

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
NOVEMBER 23, 2015  
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m. – Ridge High School Principal's Conference Room – page 138**
- II. **Salute to the Flag – page 138**
- III. **Roll Call – page 138**
- IV. **Executive Session - Call to Order - 6:01 p.m. – page 138**
- V. **Reconvene Regular Session - Call to Order - 7:00 p.m. - Ridge High School Performing Arts Center – page 138**
- VI. **Statement of Public Notice – page 139**
- VII. **Student Representative – page 139**
- VIII. **Superintendent's Report**
  - 1) **Affirm Receipt of HIB Report** dated November 23, 2015 – page 140
  - 2) **PARCC Scores – page 140**
  - 3) **Approve Ridge High School Varsity Competition Cheerleading Team's Participation in National High School Cheerleading Competition – page 140**
- IX. **Board Presentation**
  - 1) **Busing 2016-17 – page 140**
- X. **Public Forum on Agenda Items – page 142**
- XI. **Approval of Minutes – page 142**
- XII. **Committee Reports**

## FINANCE

- 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated November 23, 2015 – page 142
- 2) Acknowledge Receipt of **October 2015 Financial Reports** – page 143
- 3) Approve **October 2015 Line Item Transfers** – page 143
- 4) Approve donation **Cedar Hill PTO** – page 143
- 5) Approve donation **Ridge High School PTO** – page 143
- 6) Approve **Professional Development Expenses** 2015-16 School Year – page 143
- 7) Acknowledge Receipt **Liberty Corner School Unit Ventilator Replacement & HVAC Upgrade Bids & Award Contract** – page 144
- 8) Approve nursing services at **Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services** 2015-16 School Year – page 144
- 9) Approve nursing services at **Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services** 2015-16 School Year – page 144
- 10) Approve **Field Trip Destinations** 2015-16 School Year – page 144
- 11) Approve donation **William Annin Middle School PTO** – page 144

## PERSONNEL

- 1) Accept Resignation **Olivia Miller** English Language Arts Teacher William Annin Middle School 2015-16 School Year – page 145
- 2) Rescind Extra-Curricular Appointment 2015-16 School Year – page 145
- 3) Approve Child Care Leave **Megan Moran** Grade 1 Teacher Cedar Hill School 2015-16 School Year – page 145
- 4) Approve Personal Leave **Amita Govani** School Aide Liberty Corner School 2015-16 School Year – page 145
- 5) Approve Child Care Leave for **Jennifer Nicholson** Secretary to the Business Administrator 2015-16 School Year – page 145
- 6) Appoint **Kevin Reilly** Payroll Administrator at 2015-16 School Year – page 145
- 7) Appoint **Katie Manning** Secretary William Annin Middle School 2015-16 School Year – page 146
- 8) Appoint **Katherine O'Melia** Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School 2015-16 School Year – page 146
- 9) Approve **Change in Assignments, FTE, Salaries and/or Locations** 2015-16 School Year – page 146
- 10) Appoint **Extra-Curricular Assignments** 2015-16 School Year – page 146
- 11) Approve **Staff College Instructor** 2015-16 School Year – page 147
- 12) Appoint **Various Assignments** 2015-16 School Year – page 147
- 13) Approve **Mentors** for Classified Students 2015-16 School Year – page 147
- 14) Approve **Student Interns** for the 2015-16 School Year – page 148
- 15) Approve **Substitute Teachers** and **Substitute Nurses** 2015-16 School Year – page 148

- 16) Appoint **Volunteer Coaches** 2015-16 School Year – page 148
- 17) Approve **Forensic Parent Volunteers** 2015-2016 School Year – page 149
- 18) **Termination of Employee** for the 2015-16 School Year – page 149
- 19) Appoint **Valerie Cetrulo** ESL/ Spanish Teacher 2015-16 School Year – page 149
- 20) Appoint **Katherine McGrath** Special Education Teacher ABA Program 2015-16 School Year – page 149
- 21) Approve **Change in Assignments, FTE, Salaries and/or Locations** 2015-16 School Year – page 149

## **POLICY**

- 1) Approve **Policies & Regulations** on Second Reading & Adopt – page 150

## **CURRICULUM**

- 1) Approve **Change to Course Title Ridge High School Program of Studies** 2015-16 School Year – page 150

## **ADVOCACY**

Report on Progress – page 151

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Report on Progress – page 152

- XIII. **Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items** – page 152
- XIV. **Board Forum** – page 152
- XV. **Adjournment** – page 152

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING MINTUES  
NOVEMBER 23, 2015  
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m. – Ridge High School Principal's Conference Room**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President McKeon.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

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

ABSENT: None

**IV. Executive Session - Call to Order - 6:03 p.m.**

On motion by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present the Board recessed into closed Executive Session at 6:03 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: personnel matters and 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. Cwerner and seconded by Ms. Shaw, and approved by all present the Board closed Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

**V. Reconvene Regular Session - Call to Order - 7:07p.m. - Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

President McKeon reconvened the regular meeting in the Ridge High School PAC at 7:07p.m.

## VI. **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. 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. **Student Representative**

Ridge High School Student Government President Kunaal Kapadia updated the Board that the water bottles for the fundraiser will be ordered during the week of December 2. 250 water bottles will be ordered and they already have over 50 pre-order forms. He also congratulated both the Ridge High School Girls Soccer and Ridge High School Cross Country teams as they are State Champions.

Upcoming events planned by the Student Government are a community service project in connection with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and an upcoming Ridge High School volleyball tournament for Juniors and Seniors which will be held on the half day of school before Winter Recess in December.

## VIII. Superintendent's Report

### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated November 23, 2015.
- 2) PARCC Scores - individual student scores reporting schedule
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve participation of the Ridge High School Varsity Competition Cheerleading Team in the **National High School Cheerleading Competition** in Orlando, Florida from Friday, February 4, 2016 – Monday, February 8, 2016.

Superintendent Nick Markarian started off by congratulating the Ridge High School Cross Country Team for winning the Meet of Champions and Group 4 State Championship over the past weekend.

Mr. Markarian also discussed the PARCC test results. The results for Ridge High School have just been received and they are currently being prepared and set to mail during the week of December 7, 2015. Grades 3-8 results have not yet been received but once they are preparation and mailing of the results will take approximately 2-3 weeks. Mr. Markarian is pleased with the school level performance reports thus far as 71% of RHS students passed which is double the state and also national averages. A presentation of PARCC data is planned for an upcoming January 2016 Board of Education meeting.

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Cwerner Items #1 through #3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

## IX. Board Presentation

### 1) Busing 2016-17

N. Markarian  
 R. McLaughlin  
 H. Dunsavage - Superintendent, Somerset County Educational Services  
 Commission  
 J. Siipola - Business Administrator, Somerset County Educational Services  
 Commission

Bernards Township Board of Education Superintendent Nick Markarian was joined by Business Administrator Roderic McLaughlin, Hal Dunsavage, Superintendent Somerset County Educational Services Commission (SCESC) and Jeff Siipola, Business Administrator of the SCESC in providing a presentation for the Bernards Township School District Busing Considerations for the 2016-2017 school year.

Superintendent Nick Markarian started off by addressing the fundamentals of transportation, problems and recommendations and options to mitigate issues that have arisen. There are 94 bus routes that consist of 66 buses that provide transportation to over 2,300 students in Bernards Township. Currently the SCESC is the sole provider of these services which include routing, personnel, fleet replenishment, vehicle storage, maintenance and repair, human resources and NJDOE state reporting. The current year budget for this service of \$3.8 million will cause an operating loss for SCESC, creating the need to reevaluate different areas of the Bernards Township School's transportation system to reduce the overall costs.

SCESC Superintendent Hal Dunsavage then provided the next portion of the presentation to outline the reasons why the actual cost of services can and will surpass the budgeted costs. Factors for this include annual averages of 6-8% increase in operating expenses, 2% salary increases and 12% benefit increases, equipment expenses, rising insurance costs and other expenses such as snow removal and having substitute drivers available at all times so that bus routes are not interrupted. The SCESC has been trying to take measures to mitigate the impact of rising expenses while trying to maintain services without impacting the efficiency and flow of business.

With these challenges presented before them Superintendent Nick Markarian then went on to present and discuss the pros and cons of four options that the Bernards Township Board of Education has been considering to reduce expenses. These options are:

- Option 1: Attempt to maintain current schedule through cost reductions and revenue enhancements
- Option 2: Adjust school times to triple tier routes
- Option 3: Adjust school times to facilitate more two tiers
- Option 4: Maintain status quo but contract routes to private contractors

Mr. Markarian then went on to discuss that Option 1 would be the best for the 2016-17 school year as it is the least disruptive option to take while other options will be thoroughly reviewed and considered in depth for subsequent years. Possible cost reductions for Option 1 are reducing the number of substitute drivers, reducing bus attendants, attempting to find in-town parking for buses, decrease the number of eligible riders through a waiver process and offer an incentive fee structure for students with parking privileges and route evaluation. Possible revenue enhancements being considered to maintain Option 1 are access fees for student activities and increased fees for parking at Ridge High School.

For complete presentation click [here](#).

Following the presentation the Board Members made comments largely in support of Option #1 and raised concerns such as safety issues associated with reducing attendants, the impact of assessing fees in other areas to compensate for the shortfall and a potential reduction in substitute drivers available. Questions raised by the Board Members included asking other districts how they provide transportation, if charters for after school activities need to be paid by the school budget and if two tier busing is contractual.

**X. Public Forum on Agenda Items**

Comments were made regarding the impact a schedule change would make on student athletic activities and child care schedules, the potential of having to be at two schools at the same time for drop off and pick up, questioning the “remote distance” mileage and the efficiency of the current bus routes.

A comment was also made that nine months after the PARCC testing took place there are no results available to the schools and public.

**XI. Approval of Minutes**

- October 19, 2015 – Executive Session Minutes
- October 19, 2015 – Regular Session Minutes
- November 9, 2015 – Board Retreat Minutes
- November 9, 2015 – Regular Session Minutes

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

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

**XII. Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated November 23, 2015 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,732,723.18.



2) The Bernards Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the October 2015 Financial Reports from the Board Secretary, the monthly Investment Report for October 2015, and the Treasurer of the School Monies Report for October 2015.

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 October 2015 line item transfers totaling \$513,019.56 to the 2015-16 school budget, list on file in the Board office.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby amend the accepted donation from the **Cedar Hill PTO** to the amount of \$12,000 to purchase a total of five filtered water fountains. Originally this was approved at the August 24, 2015 Board of Education Meeting in the amount of \$3,500 for two filtered water fountains.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the **Ridge High School PTO** in the amount of \$2,962.42 for items related to the fall 2015 Mini-Grant Awards.

6) 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 2015-16 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
K. Pellicone	Growing Independent Learners	\$150	12/10/2015
D. Reynolds	Debbie Diller Rutgers Conference	\$150	12/10/2015
J. Ramos	Northeast Conference for School-Based Language Pathology	\$399	12/9-12/10/2015
K. Paprocki	Northeast Conference for School Based Language Pathology	\$399	12/9-12/10/2015
J. Valentine	Woodcock Johns IV-Tests of Achievement 2015	\$189.48	12/8/15

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education received bids for the **Liberty Corner School Unit Ventilator Replacement & HVAC Upgrades** project on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Bids were received from the following companies:

	<b>Kappa Construction:</b>	<b>Preferred Mechanical:</b>	<b>Sunnyfield Corp.:</b>
Base Bid #1 LCS:	\$1,645,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,717,000
Alternate Bid LCS:	\$130,000	\$113,000	\$107,500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,775,000</b>	<b>\$1,813,000</b>	<b>\$1,824,500</b>

Whereas, Kappa Construction is the lowest responsible bidder, the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby award **Kappa Construction** the contract as the lowest responsible bidder contingent upon attorney review and execution of a mutually agreeable contract.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve nursing services during the 2015 / 2016 school year for student 301350 from November 23, 2015 to June 24, 2016 at **Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services** in the amount not to exceed \$36,520.00.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve nursing services during the 2015 / 2016 school year for student 305383 from November 23, 2015 to June 17, 2016 at **Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services** in the amount not to exceed \$20,160.00.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following field trip destination for the 2015-16 school year:

<u><b>Destination:</b></u>	<u><b>Group Attending:</b></u>	<u><b>Number of Students</b></u>
NJMEA Convention in New Brunswick, NJ	Ridge High School Orchestra	130

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the **William Annin Middle School PTO** in the amount of \$24,149.00 for IDEA Maker space books, document cameras, laptops for CAD, sliding whiteboard, supplies and furniture.

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

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

Ms. Kusel thanked the PTO's for their generous donations and mentioned the contract award for the LCS Phase 2 of the Unit Ventilator Replacement Project went to Kappa Construction. She then discussed the Finance Committee meeting that was held on November 18, 2015 noting that after discussing the complexities of the Unit Ventilator projects with the architect, the Finance Committee is recommending that the Board proceed with only the LCS project at this point. Other topics discussed in the Finance Committee meeting were transportation, a health benefits overview and the need to prepare the Girls Varsity Softball Field project for bidding.

## PERSONNEL

### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Olivia Miller** English Language Arts Teacher William Annin Middle School effective January 18, 2016.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby rescind the following Extra-Curricular appointment for the 2015-16 school year:

Nicol Traynor                      Assistant Winter Track

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid child care leave for **Megan Moran** Grade 1 Teacher Cedar Hill School effective March 16, 2016 through May 18, 2016 utilizing 40 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective May 19, 2016 through June 30, 2016 running concurrently with an unpaid Family Leave effective May 19, 2016 through October 13, 2016, returning October 14, 2016.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid leave for **Amita Govani** School Aide Liberty Corner School effective November 23, 2015 through December 4, 2015, returning December 7, 2015.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Jennifer Nicholson** Secretary to the Business Administrator effective February 22, 2016 through March 4, 2016 utilizing five family illness days and 5 personal illness days then a paid child care leave from March 7, 2016 through April 26, 2016 utilizing 18 days of vacation and personal illness days working four hours per day, returning full time April 27, 2016.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Kevin Reilly** Payroll Administrator at a salary of \$60,000 effective January 4, 2016 through June 30, 2016, salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Katie Manning** Secretary William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 7 \$49,423 effective November 24, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Katherine O'Melia** Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 1 \$25.79 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 30, 2015 through June 20, 2016.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignments, FTE, Salaries and/or Locations** for the 2015-16 school year:

<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
Danielle Siani	Mount Prospect School	Cedar Hill School
Hayley Glennon	Cedar Hill School	Mount Prospect School
Will Rope	Ridge High School	William Annin Middle School
Amy Horn	William Annin Middle School	Ridge High School
Shane O'Flaherty	Mount Prospect School	Cedar Hill School
Christine Sosanie	Cedar Hill School	Mount Prospect
Christina Hendricks	Paid Child Care Leave effective September 30, 2015 through January 11, 2016 utilizing 40 personal illness days and 20 vacation days and 3 non-working days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective January 12, 2016 through February 29, 2016 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective January 12, 2016 through April 5, 2016 then an unpaid Child Care Leave effective April 6, 2016 through April 30, 2016, returning May 1, 2016.	Paid Child Care Leave effective September 30, 2015 through January 25, 2016 utilizing 50 personal illness days and 20 vacation days and 3 non-working days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective January 26, 2016 through March 8, 2016 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective January 26, 2016 through April 22, 2016 then an unpaid Child Care Leave effective April 23, 2016 through April 30, 2016, returning May 1, 2016.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** 2015-16 school year:

<b><u>School:</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment:</u></b>	<b><u>15-16:</u></b>	<b><u>Years:</u></b>	<b><u>Points:</u></b>	<b><u>Longevity:</u></b>
RH	Troy O'Connor	Assistant Boys' Track	\$5,871	0 years	0 points	\$0

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following Staff College Instructors for the Winter, Spring, Fall 2015 - 16:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Course:</u>	<u># of Hours:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Kim Madden	Classroom Management	2	\$100

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the staff members to Various Assignments for the 2015-16 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Jacqueline McCarthy	Bedside Instructor	\$76.83 per hour
Marilyn Askin	After Care Program	\$20.00 per hour
Diana Steiner	After Care Program	\$20.00 per hour
Renee Campbell	Math Competition Proctors	\$30.00 per hour
Jennifer Potts	After School Activities SE	\$30.00 per hour/1.5 hours
Megan Fair	At Home Program-SE	\$66.30 per hour
Rachel DeCarlo	Payroll Assistant 1/4/16-6/30/16	\$9,000
Jennifer Verrusio	At Home Program-SE	\$30.00 per hour
Chet Lawson	At Home Program-SE	\$28.24 per hour
Pete Samila	At Home Program-SE	\$28.24 per hour
Reyne Juechter	At Home Program-SE	\$28.24 per hour
Joseph Leone	At Home Program-SE	\$66.30 per hour
Brooke Giuliano	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour
Marliese Knill	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour
Brielle Farrel	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour
Luke Olmstead	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour
Joseph Petrella	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour
David Soto	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour
Sohail Ratta	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour
Jane Nishimura	After School Care Program	\$12.00 per hour

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following Mentors for Classified Students at a salary of \$60.00 per hour effective 2015-16 school year:

Lauren Baker	Julia Beyer	Colleen Bodine
Travis Boop	Matthew Cahill	Kimberly Clark
Mary Centore	Cassandra Ehlbeck	Mary Fairbanks
Kathleen Forsell	Kim Gavin	Joshua Gebhardt

Allison Greer	Jim Hamant	Jennifer Hauser
Steven Hendershot	Kara Higgins	Monika Jaeger
Amy Lieberwirth	Emily Lipnick	Matthew Lyons
John Paul Mahoney	Marisa Marcus	Megan Milde
Rachel Miranda	Will Mirra	Margaret Mitchell
Tom Napier	Vivian Scaturro	Danielle Sisto
Michaela Stoudemayer	Jennifer Suminski	Ann Suter
Kristen Winters	Marie Wurtemberg	

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Student Interns** for the 2015-16 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>College/University:</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher:</u>
Danielle Butera	TCNJ	Grade 1/Liberty Corner School L. Brouillard 3/14/16-5/6/16
Olivia Mazzaferro	Fairleigh Dickinson	Social Studies/Ridge High School G. Zande 1/4/16-1/22/16
Matthew Lane	Fairleigh Dickinson	Social Studies/Ridge High School S. Ward 1/4/16-1/22/16
Patricia Sellitti	Kean	School Nursing/Ridge High School P. Miller/Dates TBD
Leanne Morici	Kean	School Psychologist/Mount Prospect School K. Martin/ 1/4/16-6/22/16

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Substitute Teachers** at a salary of \$90 per diem and **Substitute Nurses** at a salary of \$250 per diem for the 2015-16 school year:

David Kern	Natalie Urbaniak
Jennifer Mueller	Arati Nagaray
Abigail Daugherty	Jeena Jacob
Oliva Del Spina	

\*Denotes a Substitute Nurse

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Volunteer Coaches** for the 2015-16 school year:

Nicol Traynor	Winter Track
Tim Howard	Winter Track
Troy O'Connor	Winter Track
Hariharan Delayudhan	National Science Bowl 2016

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve Forensic Parent Volunteers for the 2015-2016 school year, list on file in Board office.

18) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby terminate the employment of employee #7620 effective November 13, 2015, name is on file at Board Office.

19) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Valerie Cetrulo** ESL .4 Ridge High School ESL .4 Liberty Corner School and Spanish .2 Ridge High School at a salary of Step 5 BA \$50,224 effective December 21, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Certificate of Eligibility-Alternate Route, Mentoring required.

20) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Katherine McGrath** Special Education Teacher ABA Program Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$47,724 effective December 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Certificate of Eligibility-Alternate Route, Mentoring required.

21) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignments, FTE, Salaries and/or Locations** for the 2015-16 school year:

Kimberlee Sweet	Paid Child Care Leave for Kimberlee Sweet Guidance Counselor Ridge High School effective February 23, 2015 through April 28, 2015 utilizing 40 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective April 29, 2015 through June 13, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective April 29, 2015 through September 30, 2015 then an unpaid child care leave October 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015, returning December 1, 2015.	Paid Child Care Leave for Kimberlee Sweet Guidance Counselor Ridge High School effective February 23, 2015 through April 28, 2015 utilizing 40 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective April 29, 2015 through June 13, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective April 29, 2015 through September 30, 2015 then an unpaid child care leave October 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015, returning December 11, 2015.
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On motion by Ms. Cwerner seconded by Ms. Gray Items #1 through #21 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Ms. Cwerner shared that at the November 20, 2015 Personnel Committee meeting it was discussed that the up and coming William Annin Middle School Forensics Club is receiving a

great amount of students interested in participating. We plan to post for and hire a club supervisor in December. The stipend will be funded through student participation fees.

## POLICY

### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **policies & regulations on second reading and adopt said policies & regulations:**

a) 5330 Administration of Medication (M)

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

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

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Ms. Shah discussed the topics from the November 9, 2015 Policy Committee Meeting. They included the implementation of policy 5330 Administration of Medication, which Superintendent Nick Markarian finalized with council. It was voted on and passed.

Mr. Markarian will work with attorney to update Political Activity and Special Interest Groups policies. The committee supported a pilot program for electronic Fund Raising and a potential policy for that, based on the outcome. The committee’s review of the current wording in the Use of Facilities policy that prohibits informal and inappropriate use of school property and its determination that it suffices, concerns regarding flying drones and that a policy will be drafted for this and, finally, the setting of the 2018-19 District Calendar.

## CURRICULUM

### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following change in course title in the Program of Studies:

**From:** American History (CP and Honors) **To:** U.S. History (CP and Honors)

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

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



“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Ms. Wooldridge provided an update from the November 13, 2015 Curriculum Committee meeting. In her update she discussed the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT) which is given to all New Jersey public school students after they take a first-year Biology course. She stated that Ridge High School offers three levels of Biology in grade 9: CP Biology (Conceptual), CP Biology (Mathematical), and Honors Biology. The students in Honors Biology had the highest scores: 82% of the students had scores in the advanced proficient range and 18% of students were proficient. Several Honors Biology students scored at the test’s ceiling of 300. The students in CP Biology categorized as “on grade level” were also successful: 19% were advanced proficient, 74% were proficient, and only 7% were partially proficient. In CP Biology (Conceptual) 4% were advanced proficient, 64% were proficient and 32% were partially proficient. In Fundamental Biology, a course for special education students who are recommended by their IEP team, 33% were proficient and 67% were partially proficient.

Ms. Wooldridge also reported on the Committee discussion surrounding Group Projects that have become popular due to the focus on 21st century skills such as collaboration and the availability of Google Docs. During these Group Projects students in a group are graded individually on the project but often are dependent on each other because the components of the project must be completed in a specific order. Portions of the group project may be dependent on a prior portion of a project being completed and at times the work is done at the “last minute” which is stressful for students who are waiting to complete their portion. Dr. Heineman told the Committee that he will put this topic on the Ridge agenda for the supervisors to discuss with teachers.

Other topics discussed at the Curriculum Meeting were high school Mathematics Progression, the levels of mathematics courses currently offered at Ridge and the difficulty of moving from CP to Honors and new course proposals including Foundations of Language, American Sign Language, Mandarin, CP Statistics, Engineer Designing and Prototyping and STEM courses such as Computer Science and Software Engineering and Introduction to Engineering Design. The Curriculum newsletter was distributed in the October 30 District Friday folder.

## **ADVOCACY**

Ms. Richman provided an update from the November 2, 2015 Advocacy Committee meeting. She reported that Jay Lawton, Area Executive Vice President from Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc., attended the meeting with the PTO to speak to the group about liability and risk at PTO events.

Ms. Richman also reported that Superintendent Nick Markarian discussed the letter dated October 30, 2015 that he sent out that included topics regarding the district’s busing issue, reiterating that there is no alcohol allowed on school property and distracted driving. The Committee also discussed the possible use of Social Media in a managed

one-way communication as another tool to push out non-emergency messages and announcements.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Shah mentioned that at the meeting for the Somerset County School Boards it was announced that a study is being performed at the state level with regard to school starting times so that districts do not have to perform their own studies and Ms. McKeon mentioned that there are two state bills that passed and are currently in effect: one bill (Bill A-4485/S-2881) prevents school districts from losing funding should they choose not participate in PARCC testing and the other bill (Bill A-3079/S-2766) states that a school district may not administer a commercially developed standardized assessment to students in kindergarten through the second grade.

### **XIII. Public Forum on Other than Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

### **XIV. Board Forum**

Mr. Fry commented that The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the NJ Model Curriculum identified Physics and Chemistry topics for Science in grades K-5. The concern is that some training will be required for elementary teachers so that they will be able to teach these topics as some teachers may not have the background to be comfortable with these topics. The following concepts are included in the list of topics: Pushes and Pulls, Light & Sound, Properties of Matter - Changes in Matter, Force & Motion, Electrical & Mechanical Energy, Transfer of Energy and Waves and Information.

### **XV. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary