

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, June 12, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Board Office Conference Room**

In Attendance:

Nick Markarian, Nimish Amin, Robin McKeon, Keith Molinari, Jennifer White

I. Discussion

[P 0168 - Recording Board Meetings](#)

Board members asked about what policies exist regarding recording of BOE public meetings by the press and/or members of the public. Our policy states meetings can be recorded but that the person recording cannot disrupt the meeting and that the presiding officer has the ability to limit the location of the person recording if it becomes disruptive to the meeting.

[P 8210 - School Year Calendar](#) (Eid)

At the previous BOE meeting, members of the public asked the board to consider adding a day off for Eid. The board also received a number of emails requesting the same. At the public meeting, the board indicated that they were interested in the Policy Committee having a discussion about adding Eid as holiday on the school calendar. The Policy committee recommends that the board ask the Superintendent to present a three-year school calendar to the Board of Education for adoption in December. The committee recommends that Mr. Markarian draft a 2026-2027 calendar (the first school calendar that is not already set, as per our policy) that includes Eid as a day off to present to the board in September.

[P 9200 - Cooperation Between Parents and School](#)

Mr. Markarian explained that at cabinet meetings, the administration has discussed making a more formal series of parent academy meetings to cover important information that they feel all parents should know. They discussed the pros and cons of making attendance mandatory and what consequences could even be applied if parents do not attend. For now, the policy committee suggested that they build the parent academy meetings (maybe one for parents whose child is entering K or first attending a district elementary school, another for parents whose first child is entering middle and another for high school) and strongly encourage parents, rather than making it mandatory, to attend the meetings in person or online and see what kind of attendance they get.

RHS Student Government

The Board has a policy that says we need to approve the student government constitutions. Ridge has just updated theirs (see links) and Mr. Markarian has asked WAMS and the elementaries to update theirs and then the board can approve them all in the fall.

- a. [RHS Student Government - Class Position Contract](#)
- b. [RHS Student Government - School Wide Position Contract](#)
- c. [Draft-RHS Student Government Constitution](#)

II. First Reading

2. [P 3283 – Electronic Communication Between Teaching Staff Members and Students \(M\)](#)

Mr. Markarian added language to this policy about written parent permission slips for when a staff member can communicate via email, with a student for an activity or athletic or extra-curricular season. This policy will be on the agenda for first reading in July. Mr. Markarian will also look at our Volunteer Policy to add consistent language for communication between volunteers and students.

III. Second Reading

3. [P 2510 – Adoption of Textbooks \(Revised\)](#)
4. [R 0155 – Board Committees \(Revised\)](#)

Next Policy Committee meeting will be September 11, 2023