

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
JANUARY 29, 2015
REGULAR SESSION 5:38 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:38 P.M.
MOUNT PROSPECT SCHOOL PRESENTATION 7:07 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:43 P.M.
MOUNT PROSPECT SCHOOL GYMNASIUM**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2015
REGULAR SESSION 5:38 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:38 P.M.
MOUNT PROSPECT SCHOOL PRESENTATION 7:07 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:43 P.M.
MOUNT PROSPECT SCHOOL GYMNASIUM**

The meeting was called to order by President McKeon at 7:07 p.m.

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:38 p.m. – Mount Prospect School Principal’s Conference Room**
- II. **Salute to the Flag**
- III. **Roll Call**

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

ABSENT: Mr. Byrne

- IV. **Executive Session – 5:38 p.m. – Mount Prospect School Principal’s Conference Room**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: negotiations; confidential personnel matters; confidential student matters; anticipated litigation 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. Shah, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:38 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 6:57 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the Mount Prospect School Gymnasium at 7:07 p.m.

V. Mount Prospect School Presentation, Tour of Library & Orchestra/Band Presentation – 7:07 p.m.

- 1) “Mount Prospect School: Happenings on the Hill” – Principal Joanne Hozeny

Ms. Hozeny highlighted Mount Prospect School on its 15th year anniversary. It opened in 1999 with a staff of 50, currently the staff has grown to 150, and has the largest student population of the four elementary schools in Bernards Township. Highlights of the presentation included:

- A review of programs
- Awards & recognitions with the newest being named A Blue Ribbon School
- Student programs including International Day, D.U.D.E., Panther P.R.I.D.E., A.C.E.
- The “Banner Story”

The student band and orchestra performed.

For complete presentation click [here](#).

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. 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. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:43 p.m. – Mount Prospect School Gymnasium

VIII. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated January 26, 2015.
- 2) The Board of Education does hereby approve the **8th Grade Washington D.C. overnight trip** scheduled for March 26 – March 27, 2015.
- 3) The Board of Education does hereby approve the following **2015 Board Committee Assignments:**

Advocacy

M. Byrne
B. Cwerner
K. Gray – alternate
K. Richman – chairperson
L. Wooldridge

Curriculum Committee

B. Cwerner – alternate
K. Gray
R. McKeon
K. Richman
L. Wooldridge – chairperson

Finance Committee

M. Byrne – alternate
J. Fry
E. Kusel – chairperson
R. McKeon
P. Shah

Personnel Committee

B. Cwerner – chairperson
E. Kusel
R. McKeon
P. Shah – alternate
L. Wooldridge

Policy Committee

M. Byrne
J. Fry
K. Gray
K. Richman – alternate
P. Shah - chairperson

Liaisons

Bernards Township Committee

E. Kusel
R. McKeon

Bernards Township Municipal Alliance

L. Wooldridge

NJ & Somerset Co. School Boards Association

R. McKeon
P. Shah
L. Wooldridge

Somerset Co. Educational Services Commissions

L. Wooldridge
P. Shah – alternate

Joint Education Task Force

B. Cwerner
E. Kusel
R. McKeon

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

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

Superintendent Markarian thanked Ms. Hozeny and Mr. Ciempola for the presentation and the effort involved in showcasing Mount Prospect School. He stated it was a privilege to watch the students’ performance and acknowledged the staff for all they do.

Mr. Markarian reviewed the revised PARCC testing schedule:

Middle school will test first two or three periods of day. After testing, students will follow a rotating class schedule. There will be no delayed openings.

- First week – Grade 6 (grades 7 & 8 maintain class schedule)
- Second week – Grade 7 (grades 6 & 8 maintain class schedule)
- Third week – Grade 8 (grades 6 & 7 maintain class schedule)

The high school will test on a split schedule over a three day period (for the Performance Based Assessment). Each session will be considered a full school day. Grade 12 does not test but will be part of the split session. It will be a stacked testing schedule with two tests administered each of the first two days and one on the third day.

- Grades 9 & 10 arrive at 7:30 until 11:30
- Grades 11 & 12 arrive at 10:25 until 2:25

PARCC is not a graduation requirement in years 2016, 2017 & 2018. No information is available beyond that date. The class of 2015 has already met its graduation requirement during their junior year through the HSPA. In the future, PARCC will be one of several ways for a student to meet graduation requirement.

IX. Public Forum on Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the PARCC refusal process, student stress, loss of instructional time, the effectiveness of Common Core, amount of money spent on testing preparation, disseminating information to parents, the experimental nature of the test, its use in the teacher evaluation process, teachers being forced to teach to the test, the implementation of the test for special needs students, the state mandating the test, modification of testing schedule, consequences to students who refuse to participate, what plans has the district made to accommodate students who refuse to take the test, the loss of instructional time for seniors as well as the testing schedule being prior to AP exams, and impact on teachers (pull out training, effect on classroom, and consequences to teachers’ evaluations being based on student performance).

X. Approval of Minutes

December 15, 2014 – Regular Session Minutes
December 15, 2014 – Executive Session Minutes
January 5, 2015 – Regular Session Minutes
January 5, 2015 – Executive Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, the foregoing was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

XI. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of [disbursements](#) dated January 26, 2015 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$7,212,685.53.
 - 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the December 2014 Financial Reports from the Board Secretary, the monthly Investment Report for December 2014, and the Treasurer of the School Monies Report for December 2014.
- 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 December 2014 line item transfers totaling \$433,121.33 to the 2014-15 school budget, list on file in the Board office.
 - 4) 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 2014-15 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
D. Lederer	HIB Training	\$175	2/4/2015
C. Barone	Techspo	\$620	1/29/2015 – 1/30/2015
K. Clark	NJAPERHD Conference	\$180	2/23/2015 – 2/24/2015
R. DeCarlo	Public School Bidding	\$250	4/8/2015
A. LaMarco	Public School Bidding	\$260	4/8/2015
M. Fackelman	NJMEA Music State Conference	\$185	2/19/15 – 2/21/15

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **field trip destinations** for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Group Attending:</u>	<u>Number of Students:</u>
Union City High School Union City, NJ	Ridge High School Dance Students	25
Ridge High School Basking Ridge, NJ	WAMS Destination Imagination Students	5
Spanish Repertory Theater New York City, NY	Ridge High School Spanish Culture & Society Students	60

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **disposal of equipment/books** for the 2014-15 school year; list maintained in the Board of Education office.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the following **out-of-district students** for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>Student #:</u>	<u>School District:</u>	<u>Annual Tuition:</u>
306735	North Plainfield Borough School District	\$16,253.00
306747	Hoboken Public School District	\$7,203.54

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve occupational therapy services for student # 305131 from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016 at **Morris Union Jointure Commission – Developmental Learning Center** not to exceed \$5,000.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve regular school year tuition for student # 306535 from December 15, 2014 to June 30, 2015 at **Morris Union Jointure Commission – Developmental Learning Center** not to exceed \$55,433.30.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an aide for

student # 306535 from December 15, 2014 to June 30, 2015 at **Morris Union Jointure Commission – Developmental Learning Center** not to exceed \$43,426.50.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve home instruction services for student # 300195 from January 12, 2015 to February 27, 2015 at **Stepping Forward Counseling Center, LLC** not to exceed \$5,250.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an amendment to the **IDEA** monies for the FY 2014-2015 for the carryover of the unexpended FY 2013-2014 increasing the total FY 2014-2015 allocation to the amount of:

Basic

Public:	\$1,119,079
Non-Public:	<u>\$157,530</u>
Total	\$1,276,609

Pre-School

Public:	\$41,208
Non-Public:	<u>\$2,754</u>
Total	\$43,962

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Gray, Items #1 through 12 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Chairperson Elaine Kusel reported on the January 22 Finance Committee meeting where the following items were discussed: Standard & Poor’s revised long-term rating of the school district to AAA, refunding of district bonds with an approximate 8% savings, the budget calendar, resurfacing of Lee Field, the RHS Wellness Center project, HVAC summer projects at RHS (700/900 wing) and CHS, and establishing priorities going forward such as improving school security at the elementary buildings.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave for **Tara Cascarelli** Math Teacher William Annin Middle School effective September 1, 2015 through October 13, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective September 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015 then an unpaid Child Care Leave effective December 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, returning September 1, 2016.

- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Theresa Glazier** Grade 2 Teacher Oak Street School effective May 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 utilizing 34 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective September 1, 2015 through October 13, 2015 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective September 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015 then an unpaid Child Care Leave December 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, returning September 1, 2016.

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Jessica Greene** Teacher of the Deaf Mount Prospect School effective May 26, 2015 through July 16, 2015 utilizing 27 personal illness days, returning July 20, 2015.

- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Ashley Dunker** Benefits Secretary District Office effective May 1, 2015 through July 7, 2015 utilizing 53 various days including sick, vacation, flex day & non-working days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective July 8, 2015 through August 19, 2015 returning, August 20, 2015.

- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignments and/or Locations** for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Kathy Slack	Step 9 \$53,887 effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015	Step 9 \$53,887 effective July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014 then Step 9 \$54,387 effective October 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 due to passing proficiency test
Lucy Valerio	RHS Instructional Aide	LCS Instructional Aide
Amie Walsh	WAMS Instructional Aide	RHS Instructional Aide
Kathy Lawenda	MPS Instructional Aide	RHS Instructional Aide
Jacquelyn Seneca	WAMS Instructional Aide	MPS Instructional Aide

David Persily	New Jersey Family Leave effective February 4, 2015 through February 20, 2015	New Jersey Family Leave effective February 2, 2015 through February 13, 2015
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- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Stephan Kusik** Junior Engineer District Office at a salary of \$78,000 effective January 30, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Megan Licata** Kindergarten Teacher Oak Street School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$47,706 effective March 23, 2015 through June 30, 2015 as a maternity leave replacement for Jessica DeRose. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Lauren Capizzi** Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$47,706 effective February 2, 2015 through June 30, 2015 as a maternity leave replacement for Pam Jernegan. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Elizabeth Ciccarelli** .4 Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$47,706 effective January 12, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date and .4 FTE.
- 10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Vivian DiGesio-Norman** LDTC William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 9 MA \$61,051 effective March 12, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Erin Noonan** School Nurse Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 18 BA+30 \$72,711 effective on or before March 21, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Martine Kasmin** Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 6 MA \$57,661 effective February 9, 2015 through June 30, 2015 as a maternity leave replacement for Christen DiRocco. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Christina Marshall** Guidance Counselor Ridge High School at a salary of Step 1 MA \$ 53,706 effective February 23, 2015 through June 30, 2015 as a maternity leave replacement for Kimberlee Sweet. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Barbara**

Stauber Math Teacher Ridge High School at a salary of Step 1 MA \$53,706 effective March 5, 2015 through June 30, 2015 as a maternity leave replacement for Lauren Tan. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Shai Williams** School Psychologist Ridge High School at a salary of Step 8 MA+30 \$64,141 effective January 30, 2015 through June 30, 2015 as a maternity leave replacement. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Elizabeth Ciccarelli** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 2 \$25.77 per hour 5.75 hours per day effective January 12, 2015 through June 18, 2015.

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Amy Jablonski** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of Step 1 \$25.25 per hour effective January 28, 2015 through June 18, 2015.

18) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Megan Licata** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 4 \$26.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective February 2, 2015 through March 13, 2015 as a maternity leave replacement for Jessica Petonak.

19) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Tami Lane** Interim School Nurse Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$238 per diem effective January 5, 2015 through end of assignment.

20) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Carole Payne** Interim School Nurse Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$238 per diem effective January 19, 2015 through end of assignment.

21) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Kevin Reilly** Accounts Payable Clerk District Office at a salary of \$43,000 effective January 30, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

22) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following staff members in **Various Assignments** listed for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Natalie Maggie	After School Aide	\$12.00 per hour
Eddie Campbell	After School Aide	\$12.00 per hour
Briana Pugliese	After School Aide	\$12.00 per hour
Kyle Seidel	After School Aide	\$12.00 per hour
Kelly Boyle	After School Aide	\$12.00 per hour

Arin Hiller	After School Aide	\$12.00 per hour
Ali Rabie	After School Aide	\$12.00 per hour
Peggy Wu	Assistant AP Testing Coordinator	\$2,000
Joshua Ganz	After School Care Program	\$45.00 per hour
Elizabeth Navega	Bedside Instruction	\$75.32 per hour
Evan Price	Bedside Instruction	\$75.32 per hour
Christine Takayama	Bedside Instruction	\$75.32 per hour
Laurie Tortorelli	At Home Program – SE	\$65.00 per hour
Michaela Stoudemayer	At Home Program – SE	\$60.00 per hour

23) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Extracurricular Assignments** for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>	<u>Longevity:</u>
WA	Site Manager	Frank Locasio	\$50 per day	None
WA	DC Chaperone	Michael Orr	\$350.00	None
WA	DC Chaperone	Susan Madorma	\$350.00	None
RH	Assistant Boys Ski Team	Steven Aspinall	\$4,895.00	None

24) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Mentors** for the 2014-15 school year, mentoring fee to be paid by the provisional teacher:

<u>Teacher:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Mentor:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Hallie Yula	Grade 2	Megan Van Pelt	\$184.00
Jessica Lynch	English	Nancy Esposito	\$550.00
Kathryn Rain	Grade 4	Noreen Quinn-Foy	\$366.00
Jennifer Keeling	Math	Mark Galesi	\$220.00

25) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Student Interns** for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>College/University:</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher:</u>
Courtney Lailey	Queen's University	Elementary/M. Scheffler Cedar Hill School 5/4/15-5/22/15
Kailyn Williams	RVCC	Elementary/M. Licata/Cedar Hill School 1/27/15-5/1/15
Jonathan Sabella	RVCC	School Nurse/P. Miller/Ridge High School 2/1/15-4/15/15
Melissa Garcia	TCNJ	Math/T. Cascarelli/William Annin School 1/27/15-5/15/15

26) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following

Substitute Teachers at a salary of \$90 per diem and **Substitute Nurses** at a salary of \$170 per diem for the 2014-15 school year:

Julie Scales	Kathleen Rocci
Kelsey McKeon	Drew Corsilli
Samantha Meringolo	Mary Melcon
Nicholas Buley	Lane Zierten
Nicole Alvarez	Vic DeMaio
Sarah Mueller	Megan Licata
Elizabeth Colterbaldo	Barbara Stauber

* Denotes Sub Nurse

27) Resolved, The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby amend item 16 of Personnel, XI. Committee Reports of the December 15, 2014 Board of Education agenda and corresponding minutes by changing each use of the word "qualitative" to "quantitative".

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Shah, Items #1 through 27 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon (except Item #26)
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - Ms. McKeon (only Item #26)

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the Personnel Committee met on January 16. The initial BTAA negotiation’s meeting is scheduled for February 10. A Forensics program is being planned for the middle school.

POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Board of Education does hereby approve the following policy on **First Reading**:
 - a) Policy 9181 Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants

On motion by Ms. Gray, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, Item #1 was approved by the

following roll call vote:

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

Chairperson Priti Shah stated at the January 19 Policy Committee meeting Policy 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Non Resident Pupils (M) was reviewed with additional information being requested, and changes to Policy 9181 Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants were made prior to Board approval on first reading.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Linda Wooldridge stated the next committee meeting is scheduled for February 13.

ADVOCACY

Chairperson Karen Richman stated at the January 12 meeting with the PTO Presidents Advisory Board discussion was held on PARCC, the school budget hearing will be held at the May 4 Board meeting, a Gifted & Talented presentation will be made to the Board at its February 9 meeting, and a STEM update at a May Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge reported on upcoming events sponsored by the BT Municipal Alliance (Charter Day May 16 & the Twilight Challenge June 7). Last year monies raised during the Twilight Challenge funded the 2014 American Drug & Alcohol Survey. The Municipal Alliance is considering holding a youth panel with RHS students in regard to parties and underage drinking.

RHS Against Alcohol & Drugs is focusing on parents this year, and the Community in Crisis group hosted a town hall meeting on January 12 in regard to addiction.

XII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items

A comment was made regarding students being able to utilize the high school Wellness Center. Comments regarding PARCC included the cost to the district, whether results would appear on a student’s transcript, if results would be used for student placement, where in the budget monies to fund PARCC are taken from, teachers not being able to speak about the test, and availability of pilot testing results.

XIII. Board Forum

1) PARCC

NJ State Board of Education President Mark W. Biedron spoke on the new theory of education and testing. A commission has been established to look at Common Core and PARCC. Mr. Bierdon stated the 10% portion of teacher evaluation is only applied to Math and Language Arts teachers in grades 4 through 8.

Mr. Markarian replied to statements from the public including: the RHS Wellness Center will be available to all students, consequences when refusing to take the PARCC test will be the same as any test refusal, information regarding PARCC is available on the district website, accommodations for special needs students have been built into the test, until test results are available and the district has reviewed them a determination cannot be made on utilization, and results will not appear on a student's transcript. Mr. Markarian did not think results of piloting testing were being released to school districts. He agreed that standardized tests can be a source of stress for some students. His advice to parents is to reassure their children to "do their best and forget the rest."

Mr. Markarian noted that staff mSGP results for the 2013-14 school year indicated that each teacher in Bernards Township was either effective or highly effective.

Board Counsel John Croot stated there is no basis in law for a district to pass a refusal resolution. Comments by the Board included a district's responsibility to protect the integrity of their schools and the overall programs, to maintain a financial responsibility of not jeopardizing

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary