

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
NOVEMBER 10, 2014
REGULAR SESSION 6:30 P.M.
MEETING WITH RHS STUDENT GOVERNMENT 6:31 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2014
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WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:30 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**
- II. **Meeting with Ridge High School Student Government – 6:31 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

The RHS Student Government shared their perspective with the Board of Education on the following topics:

- Door security – the students commented that the exterior doors of the school were all remaining locked and students were not allowed to pass between classes outside of the building. Students reported that there was always a staff person controlling the main door buzz in access during the school day.
- Academic integrity – students commented that in some cases they were aware of students who would copy homework or take advantage of an old test that a classmate or former student had.
- Drug and alcohol education – students indicated that there was a very clear message in the school curriculum regarding the harmful impacts associated with the use of drugs and alcohol but suggested more social skills in dealing with peer pressure could be helpful. A student suggested D.A.R.E for 8th graders. Another student suggested the use of peer leaders especially in the transition to high school.
- Traffic – students indicated that the traffic at arrival and dismissal was a challenge.
- Preparing for college tests – students shared some sentiments that they agreed there was value in practicing a version of testing at the high school level which would prepare them for a traditional high stakes college mid-term or final – but not at the expense of a lot of wasted time.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Robin McKeon.

- III. **Salute to the Flag**

IV. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin

ABSENT: Ms. Kusel

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

VI. 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. 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.

VII. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the following resolution for submission to New Jersey Department of Education:

WHEREAS, 18A:7a-10 establishes the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for evaluating performance of each school district, and

WHEREAS, the evaluation of the district is based upon five key components of school district effectiveness: instruction and program, personnel, fiscal management, operations, and governance, and

WHEREAS, Bernards Township School District's five components were reviewed by the New Jersey Department of Education in the 2012-13 school year, and received the maximum designation as 'High Performing School District', and

WHEREAS, Bernards Township School District is not scheduled to undergo QSAC this year, and all districts not undergoing QSAC in any particular school year must complete a Statement of Assurance (SOA) annually, and

WHEREAS, Bernards Township School District assures that all indicators in the QSAC review have continued to be met,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the submission to the New Jersey Department of Education of the Statement of Assurance (on file at the Bernards Township Board of Education office) as certified by the Chief School Administrator and Board President.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **2014-15 overnight competition trip for the Ridge High School Model Congress:**

3/26/15-3/29/15

University of PA, Philadelphia, PA

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated November 10, 2014.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decision with respect to case 2014.2015.1.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, Items #1 through #4 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne (except Item #4), Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray (except Item #4), Ms. McGowan, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah (except Item #4), Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
 “Noes” - Mr. Byrne (only Item #4)
 “Abstain” - Ms. Gray (only Item #4), Ms. Shah (only Item #4)

Superintendent Markarian provided further information on the Model Congress trip and reviewed the rigor of the students’ schedule during this four-day competition. Mr. Markarian congratulated the school board candidates who were successfully elected during the November 4th election and thanked them for being willing to perform this volunteer service to their community.

VIII. Board Presentation

1) Post Secondary Report – Supervisor of Guidance Jillian Shadis

Ms. Shadis presentation of the Post Secondary Report highlighted the following areas:

- RHS Class of 2014 Snapshot – 444 graduates with 97.8% continuing their education; Mean SAT Reasoning Test Scores (Critical Reading 577, Math 611, Writing 585); Mean ACT exam scores (Composite 26.2)
- Standardized Testing Part 1 – SAT vs. ACT testing; number of class of 2014 RHS students tested (SAT 341; ACT 280); a review of the SAT scores in the areas of Critical Reading, Math, Writing; districts whose students scored above 1550 on SATs; the RHS ACT Mean Scores compared with the NJ average over the past five years; ACT benchmark information
- Upcoming changes in the SAT/ACT testing
- SAT subject area test mean scores
- Update on SAT/ACT Test Preparation Method Test Prep 2.0 included student usage since 2011-12
- Standardized Testing Part II Advanced Placement Exams – 2012-2014 class enrollment by subject area; 2014 testing results; five-year trends by subject area
- A five-year class profile comparison of college admissions; list of current popular schools; participating in instant decision/interview days; comparison by category of number of Ridge High students accepted; matriculation data and acceptance rates
- College admissions updates in regard to waitlists; top factors in admission; NJ tuition status; test options

Click [here](#) to view entire presentation.

IX. Public Forum on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

X. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of [disbursements](#) dated November 10, 2014 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$6,051,184.96.
- 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>
A. Greer	National Council of Teachers of English Convention	\$250	11/20/2014 – 11/23/2014
J. Shadis	Fostering a Positive and Collegial Climate	\$175	11/17/2014
R. Shello	National Federation of State High School Athletic Directors Conference	\$1,775	12/12/2014- 12/16/2014

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a nurse for student # 301350 from November 10, 2014 to June 30, 2015 at **Star Pediatric** not to exceed \$74,800.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the sale of the following vehicles which are outmoded in design or in need of extensive repair on GovDeals.com:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Make:</u>	<u>Model:</u>	<u>Vin Number:</u>
1999	Ford	Expedition	1FMPU18L7XLC20487
2003	Ford	E-150	1FTRE14W63HB83245
2001	Dodge	Ram	3B6MC36511M575014
2001	Dodge	Ram	3B6MF36581M285487

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education received bids for student transportation services for the Ridge High School Ski Team on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. Bids were received from the following companies:

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Bid:</u>
Stouts Charter Service	\$38,299* with additional hours at \$100/hr
Passaic Valley Coach Lines	\$25,582* with additional hours at \$89/hr
Golden Arrow Transportation, Inc	\$23,925* failed to include required additional cost per hour, which is a material defect

*Includes a maximum number of 33 trips

The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby award **Passaic Valley Coach Lines** the bid for student transportation services for the Ridge High School Ski Team as the lowest responsible bidder contingent upon attorney review and execution of a mutually agreeable contract.

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

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

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Judy Santaniello** Secretary .6 Business Office effective January 14, 2015, with regret, for the purpose of retirement.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Lauren McManus** Special Education Teacher and Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective December 31, 2014.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Corie Dowdy** Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective November 25, 2014.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Cristina Pianet** Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective November 26, 2014.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Vyacheslav Danylov** Head Boys' Fencing Coach effective immediately.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Allyson Read** Supervisor of Special Education effective January 26, 2015 through June 1, 2015 utilizing forty personal illness days, forty five vacation days and two personal days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective June 2, 2015 through July 6, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective June 2, 2015 through July 31, 2015, returning August 3, 2015.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Christen DiRocco** Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill School effective February 9, 2015 through March 26, 2015 then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective March 27, 2015 through May 15, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective March 27, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Jessica DeRose** Kindergarten Teacher Oak Street School effective March 20, 2015 through May 26, 2015 then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective May 27, 2015 through June 30, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective May 27, 2015 through June 30, 2015, returning September 1, 2015.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Ariel Soto** Grade 3 Teacher Cedar Hill School effective March 2, 2015 through May 4, 2015 then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective May 5, 2015 through June 16, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective May 5, 2015 through September 30, 2015 then an unpaid Child Care Leave effective October 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, returning September 1, 2016.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following change in **Assignments and/or Locations** for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Lauren McManus	.2 Special Education Teacher William Annin & Instructional Aide 5.6 effective 2014-15 school year	.4 Special Education Teacher William Annin & Instructional Aide 5.6 effective 2014-15 school year

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Matthew Herzer** Accountant Business Office at a salary of \$55,000 effective November 11, 2014 through June 30, 2015 salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Karen Lai** School Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$23.29 per hour 3 hours per day effective October 27, 2014 through December 23, 2014 as a medical leave replacement.

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Michael Loeser** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 1 \$25.25 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 11, 2014 through June 18, 2015

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Edwin Muhlhausen** School Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.29 per hour 4 hours per day effective October 27, 2014 through June 18, 2015.

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Laura Page** Instructional Aide Liberty Corner School at a salary of Step 1 \$25.25 per hour 3.75 hours per day effective November 11, 2014 through June 18, 2015.

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Richman,
Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the first meeting with the BTAA leadership in regard to contract negotiations is scheduled for November 18th with Ms. Kusel leading the Board’s negotiation team. She updated the Board on the recent committee meeting where the following items were discussed: establishing a position of District Information Officer and reorganizing existing stipended positions, renewal of the superintendent’s contract, a new position entitled Special Education Interventionist, and an additional assistant position for the RHS musical. Ms. Cwerner noted that the musical position would be self funded and that all personnel portions of QSAC received points.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Linda Wooldridge noted the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, November 14.

POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the enrollment of the following staff member’s child:

Adam Miesner (child of Vivian Miesner)

Grade 11 Ridge High School

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

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

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the committee met on Monday, November 10. She will report out at the November 24 Board meeting.

ADVOCACY

Ms. McKeon stated the committee meet with the PTO Advisory Board on Monday, November 3rd. The primary topic of discussion was PARCC testing. Mr. Markarian provided an overview and history, and noted concerns with loss of instructional time. A school security update was provided in regard to building entrance ways, and the role of Save Our Schools NJ in relationship to the Board of Education was clarified.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge stated the Municipal Alliance meeting was canceled.

XI. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding PARCC testing and the loss of instructional time.

Board members commented in regard to this topic stating the district must abide by the state mandate in regard to PARCC testing. PTO organizations are writing letters to the state. In the future, the district is hoping to compress testing, and minimize the impact of testing on the students. Other concerns are in regard to the technology involved with the testing, and the space required. Mr. Markarian explained that the district needs to experience this first year of testing and then modifications can be made for the future. Further discussion will be at the November 24th Board meeting.

XII. Board Forum

1) Board Goal Update

Board President McKeon updated the Board goals:

- 1) Committee Norms
- 2) Plan for Determining Board Priorities
- 3) Establishing New Board Member Mentoring & Training

Training for new Board members will begin prior to their swearing in.

The proposed list of 2015 Board meetings indicated a Board meeting will be held in each school showcasing an aspect of the school. Mr. Markarian stated the final schedule will be adopted at the January 5th Board Reorganization meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary