

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
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OCTOBER 6, 2014
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2014
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Mr. McLaughlin

IV. 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.

V. Staff Recognition

- 1) Young Audiences Arts Champion Award
Educator of the Month William Ortega Ridge High School

Prior to presenting Mr. Ortega with his award, Ms. Michelle Marigliano from the Young Audiences Arts for Learning organization highlighted his personal accomplishments in the field of art and his commitment to the students within her organization.

VI. Public Forum on Canine Sweeps

Superintendent Markarian stated the county prosecutor's office would like the district to make a commitment for a canine sweep at the high school during the 2014-15 school year. The public forum offered an opportunity for the public to comment on the decision to proceed with the canine sweep.

No comments were made.

VII. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated October 6, 2014.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby direct the Superintendent of Schools to make arrangements with the Bernards Township Police Department and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office for a canine sweep for controlled dangerous substances at Ridge High School during the 2014-15 school year.

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the **Ridge High School French students'** trip to Quebec, Canada on April 10 – 12, 2015.

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

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne (except Item #3), Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel,
Ms. McGowan, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah (except Item #3),
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
“Noes” - Mr. Byrne (only Item #3), Ms. Shah (only Item #3)
“Abstain” - None

- 4) PARCC Update

Mr. Markarian clarified the recent statement by the Dept. of Education in regard to PARCC testing as a graduation requirement for 2015. Students will not be required to have a passing score on the PARCC test until the school year 2019-20. For the class of 2015 the HSPA, which taken last year, will meet the state requirement. Students will have several options available to enable them to meet the graduation requirement during the next three transition years including PARCC, SAT, ACT testing or a review of work accomplished.

VIII. Board Presentation

- 1) Fall Testing Report – Director of Curriculum & Instruction Brian Heineman & Supervisor of Science & Technology Matt Hall

Dr. Heineman’s introduction to the testing report stated it is the close of the NJASK and HSPA testing and the beginning of the PARCC assessment. The second part of the testing review, the Post Secondary Report, will be presented by Director of Guidance Jillian Shadis at the Board’s November meeting.

Supervisor of Science & Technology Matt Hall began his report with a list of acronyms. He highlighted the guidelines for student assessment stating the goal is for all students to be assessed. Mr. Hall reviewed the state testing parameters, and the breakdown of the student population by subgroups.

NJASK Math and English Language Arts’ data was presented for grades 3 through 8. English Language Arts was divided into reading and writing with examples of explanatory writing prompts. Samples of math multiple choice and ECR (extended constructed response) were shown as well as sample science problems for grades 4 and 8. Mr. Hall reviewed all NJASK results by proficiency level, separated by overall

student population, and by individual school over a five-year look back. Science NJASK in grades 4 and 8 will continue to be administered.

A comparison of HSPA Math and Language Arts data with DFG J districts included a five-year look back. Results of the NJBCT (New Jersey Biology Competency Test) were reported by student population with a five-year comparison between Bernards Twp. and DFG J factor districts.

Mr. Hall stated data will be analyzed for areas of strengths and areas of need, and to evaluate the curriculum. The main focus this year is preparation for PARCC with full alignment to the Common Core Standards and administration of the computer based test.

Questions from the Board included would changes be implemented this year when data showed areas in need of improvement given the district will be transitioning to another test format? With only one year of data available next year, would a comparison to peer groups, state-wide results, and to previous testing results in the district be an option? A comment was made regarding moving away from DFG J factor comparison to another grouping of school districts.

Dr. Heineman and Mr. Hall stated it is difficult to make significant changes based on the testing data. Data will be utilized for instructional support placement based on the partially proficient category. Mr. Hall stated science progress will continue to be monitored. The main focus this year is on PARCC preparation.

For the complete presentation click [here](#).

IX. Public Forum on Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the comparison of scores in the testing report by student groups, selection of peer groups utilized by the district, and preparation of students for final assessments.

X. **Committee Reports**

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated October 6, 2014 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,300,811.

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>
J. Greene	Annual Conference on Mainstreaming Children with Hearing Loss	\$525	10/21/2014 – 10/22/2014

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the **William Annin Middle School PTO** in the amount of \$6,230 for the purchase of auditorium curtains, a document camera, and CD player.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the **Oak Street School PTO** in the amount of \$4,500 for the purchase of 30 chromebooks.

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

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

Finance Committee Chairperson Elaine Kusel acknowledged the donations from the William Annin Middle School and Oak Street School PTO organizations thanking them for their continuing support of the district.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Lenore Fornabio** Special Education Teacher Mount Prospect School effective on or before November 30, 2014.

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

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

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Linda Wooldridge stated the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, October 10.

POLICY

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated Strauss Esmay’s Policy Alert #203 was reviewed at the September 30 meeting. Several policies will be brought to the October 20 Board meeting for approval on first reading. The committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, September 13 and will continue its review of Alert #204. Ms. McGowan stated the summary that is included with each alert outlines state action and summarizes each policy.

ADVOCACY

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated the minutes from the October 6 PTO Advisory Board meeting were e-mailed. She reviewed topics covered at the meeting including an update on random drug testing and the required certification of nurses’ offices, the planned canine sweep, an update on e-cigarettes being considered a controlled substance, and PARCC testing. She noted Board members will not respond to comments made on Facebook,

Ms. Wooldridge noted the upcoming meetings: October 20 Board meeting results of the 2014 American Drug and Alcohol Survey, Dr. Michael Bradley on Teen Substance Abuse: Wednesday, October 22, and November 20 a seminar on e-cigarettes, marijuana and tobacco at Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

No report.

XI. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the content of Board minutes and inclusion of supporting documents, Ridge High School back-to-school night, the Algebra II course, and a security review at Cedar Hill School.

XII. Board Forum

Mr. Markarian reviewed the upcoming Board election, length of terms, and Candidates' Night which will be held on Monday, October 13. He stated he is preparing a statement regarding use and distribution of flyers and campaign materials that will be sent to all candidates. Based on a 2006 resolution, the township does not regulate temporary signage.

1) Update from NJSBA Training

Ms. Wooldridge highlighted the recent training attended by she and Ms. McKeon. Topics included parliamentary procedure, board committee operations and effectiveness, and communication. There was also a discussion of social media, and student privacy and equal access.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Richman, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Superintendent of Schools