

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
DECEMBER 7, 2015  
REGULAR SESSION 5:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:01 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:00 p.m. – Ridge High School Principal's Conference Room**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by President McKeon.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

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

ABSENT: Mr. Siet

**IV. Executive Session – 5:08p.m.**

On motion by Ms. Cwerner seconded by Ms. Richman, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:08p.m.

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

**V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:09 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

President McKeon reconvened the regular meeting in the Ridge High School PAC at 7:09p.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 Recognition**

1) **2015 Ridge High School Girls Cross Country Team NJSIAA All Groups State Champions**

Mr. Richard Shello/Mr. Tim Mooney

Sophia Spring	Alexandra Kyros
Claire Jones	Catherine Giuseffi
Caitlin Haggard	Kristin Miscia
Alexandra	Shayna Bains

Donaldson  
Kaitlin VanBaalen      Emily Hirsch

Superintendent Nick Markarian recognized the 2015 Ridge High School Girls Cross Country Team as they have earned the title of NJSIAA All Groups State Champions. He then introduced Richard Shello, the Director of the Athletic Department at Ridge High School.

Richard Shello expressed how proud he was of the Ridge High School Girls Cross Country Team and described them as a special group that came together to achieve the NJ Group IV Championship. Mr. Shello also pointed out that as a result of their success they were also named Team of the Year by the Star Ledger and that their coach, Tim Mooney, was named the Girls Cross Country Coach of the year.

Tim Mooney, the Ridge High School Girls Cross Country Coach, spoke about what a remarkable team they are and how very proud he is of their accomplishments. He pointed out that the Meet of Champions Tournament started out with 245 Schools in the state of New Jersey and that the talent and confidence of the team made them #1 in the State. He then introduced each member of the team and presented them with an Award Certificate from the Bernards Township Public Schools.

Superintendent Nick Markarian once again congratulated the 2015 Ridge High School Girls Cross Country Team on their tremendous accomplishment.

#### VIII. **Superintendent's Report**

##### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated December 7, 2015.

Superintendent Nick Markarian noted that the Ridge High School Girls Soccer team and the Ridge High School Band will both be individually celebrated in the upcoming December 21, 2015 and January 18, 2016 Board of Education Meetings, respectively.

Mr. Markarian also informed the public that Board Member, Elaine Kuesel, has resigned. He read her resignation letter in which she stated that she has been honored to serve on the Bernards Township Board of Education for the past six years.

Mr. Markarian noted that with the resignation of Ms. Kusel there is a vacancy on the Board and that information regarding how to apply for the position is on the Bernards Township Board of Education Website which directs inquiries to Jennifer Nicholson at the Board Office.

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

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

**IX. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

**X. Approval of Minutes**

November 23, 2015 – Regular Session Board Retreat Minutes  
November 23, 2015 – Executive Session Minutes  
November 23, 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. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

**XI. Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

No report.

**PERSONNEL**

No report.

**POLICY**

No report.

**CURRICULUM**

No report.

## **ADVOCACY**

Ms. Richman noted that a meeting took place on December 7, 2015 and a report would be available at the December 21, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Wooldridge noted that Hal Dunsavage, Superintendent of the Somerset County Educational Services Commission, has been visiting school districts in Somerset County to recruit more students to the Career Center. Ms. Wooldridge also noted that the overall feedback was that most were pleased with the Transportation Presentation that had been provided at the November 23, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

## **XII. Public Comment on Other Than Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

## **XIII. Board Forum**

Ms. Gray requested an update regarding PARCC.

Superintendent Nick Markarian responded that all individual student reports had not been received yet. Ridge High School is currently in the process of packaging to mail their individual reports out to parents next week. Mr. Markarian is expecting receipt of the PARCC results for grades 3-8 by the end of this week and is anticipating they will then be mailed out prior to Winter Break. Mr. Markarian stated that he would like to have a presentation at the January 4, 2016 Board of Education Meeting addressing how to read and understand the results of the PARCC.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary