

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
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MARCH 9, 2015  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
LIBERTY CORNER SCHOOL GYM**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 9, 2015  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
LIBERTY CORNER SCHOOL GYM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President McKeon.

**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – Liberty Corner School Gym**

**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

**ABSENT:** Mr. Byrne

**IV. 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. 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 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.

## V. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated March 9, 2015.

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, 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

## VI. Board Presentation

- 1) “Character in Motion”

Liberty Corner School Principal Kathy Pecoraro presented a history of the school since its opening in 1905 highlighting its 100 year anniversary. Dr. Pecoraro stated Liberty Corner School once again received the NJ School of Character Award. She highlighted this program including the Pillar of Character, a Character Education staff college course offered this year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade assembly program, Buddy Class activities, the Appalachia Toy Drive in conjunction with Delbarton School, the Golden Tray, Bucket Fillers, and the newest program Kids for Character. Dr. Pecoraro introduced the Kids for Character student committee who spoke on the program.

The Drama Club performed several songs from Annie, and the LCS Faculty Choir sang.

For complete presentation click [here](#).

**VII. Public Forum on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of [disbursements](#) dated March 9, 2015 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,723,621.63.
- 2) BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget to be approved for the 2015-2016 School Year using the 2015-2016 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:

	<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>	<b><u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u></b>	<b><u>DEBT SERVICE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
<b>2015-16 Total Expenditures</b>	\$89,509,170	\$1,258,393	\$5,549,108	\$96,316,671
<b>Less: Anticipated Revenues</b>	<u>\$9,009,841</u>	<u>\$1,258,393</u>	<u>\$330,545</u>	<u>\$10,598,779</u>
<b>Taxes to be Raised:</b>	<u>\$80,499,329</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,218,563</u>	<u>\$85,717,892</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 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2015-2016 School Year.

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, Items #1 through #2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

**PERSONNEL**

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Denise Callaway** Reading Specialist Mount Prospect School effective April 24, 2015.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Jacquelyn Seneca** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective March 24, 2015.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Liliana Falzon** Chemistry Teacher Ridge High School at a salary of \$268.00 per diem effective March 2, 2015 through end of assignment as a medical leave replacement.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Dominic Vignali** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of Step 1 \$25.25 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective March 11, 2015 through June 18, 2015.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Pamela Geist** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 5 \$27.64 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective March 23, 2015 through June 18, 2015.
- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Salary** effective April 1, 2015:

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
Allyson Read	Supervisor Of Special Education \$121,650	Supervisor of Special Education \$127,732 to reflect doctoral award

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

<b><u>School:</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment:</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>Stipend:</u></b>	<b><u>Longevity:</u></b>
RH	Assistant Boys' Spring Track	Tim Howard	\$5,756	10 years/2 points/ \$399
WA	DC Chaperone	Tom Liska	\$350	None
WA	DC Chaperone	Sara Mykieten	\$350	None
WA	DC Chaperone	Christine Miller	\$350	None

- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Various Assignments** for the 2014-15 school year:

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment:</u></b>	<b><u>Salary:</u></b>
Adam Miesner	After School Care Aide	\$12.00 per hour
Michael Tong	Immigrant Tutoring	\$60.00 per hour

Linda Gonzalez	Immigrant Tutoring	\$60.00 per hour
Karen Kucharski	After School Care Program	\$45.00 per hour
Danielle Plagge	Pit Musician Spring Musical	\$800.00

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Volunteers** for the William Annin Middle School Athletic Organization 2014-15 school year:

Patrick Vreeland	Boys' Lacrosse
Stephanie Garland	Girls' Lacrosse
Erik Dial	Baseball
Peter Samila	Softball
Kevin Karch	Track & Field
Frank Locascio	Track & Field
Lori Thompson	Track & Field
Chris Pereira	Volleyball Clinic
Jennifer Chmura	Volleyball Clinic

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Kusel, Items #1 through #9 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

Personnel Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the next negotiations meeting with the BTAA is scheduled for March 17.

**CURRICULUM**

Chairperson Linda Wooldridge stated the next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for March 13.

**POLICY**

Chairperson Priti Shah stated the Policy Committee met on March 9. Two policies will be brought forward for second reading at the March 23 Board meeting.

**ADVOCACY**

Chairperson Karen Richman stated the Advocacy Committee met with the PTO Advisory Board on March 2.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Wooldridge stated the Municipal Alliance meeting scheduled for last week was canceled due to the weather conditions.

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

Comments were made regarding the Liberty Corner school presentation, and PARCC testing. Comments in regard to the Common Core Standards included its impact on the district's curriculum, teachers' concerns, and the math programs in grades 7 and 8.

Superintendent Nick Markarian commented on evaluation of the curriculum and progress with the new standards based on teachers' opinions.

The Board discussed implementing a system for alerting parents to important information and presentations, and the possibility of targeting specific groups through individual staff e-mails. A comment was made regarding availability of presentations prior to the event.

**X. Board Forum**

The Board discussed the document distributed by Dr. Feinsod Executive Director, NJSBA regarding possible changes to the pension and health benefit programs for public employees and retirees, in particular the current lack of detailed information as to how potential changes might impact local school districts. Mr. Markarian and Ms. McKeon stated there are significant concerns regarding the Governor's "A Roadmap to Resolution" report.

Comments were made on the Character Ed program at Liberty Corner School and if its staff college course would be available to staff members across the district. Assistant Superintendent Sean Siet responded that it would be.

Mr. Siet commented on the proposed changes to teacher certification and the impact this could have on future hiring and recruitment efforts. He also touched on potential changes to the requirements to become a substitute teacher.

**XI. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Mr. Fry, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary