

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
FEBRUARY 12, 2018  
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOM 110  
REGULAR SESSION 7:03 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 12, 2018  
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOM 110  
REGULAR SESSION 7:03 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

Absent: None

**IV. Executive Session – 6:01 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Room 110**

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge and seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:02p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: confidential personnel and contract items; 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. Korn and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:55p.m.

**V. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:03 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

**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. In order to run efficient meetings and to allow maximum opportunity for members of the public to speak, the Board reserves the right to set a time limit for individual comments and/or public comment portions of the agenda. Please understand that public comment portions of our agendas 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 - RJ Milligan**

Mr. Milligan discussed the progress of the school year noting the end of the second marking period. He discussed how the underclassmen are attending scheduling meetings and the seniors are preparing for college. Mr. Milligan also provided a winter sports update.

Ms. Cwerner congratulated Mr. Milligan on his admittance to a college football program.

## **VIII. Board Presentation**

### **1) Trends in Mental Health - Jillian Shadis, Director of School Counseling and Administrative Team**

Ms. Jillian Shadis, Supervisor of School Counseling, presented the Trends in Mental Health 2016-17 Report. Key points of the presentation were:

- The Elementary School Refusal Project
  - Data was collected for the 2016-17 School year and the following was provided:

- Total number of students tracked
  - Absences by grade level
  - Average numbers of absences, early dismissals and lates
  - Breakdowns of gender, classification, family status, sibling history and peer relationships
  - A breakdown of absence reasons
- William Annin Middle School Counseling Program
  - Data was collected during the 2016-17 School Year
  - The following breakdowns were provided:
    - Total visits
    - Number of visits per month
    - Number of visits per student
    - Student classification, services provided and a breakdown of visits by mental health issues
  - An update for the William Annin Student Assistance Program
- Ridge High School Counseling Program
  - Data was collected for the 2016-17 School Year
  - The following breakdowns were provided:
    - Total visits
    - Number of visits per month
    - Number of visits per student
    - Student classification, services provided, number of visits and a breakdown of visits by mental health issues
  - An update for the Ridge High School Student Assistance Program
- Home Instruction including the number of students, demographics, rounds and educational service providers.
- Mandated reporting for the district including Suicide Intervention Reports, Violence Prevention Reports and Department of Child Protection and Permanency referrals.

Krissy Uhler, James Oliver, Joanne Hozeny and Jane Costa, administrators from the four elementary schools, provided updates for their schools with regard to the student climate survey from the spring of 2017, character education, relationship building and kindness.

Principal Hudock provided a climate survey update from William Annin Middle School, preventative measures taken based on that survey data, an update with regard to student lessons and groups and character education focus group responses.

Principal Krause provided a climate survey update from Ridge High School and outlined proactive measures that are being taken to assist and support students.

Board members thanked Ms. Shadis and Administrators for their presentations. Board members asked questions with regard to the increased number of Ridge High School students visiting the Student Assistance Counsellors, suicide prevention and the potential of the impact of social media and cell phones on mental health.

Click [here](#) to view entire presentation.

## IX. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated February 12, 2018.
- 2) Student Device Initiative Update

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Richman, Ms. White and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

Superintendent Markarian thanked the Administrators for a great job and noted he is proud of the work being done at the schools. Mr. Markarian also noted the loss of William Annin cafeteria worker, Dottie Denton and remarked on her years of service and dedication.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the Student Device Initiative and opened the discussion to Board of Education members.

Board members discussed the logistics of rolling out a Student Device Initiative plan and commented on the financial considerations, student cell phone use in the classroom, classroom needs and use of Chromebooks, concerns regarding screen time, exposure and misuse of devices and compared the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) versus a 1:1 initiative.

## X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Comments from the public were in regard to character education, parent-teacher communication, recess and lunchtimes at the elementary level and the impact of sports and extra-curricular coaches in the lives of students.

## XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following minutes:

January 22, 2018 – First Executive Session Minutes  
 January 22, 2018 – Second Executive Session Minutes  
 January 22, 2018 – Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Korn the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Richman, Ms. White and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

## XII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated February 12, 2018 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$5,254,672.08.
- 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 2017-18 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
K. Carrier	NJMEA Conference	\$170	02/22/2018 to 02/23/2018
N. Hunnemeder	NJMEA Conference	\$170	02/22/2018 to 02/23/2018
T. Kurliew	NJMEA Conference	\$170	02/22/2018 to 02/23/2018

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Korn Items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Richman, Ms. White and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

President McKeon provided a summary from the January 17, 2018 Finance Committee Meeting. Topics included the Demographic Study, a budget overview for the 2018-19 School Year, the Ridge High School cafeteria and invested funds.

## XIII. Personnel Committee Report

Ms. Cwerner provided a summary from the January 19, 2018 Personnel Committee Meeting noting the discussion regarding proposed staffing needs for the upcoming school year.

## XIV. Policy Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following policy on **first reading**:

- P 1511 – Board of Education Website Accessibility

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Richman, Ms. White and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Gray

Ms. Korn provided a summary from the January 22, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting. Topics included Board Member use of Social Networks and Use of Electronic Signatures policies. Other topics included an update from Alex Blinder, Director of IT, with regard to the proposed Website Accessibility policy.

#### **XV. Curriculum Committee Report**

Ms. Wooldridge provided a summary from the January 12, 2018 Curriculum Committee Meeting. Topics included End of Course Assignments, a meeting with administrators to discuss the Rotating Drop Schedule, program evaluations for K-2 English Language Arts and the K-5 Math Program.

#### **XVI. Advocacy Committee Report**

Ms. Richman provided a report from the January 8, 2018 Advocacy Committee Meeting. The meeting provided a Municipal Alliance and Community in Crisis update and an update from Superintendent Markarian with regard to a meeting that he attended with other Superintendents in Somerset County concerning the topic of student wellness and stress.

Ms. Richman noted the upcoming Pathways to Mental Health Resource Fair that will be held at the Bernards Township Library on March 22, 2018.

#### **XVII. Liaison Committee Reports**

Ms. Wooldridge provided an update from the Municipal Alliance including an upcoming prescription drop off at the Bernards Township Police Station on March 10, 2018.

Ms. Wooldridge also noted Mary Jane Postal who recently received a Youth Advocacy Award for her hard work in the community.

#### **XVIII. Ad Hoc SEL Committee Report**

Ms. Gray provided a report from both the December 21, 2017 and January 18, 2018 Ad Hoc SEL Committee Meetings.

Ms. Gray noted that at the December 17, 2018 meeting teachers representing William Annin Middle School and Ridge High School provided observations regarding



homework, student stress levels and grading practices. Topics at the meeting also included the proposed rotating drop schedule and summer assignments.

Ms. Gray reported that at the January 18, 2018 meeting the topics included a proposed conference format change for the juniors at Ridge High School, stress management, the student device initiative and an update from Mr. Krause, principal of Ridge High School, in regard to the National Honor Society and the school website.

**XIX. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

Public comments were made regarding the Gifted and Talented program at Mount Prospect School, cyber safety and social media, congratulations to teacher Kristine Jones for winning the Educational Support Professional of the year award at Oak Street School, the master schedule and student mental health and wellness with regard to middle school students.

**XX. Board Forum**

Ms. Gray commented in regard to past and present parenting practices in relation to technical advances that have been made in the past few years.

**XXI. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge and seconded by Ms. Cwerner and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary