

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
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MARCH 10, 2014
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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2014
REGULAR SESSION 6:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:31 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:15 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PAC**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President McKeon.

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:30 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Mr. McLaughlin

**IV. Executive Session – Call to Order – 6:31 p.m. – Ridge High School
Principal’s Conference Room**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: personnel; litigation; confidential student matters; 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, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:31 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:15 p.m.

V. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:15 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC**

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. 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.

VII. **Student Representative**

Student Government Vice President Molly Farrell updated the Board on the following activities at the high school: the Ridge Factor and Mr. Ridge.

VIII. Board Presentation

1) Assessment Programs in Our Schools

Assistant Superintendent Sean Siet, Director of Curriculum Brian Heineman, Supervisor of Social Studies Kristin Fox, Supervisor of Science & Technology Matt Hall

Assistant Superintendent Sean Siet introduced the presentation stating local, state, and national assessments would be reviewed. He explained the purpose of assessments is to improve teaching and learning, and provide feedback on students' demonstration of learning. Mr. Siet presented details of formative and summative assessments, the cycle of formative assessments, and examples of both.

Dr. Heineman presented the history of data collection that led to the replacement of midterm and final exams with quarterly assessments. He reviewed 2011-12 midterm/final averages with 2012-13 and 2013-14 quarterly averages, the impact of common assessments on instruction and the value to teachers and students, and various options for the 2014-15 school year.

Ms. Fox presented a definition of MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) stating it is a summative test measuring teacher effectiveness and providing feedback on what students are prepared to learn. She compared the MAP assessment with NJASK testing explaining MAP provides teachers with skill-specific data measuring student growth by accessing reading and math in grades 3-8. Ms. Fox presented examples of math and reading questions, teacher and student reports, an explanation of the Rasch unit (RIT) Scale, and a comparison of reading and math scores from 2013 with the national norm. She concluded with an assessment timeline, per pupil cost, and future plans depending on the impact of PARCC on MAP testing.

Mr. Hall presented a background of PARCC testing including the desire in 2009 to adopt a common core of internationally benchmarked standards in grades K-12 math and English language arts through 2010 when two separate assessment consortia were created to assess student achievement. He described the PARCC assessment as being a computer-based tool, aligned to the Common Core State Standards, administered to students in grades 3-11, a tool to determine student performance and preparation for college and career, and in 2015 PARCC will replace the NJASK and HSPA. Mr. Hall provided samples of math and English literacy questions for grades 3 and 7, the estimated testing windows for 2015, anticipated cost to district, and impact on high school graduation.

Mr. Siet concluded the presentation with long-term considerations and determining ways in which to minimize the impact of testing on student instruction.

Comments and questions from the Board included the development and value of the common assessments, the scheduling of common assessments, comparison of district students with all students nation wide participating in MAP testing, if the district has a

plan in the event PARCC testing does not take place, technology accommodations creating equality for all students, scheduling logistics within testing windows, teaching disruptions during PARCC testing, and selection of courses to have end of year assessments.

Please click [here](#) to view presentation.

IX. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Board of Education Affirms Receipt of HIB Report Dated March 10, 2014

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

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

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding SGOs and SGPs in relationship to teaching, teacher evaluation and the impact on student learning, the AchieveNJ program, implementation of PARCC testing and funding of the necessary devices, common and end of year assessments, student stressors, elimination of quarterly assessments, the challenge to the students and the cumulative effect of the amount of testing, and maintaining communication between staff, administrators, and parents.

XI. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated March 10, 2014 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,193,595.27.
- 2) BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget to be approved for the 2014-2015 School Year using the 2014-2015 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2014-15 Total Expenditures	\$89,061,104	\$1,297,995	\$5,608,284	\$95,967,383
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$10,140,193</u>	<u>\$1,297,995</u>	<u>\$523,324</u>	<u>\$11,961,512</u>
Taxes to be Raised:	<u>\$78,920,911</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,084,960</u>	<u>\$84,005,871</u>

And to be advertise said tentative budget in the Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the William Annin Middle School Auditorium in Basking Ridge, New Jersey on April 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2014-2015 School Year.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the following resolution for out-of-district and intra-district travel 2014-15:

WHEREAS, the Bernards Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction of furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to the maximum expenditure of \$85,000 for all staff and Board members.

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, 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 **Rachel DeCarlo** Payroll Administrator at a salary of \$85,000 effective on or before May 12, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Salary to be prorated to reflect actual start date.

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

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

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Linda Wooldridge stated the committee’s next meeting is Friday, March 14.

POLICY

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the committee will not meet in March. She reviewed the February 10 meeting which included discussion of various staff evaluation policies that were adopted at the February 24 Board meeting. The committee discussed policy 8660 Transportation by Private Vehicle and made the decision not to bring it forward for adoption.

ADVOCACY

No report.

LIASION REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge updated the Board on the March 4 Municipal Alliance meeting including the American Drug & Alcohol Survey which was recently administered at the middle and high schools, the March 13 presentation at the RHS PAC of The Cycle of Pills to Heroin,

and the Safe Home program. At the March 24 Board meeting, a presentation reviewing current district programs in regard to drugs and alcohol will be made.

XII. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding student stressors, the Oak Street School roof, the proposed upgrades to school ventilation systems, the renovation of the William Annin Middle School foods room, the school calendar and snow days, the condition of the high school turf field, meeting the needs of Gifted & Talented students, and costs involved with state mandated initiatives.

XIII. Board Forum

Mr. Markarian responded to comments made regarding the validity of SGOs and SGPs, PARCC and the graduation requirement, the district's continual upgrade of bandwidth, future evaluation of the turf field, selecting courses for end of year assessments and the possible impact on student course choices, the need for the renovation of the foods room at the middle school, snow days being made during the April break, and the upcoming Gifted & Talented presentation.

Board comments included recent changes to SAT testing, the high school play, the turf field, PARCC, snow days, student stressors, and appealing to Governor Christie for financial assistance for state initiatives.

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Superintendent of Schools