEAM and AP course questions will be addressed with Dr. Heineman he and congratulated the students for their achievements in math competitions.

XI. **Board Forum**

Ms. Shah introduced the topic of allowing Board Members to attend meetings remotely under the two stipulations that it would only be allowed during public sessions and that the electronic connection had to be attached to a microphone so that the public could hear what the Board Member is saying. Board Counsel, John Croot, weighed in on the matter outlining several pros and cons to remote attendance to meetings. By a show of hands the Board of Education referred to the Policy Committee for consideration of remote attendance at Board of Education meetings.

1) **Grading from the Inside Out - Part 3**

Board of Education Members discussed their observations from chapters seven, eight and nine from the book Grading from the Inside Out. Topics included defining accountability, using levels of proficiency and teaching and assessing student attributes and competencies. Board members discussed the product versus the process of learning, the use of grading rubrics, peer editing and proficiency and expectations.

XII. **Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary