

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
FEBRUARY 10, 2014  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
BOARD MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2014  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

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

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin

**ABSENT:** Ms. McGowan

**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. 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. 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. Student Recognition

Athletic Director Rich Shello spoke on the success of the 2013 girls volleyball and soccer teams noting the competitiveness of the conference they participate in. The volleyball team ended its season with a record of 21-7 winning a state championship after only eight seasons. Mr. Shello acknowledged the consistent achievements of the girls' soccer team. This season concluded with a record of 15-3-4 winning a county championship. Mr. Shello noted that Ms. Milot is the only coach the volleyball team has had and Ms. Donahue has served as head girls' soccer coach for the past seven years.

### 1) 2013-14 Ridge High School **Girls Volleyball Team North Jersey Section A Group IV State Champions** – Ms. Joanne Milot

Rachel Creedon	Kayla Cursi
Sydney Dazzo	Victoria Lai
Jordan Lee	Deepa Mukundan
Victoria Muttin	Norma Park
Julia Pensabene	Kayla Skolnik
Julia Starling	Kelsey Tam
Stephanie Occhiogrosso	Kristen Wainwright
Megan Woods	

Ms. Milot spoke on the accomplishments of her players both on the field and in the classroom.

### 2) 2013-14 Ridge High School **Girls Soccer Team Somerset County Champions** – Ms. Katie Donahue

Lucy Aaron	Paige Anderson
Kaitlin Ardoff	Amanda Bosland
Samantha Carney	Gigi Cifelli
Erin Convery	Amanda Cox
Brielle Farrell	Jennifer Haskell
Claire Herndon	Shannon Keefe
Erica Lindsey	Julia Lindsey
Kelly McWhorter	Kristina Mueller

Amanda Reimer  
Keri Villano  
Alex Weyrauch

Brittany Sheehan  
Chrissy Weyrauch

Ms. Donahue congratulated her team on their season.

## VI. Board Presentation

- 1) **HIB Reporting Period 1** 2013-14 School Year Presentation – Superintendent Nick Markarian

Mr. Markarian reviewed the process for reporting HIB noting the incidents related to the student Code of Conduct will be reported at the conclusion of Period 2. Highlights included:

- Comparison of incidents between 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 school years broken down by physical location, school, and category (violence, vandalism, weapons, and substance abuse).
- Review of the HIB definition, and district staff responsible for investigating incidents.
- Comparison of HIB incidents between 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 school years by nature. Examples of incidents, classification of students, and consequences were highlighted.
- Report on the number of unconfirmed investigations, and review of violations.
- Review of district training and programs in place for staff and students.
- Suggestions under consideration for improvement of the HIB reporting system were noted.

Mr. Markarian noted the March 13<sup>th</sup> showing of the film “From Pills to Heroin: The Domino Effect” will be held at the RHS PAC.

Board member questions included the type of drugs involved in incidents, and if possession resulted in automatic testing of a student.

Click [here](#) to view presentation.

## VII. Superintendent’s Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the Ridge High School French students’ trip to Quebec, Canada May 23 – 25, 2014.

Supervisor of World Languages Kathy Stotler provided a brief history of the Quebec trip and concerns raised by the Board at her December presentation. With the rescheduling of the trip to Memorial Day weekend, the number of interested students has declined.

Ms. Stotler felt support by the Board of Education may help to increase these numbers.

Comments by the Board included receiving feedback after the trip, why Board approval is being requested as compared to student/staff member trips abroad in the summer, administration support, chaperone ratio, and timeline when trip was initially proposed to the parents.

2) Board of Education Affirms Receipt of HIB Report Dated February 10, 2014.

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah (except Item #1), Dr. Viereck (except Item #1), Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
 “Noes” - Ms. Shah (only Item #1), Dr. Viereck (only Item #1)  
 “Abstain” - None

**VIII. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Comments were made regarding improvements to the training and reporting system, utilization of 7<sup>th</sup> grade study halls for student HIB programs, bringing the 7<sup>th</sup> grade DARE program back to the district, and the upcoming sale of a home on South Finley Avenue.

**IX. Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated February 10, 2014 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$7,036,369.75.
- 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 2013-14 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
J. Garrity	National Association of School Psychologists Convention	\$260	2/20/2014 – 2/21/2014

3) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS ACT – BOARD RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR FUNDS

The Bernards Township Board of Education certifies that permission has been granted to apply for funds to support implementation of the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* for the purposes described in the application, in the amount of \$70,818 starting on

July 1, 2013 and ending on June 30, 2014. The filing of this application was authorized at the Board of Education meeting held on February 10, 2014.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the **Ridge Booster Club** in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of a message board at Lee Field.

Superintendent Nick Markarian gave a brief explanation of the grant application and monies that could realistically be received by the district.

Chairperson Elaine Kusel noted the donation by the Ridge Booster Club and thanked them on behalf of the Board.

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. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah,  
Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

## **PERSONNEL**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **K. Stacie Winkleman** Confidential Secretary-Payroll at a salary of \$67,000 effective on or before March 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014, salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

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

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

Chairperson Bev Cwerner reported the Board Personnel Committee discussed the following items at its last meeting: district aides; school refusal and home instruction; adding an assistant director to the extended school year program; developing an algebra summer school program for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students; and, advanced degrees for administrators.

## **CURRICULUM**

Chairperson Linda Wooldridge reported the Board Curriculum Committee discussed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade summer school program for algebra. This would be a fee-based program for students who did not take algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade but wanted the opportunity to be able to

continue on the math track that would place them in geometry in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students would be required to attain an “A” in this summer program to move forward. Also discussed was a name change to the physics cycle at the high school, Academic Planning Night, and quarterly assessments. The District Evaluation Advisory Committee met on February 6 to discuss the state mandated teacher evaluation system including feedback from staff on SGOs (student growth objectives), and SGPs (student growth percentiles – based on prior NJASK tests).

The Board requested an update on quarterly exams, and AchieveNJ.

### **POLICY**

At the previous Policy Committee meeting complying with statute in regard to AchieveNJ and the evaluation process was reviewed. Policies in regard to this topic were approved on first reading at the January 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and will be adopted at its February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **ADVOCACY**

Board President Robin McKeon noted that the Community Relations Committee restructured and changed its name to Advocacy Committee. It met with the PTO Advisory Board on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The committee has developed the following three goals going forward: community relations; public relations; and, advocacy at the state and local levels.

### **LIASION REPORTS**

Ms. Wooldridge updated the Board on the previous two Municipal Alliance meetings. The film “Race to Nowhere” was shown on February 6, the American Drug & Alcohol Survey will be administered at RHS (grades 10 & 12) on February 12 and at WAMS (grades 6 & 8) on February 25. On March 13 the film “From Pills to Heroin: The Domino Effect” will be shown at the RHS PAC. She noted that Charter Day will be held on May 17 and the Twilight Challenge is scheduled for June 1.

An update from Somerset County Educational Services Commission included an issue with the Career Center project.

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

Comments were made regarding unfunded state mandates, the current status of Gifted & Talented identification process, date of Gifted & Talented presentation to the Board, availability of 7<sup>th</sup> grade algebra program for younger students, quarterly assessments, random drug testing, and comments made by the public at Board meetings.



## **XI. Board Forum**

### **1) Youth Health Concerns**

Discussion was held on the concern in regard to alcohol and drugs. The Board agreed this is a serious problem and brought forward various ideas to educate students. It was agreed this is both a district and community issue. It was suggested that current programs in place be reviewed, a task force be formed, looking back at random drug testing, and gathering feedback from counselors and SACs.

### **2) Responding to Board of Education Email**

Board President McKeon stated when responding to an e-mail sent to all Board members through the district link, care should be taken that any responses be sent to all Board members.

### **3) Excess Snow Day**

Superintendent Markarian reviewed the district calendar in regard to snow days. The district has utilized four with the possibility of a fifth by the end of this week. With only three days built into the calendar, he recommended that the calendar remain intact with excess snow days being taken from the April break beginning with Friday, April 11 and working backwards through that week as has been already announced on the district calendar. Mr. Markarian explained the May flex day is contractual and an earned day by staff based on participation in professional development classes. Utilizing one of the recess days in February does not solve the entire problem and the closeness of that day makes it difficult for staff and families who have made plans. The Board supported using the April break to make up snow days by a majority show of hands.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Shah, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary