

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 5, 2015  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:02 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:14 P.M.  
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES 8:07 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PAC**

- I. **Salute to Flag – 7:02 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC – page 200**
- II. **Statement of Public Meeting Notice – page 200**
- III. **Reorganization of Board – 7:02 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC – page 201**
- IV. **Statement of Election Results – page 201**
- V. **Oath of Office – page 201**
- VI. **Roll Call of New Board – page 201**
- VII. **Election of Board President – page 201**
- VIII. **Election of Board Vice President – page 202**
- IX. **Executive Session – 7:14 p.m. – Ridge High School Media Center – page 202**
- X. **Regular Session Agenda – 8:07 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC – page 203**
- XI. **Approval of 2015-16 Board of Education Meeting Schedule – page 203**
- XII. **Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics – page 204**
- XIII. **Superintendent’s Report**
  - 1) **Affirm Receipt of HIB Report Dated January 5, 2015 – page 204**
  - 2) **Affirm Decisions Case Numbers 2014.2015.2 and 2014.2015.3 – page 204**
- XIV. **Public Comments on Agenda Items – page 204**
- XV. **Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

  - 1) **Approve List of Disbursements Dated January 5, 2015 – page 204**

- 2) Approve **Professional Development Expenses** 2014-15 School Year – page 205
- 3) Accept Donation **William Annin PTO** – page 205
- 4) Approve Student Placement – page 205
- 5) Authorize Submission **Ridge High School Fitness Center Renovation** – page 205

**PERSONNEL** – page 205  
Report on Progress

**POLICY** – page 205  
Report on Progress

**CURRICULUM** – page 206  
Report on Progress

**ADVOCACY** – page 206  
Report on Progress

**LIASION REPORTS** – page 206  
Report on Progress

XVI. **Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items** – page 206

XVII. **Board Forum** – page 206

XVIII. **Adjournment** – page 207

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 5, 2015  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD AGENDA 7:02 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:14 P.M.  
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES 8:07 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PAC**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Board Secretary Rod McLaughlin.

**I. Salute to Flag – 7:02 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC**

**II. Statement of Public Meeting 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. Board of Education meetings are recorded and barring any technical difficulties the recordings of the Board of Education meetings will be made available to 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.

**III. Reorganization of Board – 7:03 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC**

**IV. Statement of Election Results**

Board Secretary Rod McLaughlin read the 2014 election results.

November 4, 2014 School Election Results:

**For 3 Three Year Terms**

<b>Priti Shah</b>	<b>2,792</b>
<b>Michael J. Storms</b>	<b>2,497</b>
<b>Linda Wooldridge</b>	<b>2,824</b>
<b>John Fry</b>	<b>3,231</b>

**For 1 Two Year Term**

<b>Karen Gray</b>	<b>4,685</b>
-------------------	--------------

**For 1 One Year Term**

<b>Karen Richman</b>	<b>4,523</b>
----------------------	--------------

**V. Oath of Office**

Mr. McLaughlin administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Board members:

**John Fry, Karen Gray, Karen Richman, Priti Shah, Linda Wooldridge**

**VI. Roll Call of New Board**

Present: Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin

ABSENT: Mr. Byrne

**VII. Election of Board President**

Mr. McLaughlin requested nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Wooldridge nominated Ms. McKeon.  
Ms. Cwerner seconded the nomination of Ms. McKeon.

On motion by Ms. Gray, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, nominations were closed, and Ms. McKeon was elected President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

**VIII. Election of Board Vice President**

Board President Robin McKeon requested nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Cwerner nominated Ms. Kusel.  
Ms. Gray seconded the nomination of Ms. Kusel.

Ms. Kusel was elected Vice President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

**IX. Executive Session – 7:14 p.m. – Ridge High School Media Center**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: confidential student matters; contract 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. Gray, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 7:14 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Kusel, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:58 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the Ridge High School PAC at 8:07 p.m.

- X. **Regular Session Agenda – 8:07 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC**
- XI. **Approval of 2015-16 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*101 Peachtree Road  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920  
(908) 204-2600*

**2015-16 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (as necessary)  
PUBLIC SESSION 7:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Date:**

**Location:**

January 5, 2015	Ridge High School PAC
January 26, 2015	Mount Prospect School
February 9, 2015	William Annin Middle School
February 23, 2015	William Annin Middle School
March 9, 2015	Liberty Corner School
March 23, 2015	Oak Street School
April, 6, 2015*	Ridge High School PAC
April 27, 2015	William Annin Middle School
May 4, 2015*	Ridge High School PAC
May 18, 2015**	Cedar Hill School
June 8, 2015	Ridge High School PAC
June 15, 2015**	Ridge High School PAC
July 20, 2015**	Board of Education Building
August 24, 2015	Board of Education Building
September 14, 2015	Ridge High School PAC
September 28, 2015	Ridge High School PAC
October 12, 2015	Ridge High School PAC
October 19, 2015**	Ridge High School PAC
November 9, 2015	Ridge High School PAC
November 23, 2015	Ridge High School PAC
December 21, 2015**	Ridge High School PAC
January 4, 2016*	Ridge High School PAC
Reorganization Meeting	

\*1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month

\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, the 2015-16 schedule of Board of Education meeting dates was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

## **XII. Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics**

Mr. McLaughlin distributed a copy of the Ethics Act and Code of Ethics. He requested each Board member read and then sign. Signed copies were returned to Mr. McLaughlin.

## **XIII. Superintendent’s Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated January 5, 2015.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education hereby affirms the Superintendent’s decisions with respect to case numbers 2014.2015.2 and 2014.2015.3.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Richman, Items #1 and #2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah,  
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

## **XIV. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

## **XV. Committee Reports**

### **FINANCE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of [disbursements](#) dated January 5, 2015 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$6,270,350.35.

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 2014-15 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
S. Scully	Rutgers 47 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Reading & Writing	\$185	1/23/2015
M. Edwards	Rutgers 47 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Reading & Writing	\$185	1/23/2015
G. Cavagnaro	Rutgers 47 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Reading & Writing	\$165	1/23/2015

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the **William Annin PTO** in the amount of \$14,877 for televisions, wireless document cameras, sliding dry erase board, and miscellaneous electronics.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the contract agreement for educational services for student #301992 in an amount not to exceed \$14,750 for 2014-15.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education authorizes the Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. to submit the **Ridge High School Fitness Center Renovation** - DOE project number 35-0350-050-15-1000 - as a Non-Grant project, and also authorizes them to amend the Districts LRF to include this project.

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Gray Items #1 through #5 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

Ms. Kusel acknowledged the William Annin Middle School PTO for its donation.

### **PERSONNEL**

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the next negotiation’s meeting with the BTAA is scheduled for January 27.

### **POLICY**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19.

### **CURRICULUM**

Ms. Wooldridge highlighted activity from the December 12, 2014 Curriculum Committee meeting. Updates included Algebra I, II and PARCC exam topics, and language arts assignments at William Annin. A committee has been formed to investigate alternative

schedules for the high school. A review of ESEA and performance benchmarks was presented; official results have not been released. An SAT update included dates for the revised PSAT test (October 2015), SAT (March 2016) with the final opportunity to take the current SAT in January 2016. The MAP Program at both WAMS and RHS was reviewed. A Gifted & Talented program update was provided with the plan to hire two additional teachers in the 2015-16 school year. The STEM committee with members from grades 6-12 has met twice discussing a vision for the program at the middle and high schools. Committee members have visited various programs in NJ and PA high schools.

### **ADVOCACY**

Ms. McKeon stated the committee is scheduled to meet on January 12 with the PTO Advisory Board. She stated a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, January 29 with the President of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

### **LIASION REPORTS**

Ms. Wooldridge stated the Municipal Alliance is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, January 6, and the Community in Crisis group is holding a town hall meeting on Monday, January 12, at Dolce in Basking Ridge.

### **XVI. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items**

Comments were made regarding holding PARCC classes for parents, the amount of district funding required to administer PARCC testing, whether the state has released all the necessary information, Board concerns in regard to the testing, and the impact on students' education.

Superintendent Nick Markarian stated a Q&A for parents is available under Parents on the district website. Determining the exact cost to the district is difficult as it is nearly impossible to separate funds being utilized for instruction and assessment. The district is teaching to the curriculum while the test is an assessment of the district's curriculum. He stated the state has not yet released all the anticipated information.

Board President Robin McKeon stated the Board has a high degree of concern with many aspects of the test including but not limited to its timing in March and May, and the costs incurred by the district.

### **XVII. Board Forum**

Ms. McKeon requested each Board member compile a list of three priorities for the Board and/or committees to address as part of meeting the Board goal regarding committee norms. She requested this information be forwarded to her prior to the January 26 Board meeting.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Shah, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary