

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING INDEX  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021  
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:03P.M.  
VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00PM  
ON FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING AGENDA  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021  
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
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VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE  
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ON FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.**

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,  
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian,  
Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Ms. Korn

**IV. Executive Session – 5:31 p.m.**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, b, e, f, g and h below which falls within an exception of our open meeting policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule:

- a. Individual privacy
- b. Collective bargaining agreements
- c. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- d. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- f. Pending or anticipated litigation
- g. Attorney – client privilege
- h. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

On motion by Ms. McKeon and seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:35p.m.

Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

On motion by Ms. Richman seconded by Ms. Schafer and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:14p.m.

**V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:03p.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 the Open Public Meetings Act.

Due to the public health emergency in the State of New Jersey, as declared in Executive Order 103, the Board will be suspending its normal meeting procedures this evening and conducting a virtual meeting. Directions for accessing the virtual public meeting were posted on the District website: [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com). These same directions were posted at our intended but unavailable meeting location.

We very much welcome input from the public. Because this is a virtual meeting, public comment will be handled in one of three ways:

**PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 1 (PREFERRED) - FULL VIDEO VIA ZOOM**

Step 1: When you are ready to make a public comment, join the Board of Education meeting via the Zoom link posted on the district webpage [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com). Please plan for your participation in the meeting by:

- Turning your camera and microphone on
- Dressing appropriately
- Maintaining a proper background setting for your camera's view
- Having a quiet space
- Muting the YouTube live stream of the Board of Education meeting when you are speaking so that there is no feedback with your participation in the Zoom meeting

Step 2: You will be placed in a queue and admitted to the meeting when it is your turn to make a public comment. Once you see that you are admitted to the Zoom call it will be your turn to make your public comment. Please begin your public comment by stating your full name and address.

Step 3: After making your public comment please exit the Zoom meeting so that the next person waiting to make a public comment can be admitted.

### PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 2 - DIAL-IN VIA ZOOM (VOICE ONLY)

Step 1: When you are ready to make a public comment, join the Zoom meeting using the dial in phone number and meeting ID posted on the district website [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com). Please plan for your participation in the meeting by:

- Having a quiet space
- Muting the YouTube live stream of the Board of Education meeting when you are speaking so that there is no feedback with your participation in the Zoom meeting

Step 2: You will be placed in a queue and admitted to the meeting when it is your turn to make a public comment. Once you see that you are admitted to the Zoom call it will be your turn to make your public comment. Please begin your public comment by stating your full name and address.

Step 3: After making your public comment please exit the Zoom meeting so that the next person waiting to make a public comment can be admitted.

### PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 3

If the preferred full video method of public comment is not an option for you and the dial-in method fails, please follow these directions to submit your public comment.

Step 1: Starting at 7PM: email your comment to [BTConnect@bernardsboe.com](mailto:BTConnect@bernardsboe.com) or text your comment to (908) 292-3047.

Step 2: Use PUBLIC COMMENT as the email subject or start of a text message.

Step 3: Indicate your first and last name and address. ***THIS IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED.***

Regardless of whether you use method 1, 2 or 3 for public comment please note that:

- Public comments are limited to a maximum of approximately 3 minutes if read aloud.

- Individuals are permitted a maximum of one public comment during public comment on agenda items. Individuals are permitted a maximum of one public comment during public comment on non-agenda items.
- Public comments submitted via method 1 and 2 will be processed first, then comments submitted by method 3. An individual's comments made using method 1 or 2 will not also be read into the record through method 3.
- The Board of Education reserves the right to limit the length of time allotted for public comment (for both agenda items and non-agenda items). In the event that time limitations prohibit the reading of a public comment received pursuant to these instructions, the comment will be published as part of the meeting minutes.
- No public comments will be accepted before 7PM or after item XIX. Board Forum of the agenda begins.

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. The Board may or may not respond to public comments. Any Board responses to public comments will generally be addressed during Board Forum, or during committee reports. However, all comments are considered and will be investigated and addressed as appropriate.

Please be courteous and mindful of the rights of others when providing comments. Comments may not be abusive, obscene, threatening or irrelevant. Please understand that students and employees have specific legal and privacy protections. The Board is not permitted to respond in public to comments about students and employees. Please also understand that the Board will not be responsible for the content of comments made by members of the public. Members of the public are cautioned that they are commenting at their own risk and any personally directed statements they make may subject them to legal liability to the effected individual.

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.

### **Resolution**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education hereby approves the suspension of its normal meeting procedures pursuant to By-Law 131, and authorizes this meeting to be conducted as a virtual meeting, as described in the Statement of Public Notice, due to the public health emergency declared in Executive Order 103.

## VII. Student Representative - Juliet Nolt

Ms. Nolt provided an update regarding the increased in-person instruction at Ridge High School, Ridge Drama and an upcoming event and that the student body is looking forward to the remainder of the year as things return to normal.

## VIII. Board Presentation

1) **Ridge High School Master Schedule and Program Updates** - Dr. Russell Lazovick, Ridge High School Principal, Stephanie Smith, Director of School Counseling, Scott Graber, Ridge High School Assistant Principal, and Cheryl Howarth, Ridge High School Assistant Principal

Superintendent Markarian introduced the presenters for the Ridge High School Master Schedule and Program Updates and thanked them for their attendance.

Dr. Lazovick, principal of Ridge High School, provided a background for the upcoming presentation. Ms. Fox, Assistant Superintendent, discussed the rationale for a change in the schedule at Ridge High School and the research behind the district's decision.

Dr. Lazovick discussed the rationale for moving to the rotating drop schedule in September of 2021 for the 2021-22 School Year. Dr. Lazovic pointed out that the rotating drop schedule creates focus, reduces stress and creates opportunity by removing scheduling conflicts, allows for staff development along with allowing for grade wide activities and a unit lunch. Dr. Lazovic discussed preparation for changing to the rotating drop schedule as the leadership team has a representative from each department, weekly meetings and discussions and outlined the logistics of the daily rotating drop schedule and creation of the master schedule for each student.

Director of Guidance, Stephanie Smith, discussed the mock schedule simulations that had been performed during the past few months in testing the rotating drop schedule. Ms. Fox discussed scheduling, curriculum and assessments.

Ms. Howarth, Assistant Principal of Ridge High School, discussed schedule change impact on snow day operations and possible solutions, abbreviated days, the first days of the semesters, assembly days and special schedules. Ms. Howarth also discussed additional impacts of the schedule changes such as professional development of staff, the Ridge High School Handbook, late arrival and early dismissal for seniors, internship and discussions regarding logistics that other school districts use.

Mr. Graber, Assistant Principal of Ridge High School, discussed the lunch schedule. The lunch schedule under the rotating drop schedule would include four levels of food service, two thirty minute sessions of lunch and additional options for students. Mr. Graber discussed the work that the committee is doing such as determining areas of congregation for students, logistics for the rollout of the new schedule, additional



furniture, trash and recycling needs, supervision during lunch periods, options for the other session of lunch and the work being done with Aramark and the Central office to determine lunch areas.

Dr. Lazovick discussed the staff focus on wellness during the public health emergency in conjunction with schedule change and the importance of supporting students, families and staff in areas of character and wellness, environment, communication and time stressing that the goal is a healthier, more productive and less stressful environment for students. Dr. Lazovick discussed the decision to make the change to the schedule at this time citing that the changes in schedule during the public health emergency has changed the current schedule at Ridge High School, wellness and the unknown public health emergency implications.

Dr. Lazovic discussed preparedness for the schedule change in the 2021-22 School Year and the measures being taken to prepare the leadership team, faculty and staff, families and the facilities and resources. Dr. Lazovick noted that preparedness includes professional development, communication, orientation for students and continual updates and reminders regarding the schedule change.

Dr. Lazovick asked that parents continue to check the Friday Folder for updates.

Superintendent Markarian thanked everyone for their work.

Board members remarked on their excitement and gratitude for the hard work in regards to the upcoming schedule change at Ridge High School. Board members asked about changes to the start time of school, their support of the communication aspect to the community and remarked about the thoroughness of the scheduling presentation.

To view the presentation please click [here](#).

## IX. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby recognize the inception of the following **New Extra-Curricular Club**:

<b><u>School:</u></b>	<b><u>Club:</u></b>
Ridge High School	Doctors Without Borders Club

On motion by Mr. Salmon, seconded by Ms. Schafer Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,  
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White

“Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

Superintendent Markarian discussed the transition to having more students come back to school in person for more time. Mr. Markarian provided the information regarding the current CALI score for the public health crisis citing the moderate status. Mr. Markarian discussed the first day of increased in-person instruction, how school buildings are maintaining social distancing guidelines and maximizing space in the buildings.

Superintendent Markarian provided a current in-person versus virtual breakdown as of February 22, 2021 of students in the school district and at each building and attendance rates in each building. Assistant Superintendent Siet discussed in-person staffing and upcoming changes to remote staff.

Superintendent Markarian thanked all of the staff, administrators, Board of Education, nursing staff and families for their continuing support and citing his appreciation for the tremendous amount of work done.

Superintendent Markarian discussed upcoming changes to in-person attendance. As of March 1, 2021 students will no longer be able to select “virtual for the day” in lieu of attending school in-person and technology reminders for in person attendance and a reminder from the Director of IT, Alex Blinder, to charge devices prior to the school day.

Superintendent Markarian discussed Executive Order 220 whereas athletic events may permit up to two parents/ guardians per athlete to attend events. Mr. Markarian noted that Athletic Director, Rich Shello, is working with coaches to provide them guidance in regard to capacity limits for athletic events at away venues.

Superintendent Markarian discussed grants from the State, a waiver the State has applied for to waive standardized testing for the 2020-21 School Year and a Board resolution in support of the waiver application in the Board Forum section of the agenda.

To view the Superintendent's Report click [here](#).

#### **X. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Comment from the public was in regard to eliminating the one virtual day at the schools.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the scheduling changes being made with regard to return to in person instruction logistics citing that the goal is for full return of students.

**XI. Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

- February 8, 2021 - First Executive Session Minutes
- February 8, 2021 - Second Executive Session Minutes
- February 8, 2021 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. Beckman the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, and Ms. White
- “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 22, 2021 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,255,369.62.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the January 2021 Financial Reports from the Board Secretary, the monthly Investment Report for January 2021, the weekly reports of Electronic Fund Transfers and Bank Wires For January 2021, and the Treasurer of the School Monies Report for January 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), the Bernards Township Board of Education, after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, and to the best of their knowledge, certifies that as of the date of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report, no major account or fund has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the January 2021 line item transfers totaling \$2,554,733.81 the 2020-21 school budget, list on file in the Board Office.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve home instruction for student #304797 from January 26, 2021 to February 6, 2021 at Silvergate Prep in an amount not to exceed \$791.50.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a speech language evaluation for student #305878 by Emily Root of Pediatric Speech, Language and Learning Center in the amount not to exceed \$400.00.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve two consultation services evaluations #306124 with Kaitlin Mulcahy, PhD and Corinne Catalano, PhD of Montclair State University Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health in the amount not to exceed \$450.00.

7) The Board of Education hereby approves the acceptance of a grant from the Italian Language Center (IACE) in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be utilized to contribute to the purchase educational materials for the Ridge Italian program.

8) The Board of Education hereby approves the acceptance of a grant from the Italian Language Center (IACE) in the amount of \$1,800.00 to be utilized to reimburse the Italian AP exam fees.

9) The Board of Education hereby approves the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$5,250.00 to the Italian Language Center (IACE) to be utilized as educational materials for the Italian Department.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following agreements with Somerset County Educational Services Commission for the 2021-22 school year:

- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – Chapters 192/193 and Addendum
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – N.J. Nonpublic Technology Initiative
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – N.J. Nonpublic Textbook Program
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – N.J. Nonpublic Security Program
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – N.J. Nonpublic Nursing Program

11) 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 2020-21 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
D. Gibson	Auditory-Verbal Therapy Practice / LSL Course Spring 2021	\$260	03/08/2021

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the utilization of the alternate revenue projection for the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) for the 2021- 2022 budget to reflect actual-health-related services provided and positive parental consents.

From: Medicaid - Eligible/ Special  
Education Count - 47 District  
Revenue Projection - \$23,191.68  
District Budgeted Revenue - \$20,872.51

To: FY 2021-2022 Alternate revenue  
Estimated Medicaid - Eligible Special  
Education Students - 27 District Projected  
Revenue - \$13,322.88  
District Budgeted Revenue - \$11,990.59

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Richman Items #1-12 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,  
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

Mr. Salmon provided a summary from the February 18, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting. Topics included the Aramark and Athletic Department procedures for snow removal from the track, a Ridge High School sanitary lines update, the Oak Street School gutter project, a transportation update, a Ridge High School Fall 2021 food service update and a budget update.

Mr. Salmon provided a summary of the Finance agenda items.

Business Administrator McLaughlin provided a detailed explanation of finance agenda item #12, the Special Education Medicaid Initiative, and the process involved.

### **XIII. Personnel Committee Report**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following personnel items upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the retirement of **Debra Scharff** Instructional Aide-Media Center William Annin Middle School effective April 30, 2021.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Nicole Fitzgerald** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective on or before March 12, 2021.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Debbie Lawson** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective March 15, 2021.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for **Deborah Savage** School Aide Liberty Corner School effective February 22, 2021 through March 12, 2021, returning March 15, 2021.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the following Extra-Curricular resignations effective 2020-21 school year:

Jennifer DiGiuseppe Spring Musical Choreography .5 RHS  
Rachel Miranda Spring Musical Choreography .5 RHS

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Changes in Assignment** for the 2020-21 school year:

<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
Allyson Bragg	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School	Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective 2/15/21
Jennifer Scharf	Kindergarten Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 7 BA \$55,622 effective February 12, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for S. O'Brien. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.	Kindergarten Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 7 BA \$55,622 effective February 8, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for S. O'Brien. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.
Janelle Kennedy	Art Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of 6 BA \$56,622 effective February 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.	Art Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of 8 BA \$56,622 effective February 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
Francine Luther	School Lunch Aide Oak Street School at a salary of \$19.63 per hour 4.5 hours per day effective on or before	School Lunch Aide Oak Street School at a salary of \$19.63 per hour 4.5 hours per day effective

	February 12, 2021 through June 18, 2021.	on or before February 17, 2021 through June 18, 2021.
Nazan Bulca	Instructional Aide Liberty Corner 4 hours per day \$22.81 per hour effective September 1, 2020 through June 18, 2021.	Instructional Aide Liberty Corner 4 hours per day \$22.81 per hour effective September 1, 2020 through February 16, 2021 then an Instructional Aide Liberty Corner 5.5 hours \$22.81 per hour effective February 17, 2021 through June 18, 2021.
Arati Nagaraj	Instructional Aide Liberty Corner 7 hours per day \$22.81 per hour effective September 1, 2020 through June 18, 2021.	Instructional Aide Liberty Corner 7 hours per day \$22.81 per hour effective September 1, 2020 through February 16, 2021 then 7.5 hours per day \$22.81 per hour effective February 17, 2021 through April 15, 2021 then 7 hours per day \$22.81 per hour effective April 16, 2021 through June 18, 2021.
Sean Kiernan	Campus Monitor RHS \$24,621.12 5 hours per day \$27.35 per hour effective September 3, 2020 through June 18, 2021.	Campus Monitor RHS \$24,621.12 5 hours per day \$27.35 per hour effective September 3, 2020 through February 19, 2021 then \$27,076.50 (to be prorated to reflect start date) 5.5 hours per day \$27.35 per hour effective February 22, 2021 through June 18, 2021.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Brian Montalbano** Latin Teacher Ridge High School at a salary of Step 13 MA \$69,935 effective March 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for M. Fairbanks. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>20-21 Salary:</u>	<u>Years/Points/Longevity:</u>

RH	Assistant Musical-Choreographer	Zach Jones	\$4,120	n/a
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9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff members in the **Various Assignments** listed for the 2020-21 school year:

<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>Various Assignment:</u></b>	<b><u>Salary:</u></b>
Jeffrey Stellitano	Twilight Program-SE	\$68.30 per hour
Will Rope	Twilight Program-SE	\$68.30 per hour
Tom Liska	Extra Section RHS Social Studies	\$795/\$53.00 per day effective 1/11/21-1/29/21
Dan Norris	Extra Section RHS Social Studies	\$795/\$53.00 per day effective 1/11/21-1/29/21
Karen Maresca	Extra Section RHS Social Studies	\$795/\$53.00 per day effective 1/11/21-1/29/21
Malcolm Coates	Extra Section RHS Social Studies	\$848/\$53.00 per day effective 1/8/21-1/29/21
Sireen Sawalha	Extra Section RHS Social Studies	\$848/\$53.00 per day effective 1/8/21-1/29/21
Enzo Minicozzi	Extra Section RHS Honors English 9	\$1,057 per month effective 3/12/21-6/30/21
Sarah John	Extra Section RHS Honors English 9	\$1,057 per month effective 3/12/21-6/30/21
Christie Papanikolaw	Extra Section RHS Honors English 9	\$1,057 per month effective 3/12/21-6/30/21
Lauren Heuer	Extra Section RHS British Literature	\$1,057 per month effective 3/12/21-6/30/21
Janine Quimby	Extra Section RHS Honors World Literature	\$1,057 per month effective 3/12/21-6/30/21



10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Salary Guide Advancements** effective March 1, 2021:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From Step/Salary:</u>		<u>To Step/Salary:</u>	
Marissa Berkowitz	5 MA	\$63,210	5 MA+30	\$67,599
Jennifer Cherubini	19 BA	\$73,322	19 MA	\$83,821
Chelsea Colonnello	14 MA	\$79,227.50	14 MA+30	\$84,727.50
Erica Cranden	12 BA	\$61,022	12 BA+30	\$64,956
Lore Diaz	4 BA	\$58,159	4 BA+30	\$61,969.60
Kellie Eck	11 MA	\$67,155	11 MA+30	\$71,835
Mark Galesi	9 BA	\$57,622	9 MA	\$64,680
Mary Anne Kopecki	18 MA	\$80,605	18 MA+30	\$86,625
Heather Lambro	13 MA	\$69,935	13 MA+30	\$74,815
Jennifer Litkey	5 MA	\$60,200	5 MA+30	\$64,380
Jessica Musumeci	15 MA	\$74,115	15 MA+30	\$79,245
Meghan O'Donnell	8 BA	\$56,622	8 MA	\$63,560
Germaine Ogitis	18 MA	\$80,605	18 MA+30	\$86,625
Erin Slupski	9 MA	\$64,680	9 MA+30	\$69,180
Sheri Smith	11 BA	\$59,822	11 MA	\$67,155
Katie Solon	5 BA+30	\$57,136	5 MA	\$60,200
Lisa Sweeny	17 MA	\$78,405	17 MA+30	\$83,925

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Substitute Teachers** at a salary of \$105.00 per diem with a Valid County Substitute Certificate, \$115.00 per diem with a Valid New Jersey Instructional Certificate and **Substitute Nurses** at a salary of \$250.00 per diem 2020-21 school year. Substitute teachers with a Valid County Substitute Certificate who have earned longevity will be paid at a salary of \$115.00 per diem. Substitutes with a Valid New Jersey Instructional Certificate who have earned longevity will be paid at a salary of \$125.00 per diem:

Ashley Kodvawala	Samantha Harris	Mike Tufariello
Brooke Giuliano	Danielle Inghilterra	Sirisha Kedarsetty
Mary Carbonaro	Angelica Aceti	Mary Hanley-Shuster
Lisa Vick		

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **District Volunteers** for the 2020-21 school year:

Jennifer Kozlowski                      Boy's/Girl's Track RHS

On motion by Mr. Salmon, seconded by Ms. Richman Items #1-12 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” -            Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,  
                          Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White  
“Noes” -            None  
“Abstain” -        None

Ms. McKeon noted that the Personnel Committee meeting met on February 19, 2021. Topics discussed were the upcoming BTAA negotiations and K-5 Specials discussions in relation to personnel needs.

#### XIV. **Policy Committee Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following policy on **second reading** and adopt said policy:

- P 8210 School Year Calendar (Revised)

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the appendices update for policy 1648 Restart and Recovery Plan.

On motion by Ms. Schafer, seconded by Ms. Beckman Items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” -            Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,  
                          Mr. Salmon (#1 Only), Ms. Schafer and Ms. White  
“Noes” -            Mr. Salmon (#2 Only)  
“Abstain” -        None

Ms. White provided a report from the February 8, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting. Topics included Strauss Essmay alerts for policy review and updates, the return to instruction and the second reading of P 8201.

Superintendent Markarian provided further detail into the policy update required for return to instruction, required adjustments and implications of the changes being made in the district. This update reflects the return to school or work after travel and quarantine requirement changes.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve of the following **Change of Course Titles** in the Program of Studies for the 2020-21 school year:

<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
Physical Education 9	Introduction to Sport
Physical Education 9	Introduction to Fitness and Wellness

On motion by Mr. Salmon, seconded by Ms. Schafer Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,  
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

#### **XVI. Wellness Committee Report**

Ms. Schafer provided a report from the January 8, 2021 Wellness Committee meeting. Topics included a counseling program update, additional opportunities for students who need extra support, ongoing counseling activities such as freshman check-ins, seniors meeting with counselors for a mid-year check up, sophomores working on a career expiration assessment and juniors heading into college planning and a William Annin Middle School and Elementary Schools update.

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

No report.

#### **XVIII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

Comments from the public included the upcoming Ridge High School graduation gowns, the topic of snow days versus virtual days, concerns with in-person gym classes and

facility capacity, appreciation for the teachers and administrators, a request for clarification for the logistics of committing to in-person instruction versus having a choice to attend virtually, questions regarding the requirements for students who are in-person and cannot attend school and questions regarding learning labs at Cedar Hill School.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the Ridge High School graduation gowns stating that no final decision had been made regarding the color of the gowns, commented on the traditional use of snow days and the challenges of having days added on to the end of the year when the district closes for weather as opposed to having and utilizing the option of virtual learning days, the volume of students in physical education classes, discussed the reasoning for eliminating the choice of virtual versus in-person days after March 1, 2021, provided more insight into the logistics of being an in-person student and quarantine requirements and considerations,

## **XIX. Board Forum**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) WHEREAS, Governor Murphy’s Executive Order of April 7, 2020 clearly stated: “It is not feasible to move forward with statewide assessments while students are unable to physically attend school due to necessary COVID-19-related closures;” and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Executive Order 214 of January 11, 2021, noted that “337 districts are providing all-remote instruction, 351 districts are providing hybrid instruction, 79 districts are providing full in-person instruction, and 44 districts are providing a combination of instructional modalities across school buildings;” and

WHEREAS, EO214 further states “the modifications to school schedules, operations, and instructional modalities implemented pursuant to Executive Order No. 175 (2020) have resulted in a challenging school year that has been unlike any prior year for students, families, educators, and school district staff;” and

WHEREAS, EO 214 affirmed that “all Executive Orders and Administrative Orders adopted in whole or in part in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency remained in full force and effect;” and

WHEREAS, the ongoing public health emergency addressed in the Governor’s Executive Orders provided compelling reasons why the Administration made the decision to suspend state graduation testing last year, to secure an ESSA testing waiver for spring of 2020, to suspend state testing last fall, and to suspend state graduation testing again this year; and

WHEREAS, similar concerns led the National Center on Education Statistics to suspend administration of the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) because “the

impact of the COVID pandemic on school operations” made it impossible to administer the tests in “a valid and reliable manner;” and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2021 the U.S. Office of Elementary and Secondary Education sent a letter to all Chief State School Officers extending the deadline “for submission of [ESSA] plan amendments, including related requests for waivers” in order “to provide additional time as part of the new Administration’s overall review of all policies;” and

WHEREAS, NJ’s leading education groups and professional associations, including the NJ Association of School Administrators, the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association, the NJ Education Association and the Education Law Center, have all urged the Administration to apply for a waiver of ESSA testing mandates for the current school year; and

WHEREAS, the ever-changing testing window proposed by the DOE would further restrict the instructional time and educator interaction available to the state’s most vulnerable students, including students of color, students with disabilities and students from low-income families; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOE’s plans to implement an untested and highly problematic computer-based “remote option” for state testing raises additional issues about the reliability and validity of the results, the security of the data, and the privacy of student information; and

WHEREAS, district schools and educators continue to assess the needs of their students on an ongoing basis to identify and address their academic, social and emotional needs in a much more timely and effective manner than standardized state testing can provide; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education urgently requests that Governor Murphy's Administration take proactive steps to protect the health and safety and educational progress of New Jersey school children and to submit a timely request to the US Department of Education for a waiver of section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for the current school year; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be certified and submitted to Governor Phil Murphy; New Jersey Commissioner of Education Angelica Allen-McMillan; Senator Thomas H. Kean; Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick; and Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz; as well as to the Boards of Education of each district in the county as soon as possible following approval by the Bernards Township Board of Education.

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,  
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

Ms. McKeon voiced her support for flexibility for standardized testing for the 2020-21 School Year.

Mr. Salmon discussed his vote of “no” for the quarantine policies during the Policy report citing his reasons for his disagreement with the travel policy. Mr. Salmon also expressed his satisfaction in the implementation of the increase in return to instruction.

Ms. Gray shared information for an upcoming “Strategies for Coping with Pandemic Stress” presentation.

## **XX. Adjournment**

On motion by Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary