

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
MARCH 13, 2017
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EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:31 P.M.
BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION 7:01 P.M.
CEDAR HILL SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
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MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2017
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CEDAR HILL SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:30 p.m. – Cedar Hill School Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by President Cwerner.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah (left at 8:40p.m.), Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet (left at 8:40p.m.), Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: None

IV. Executive Session – 6:31 p.m. – Board of Education Conference Room

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge and seconded by Ms. Gray, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:31p.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. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Gray and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:51p.m.

V. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:01 p.m. – Cedar Hill School Cafeteria

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 types of public comment: non-agenda item comments and comments related to the agenda. Please align your comments with the appropriate opportunities on the agenda.

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

No report.

VIII. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

President Cwerner opened the public comment by remarking on the tragic deaths of three students within the District over the past year, the goal for the district to improve the social and emotional well-being of the students and urged those speaking to keep the privacy of the student's families in mind while speaking.

Comments from the public included concerns regarding student stress and mental health, the school culture to succeed, communication between educators and parents, parental pressure on the schools and their children, incorporating more physical activity and play into the school day and a student who spoke about a new group at Ridge High School

called the RHS Wellness Group that focuses on helping students decompress from stress, plans to conduct a survey to determine the various stressors between age groups and implement programs throughout the school to help students manage stress.

President Cwerner thanked the public and the students for their comments. Other Board members commented on student stress, physical activity, the importance of family and the RHS Wellness Group.

Superintendent Markarian thanked the students for their feedback. He addressed the student survey, culture climate survey with staff, parents and students, student mental health and a review of the homework and health policies.

IX. Board Presentation

- 1) Draft 2017-18 Budget - Rod McLaughlin, Business Administrator

Business Administrator Rod McLaughlin presented an overview of the 2017-18 school budget.

Items highlighted included:

- Comparisons between FY1617 and FY1718 by budget expenditures and operating expense changes.
- The Budgeted Fund Balance and upcoming Capital Projects
- A five-year review of: revenues, snapshot of budgets, general operating budgets, breakdown of instruction, general education costs, special education costs and support services
- Staffing considerations, needs and potential staffing needs
- General and Special Education enrollment numbers, trends and projections

Board Members asked about changes in the budget from FY1617 and FY1718 and President Cwerner thanked Mr. McLaughlin for his efforts and hard work.

For the complete presentation click [here](#).

X. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) PARCC Testing Spring 2017
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the Ridge High School Forensic Team overnight trip to the Holy Redeemer High School tournament on March 31, 2017 to April 1, 2017.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated March 13, 2017.

On motion by Ms. Gray seconded by Ms. Wooldridge Items #2 and #3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Superintendent Markarian updated the Board Members and public regarding current and upcoming state PARCC testing regulations.

XI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public comments included questions about the budget and expenditures on technology and Advanced Placement courses and staffing concerns and class sizes at Oak Street School.

Superintendent Markarian acknowledged the concerns of the parents of the Oak Street School children affected by the class sizes and noted that an additional teacher has been designated at the school to support the existing classes.

XII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

February 27, 2017 – Executive Session Minutes
 February 27, 2017 – Regular Session Minutes

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

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

XIII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated March 13, 2017 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$5,012,333.56.
- 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 2016-17 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
R. McLaughlin	NJASBO 55 th Annual Conference	\$260	06/08/2017

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education received bids for the **Ridge High School Track Renovation** on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Bids were received from the following companies:

<u>Contractor:</u>	<u>Contract Bid #1:</u>	<u>Contract Bid #2:</u>
Copeland Coating Co., Inc.	No Bid	\$316,978
ATT Sports, Inc.	No Bid	\$332,303
American Athletic Track & Turf	\$695,000	\$339,000
Mathusek, Inc	\$565,000	No Bid

The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby award the bid in the amount of \$316,978 for Ridge High School Track Renovation to **Copeland Coating Co., Inc.** (3600 US Route 20, P.O. Box 595, Nassau, New York, 12123) as the lowest responsible bidder contingent upon attorney review and execution of a mutually agreeable contract.

- 4) WHEREAS, the Bernards Township Board of Education received **nonpublic technology aid** in the amount of \$11,024.00 and **nonpublic security aid** in the amount of \$ 21,200.00 from the State of New Jersey in FY 2017; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey directed the Bernards Township Board of Education having nonpublic schools within its boundaries, the responsibility for providing security services, equipment, or technology to help ensure a safe and secure environment for students attending nonpublic schools and for providing nonpublic students technology within the limits of the funds provided by this program in the FY 2017 school year; and

WHEREAS, St. James School, Mendham Country Day School, and Albrook Montessori representatives along with the SCESC consultant reviewed the proposed technology and security expenditures with the representatives of the Bernards Township Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey requires that the local Board of Education authorize the specific nonpublic expenditures for each of these grant awards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education authorize the following nonpublic expenditures:

Nonpublic Technology

St. James School	Total
16 Dell Chromebooks and management licenses, 1 Kid Pix 3d 2.2, 1 TechnoKids Kid PIX 3d curriculum bundle, 21 Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing Academic Edition, 25 Speedskin	\$6,065.89
FUNDING ALLOCATION	\$6,370.00

Albrook Montessori	Total
1 Canon Powershot, 1 Charging cart, 2 HDMI Cable w/ Ethernet Digital Video/Audio	\$1,526.81
FUNDING ALLOCATION	\$1,612.00

Mendham Country Day School	Total
2 iPad Pro, 1 Lenovo Desktop computer, Monitor, Microsoft Office, 2yr support	\$2,097.12
FUNDING ALLOCATION	\$2,938.00

Nonpublic Security

St. James School	Total
Purchase and installation of the following: Restricted Key Cylinders all perimeter doors, Access Control and Card Access only on outside Gymnasium door, 46 sets of balances and latches for exterior windows.	\$12,248.20
FUNDING ALLOCATION	\$12,250.00

Albrook Montessori	Total
9 Lockdown Magnet strips, purchase and installation of exterior door security system	\$3,099.90
FUNDING ALLOCATION	\$3,100.00

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the **Ridge High School PTO** in the amount of \$4,758.76 for items related to the spring 2017 Mini-Grant Awards.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby acknowledge the following parent groups/organizations for the 2016-17 school year which are using district schools:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Group:</u>
Ridge High	Legwork for Lungs
Ridge High	Ridge Dance

7) WHEREAS, there exists a need for the Bernards Township Board of Education (the “Board”) to engage the services of an architect to develop plans, drawings, specifications and provide project implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has confirmed the terms of engagement with respect to rates and services proposed by Spiezle Architectural Group (120 Sanhican Drive, Trenton, N.J. 08618) for the William Annin Middle School HVAC/Univentilator Project; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Spiezle Architectural Group to provide architectural services to the Board has been determined by the Board to be most likely to best serve the interests of the Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bernards Township Board of Education as follows:

1. The services of the following firm are hereby engaged to provide the architectural services specified for Phase I of the William Annin Middle School HVAC/Univentilator Project for the term of the project in an amount not to exceed \$61,250:

Spiezle Architectural Group
120 Sanhican Drive, Trenton, N.J. 08618

2. The services to be rendered by the Board’s Architect are services to be performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession and whose practice is regulated by law and, therefore, comply with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1) as professional services.

8) BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget to be approved for the 2017-2018 School Year using the 2017-2018 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>Current</u> <u>Expense Fund</u>	<u>Special</u> <u>Revenues</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017-2018 Total Expenditures	\$94,145,118	\$1,659,910	\$5,366,288	\$101,171,316
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$10,393,616	\$1,659,910	\$264,020	\$12,317,546
Taxes to be Raised:	<u>\$83,751,502</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,102,268</u>	<u>\$88,853,770</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 Ridge High School PAC in Basking Ridge, New Jersey on May 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2017-2018 School Year.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the following resolution for out-of-district and intra-district travel 2017-2018:

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 \$125,000 for all staff and Board members.

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. McKeon Items#1 to 9 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Ms. Wooldridge also provided a brief summary of the finance agenda items #1-9 and thanked the RHS PTO for the donation for the spring 2017 Mini-Units.

A Board Member requested additional information for items #4, 7, 8 and 9. Mr. McLaughlin provided further explanations of those items.

XIV. Personnel Committee Report

No report.

XV. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XVI. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XVII. Advocacy Committee Report

Report deferred to the March 27, 2017 meeting.

XVIII. Liaison Committee Reports

No report.

XIX. Public Comment

Public comments included the 1:1 Technology Initiative, PARCC testing, concerns over student stress, the high demands of sports teams and the importance of socializing and family time.

Superintendent Markarian stated that he would review the athletic participation policies.

XX. Board Forum

Dr. Dunten discussed a Technology Conference that she and Ms. Shah had recently attended.

XXI. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary