

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
MAY 4, 2015
REGULAR SESSION 7:05 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PAC**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2015
REGULAR SESSION 7:05 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PAC**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President McKeon.

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:05 p.m. – Ridge High School PAC

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, 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: None

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. **Board Presentation**

1) Schedule Exploration Committee Presentation

Ridge High School Principal Frank Howlett reviewed the Rotating Drop Schedule as an alternative scheduling method at the high school. The objective is to increase instructional time within the constraints of the current length of the school day. He reviewed the committee's activities including site visits to Livingston and Watchung Hills High Schools and the committee's plans going forward. His report highlighted a regular rotating drop schedule, an all period schedule, and late arrival/abbreviated day schedules. The advantages and potential concerns of this schedule were discussed.

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

VI. **Public Hearing 2015-16 Budget**

1) 2015-16 School Budget Presentation

Business Administrator Rod McLaughlin presented an overview of the 2015-16 school budget. Items highlighted included:

- Comparisons between FY1415 and FY1516 by budget expenditures and operating expense changes.
- A three-year review of: revenues, snapshot of budgets, general operating budgets, breakdown of instruction, special education costs and support services
- A six-year history of taxes
- Impact of the loss of state aid since 2009/10
- Tax increases for 2015-16
- Capital projects

Superintendent Nick Markarian reviewed the demographics of the six schools and planned summer projects at Ridge High and Cedar Hill Schools. He explained the support programs at the elementary and secondary levels and reviewed new staff considerations.

Director of Curriculum Brian Heineman reviewed curriculum projects including new course offerings, major revisions and support for these projects, ongoing plans for the Gifted and Talented program and plans under consideration for the future.

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

2) Board Forum on Budget

Comments were made regarding a concern with the future of state aid, the ratio of Language Arts and Science teachers between the middle and high schools and state/federal repercussions regarding parent refusal of PARCC testing.

3) Public Comment on Budget

Comments were made regarding new staff consideration and technology upgrades required to accommodate mandated standardized testing.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Markarian stated the percentage of Ridge High School students participating in the EOY of PARCC testing dropped 10% from the initial testing period.

VIII. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the rotating drop schedule, extension of the school day/year, Option 2 and quarterly/end-of-year summative assessments.

IX. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of [disbursements](#) dated May 4, 2015 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$2,859,762.98.

2) WHEREAS, the Superintendent and Business Administrator prepared this 2015-2016 budget on forms prescribed by the State Department of Education and submitted it along with required supporting documentation to the Executive County Superintendent, and

WHEREAS, the Executive County Superintendent reviewed and approved the budget, and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards, and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A

RESOLVED, the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve and adopt the following school district budget for the 2015-2016 school year for purposes of establishing the tax levy:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2015-16 Total Expenditures:	\$89,509,170	\$1,258,393	\$5,549,108	\$96,316,671
Less: Anticipated Revenues:	<u>\$9,009,841</u>	<u>\$1,258,393</u>	<u>\$330,545</u>	<u>\$10,598,779</u>
Taxes to be Raised:	<u>\$80,499,329</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,218,563</u>	<u>\$85,717,892</u>

And be it

RESOLVED, that there should be raised for General Funds \$80,499,329 for the ensuing school year 2015-2016.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the schedule of **municipal tax levy** for the 2015-16 school year:

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
2015-2016 TAX LEVY SCHEDULE

	<u>General Funds:</u>	<u>Debt Services:</u>	<u>Total Payment</u>
July	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 1,675,188.87	\$ 8,383,466.29
August	\$ 6,708,277.42		\$ 6,708,277.42
September	\$ 6,708,277.42		\$ 6,708,277.42

October	\$ 6,708,277.42		\$ 6,708,277.42
November	\$ 6,708,277.42		\$ 6,708,277.42
December	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 934,093.13	\$ 7,642,370.55

Sub Total: \$ 40,249,664.50 \$ 2,609,282.00 \$ 42,858,946.50

January	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 1,675,188.87	\$ 8,383,466.29
February	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 772,640.89	\$ 7,480,918.31
March	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 40,362.81	\$ 6,748,640.23
April	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 40,362.81	\$ 6,748,640.23
May	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 40,362.81	\$ 6,748,640.23
June	\$ 6,708,277.42	\$ 40,362.81	\$ 6,748,640.23

Sub Total: \$ 40,249,664.50 \$ 2,609,281.00 \$ 42,858,945.50

2014-2015 Levy: \$ 80,499,329.00 \$ 5,218,563.00 \$ 85,717,892.00

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>
N. Markarian	NJASA Annual Spring Conference	\$1,025.50	5/13/15 – 5/15/15

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Shah, Items #1 through #4 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne (except Items #2), Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
- “Noes” - Mr. Byrne (only Item #2)
- “Abstain” - None

PERSONNEL

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the BTAA Negotiations meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Linda Wooldridge stated the next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 8.

POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

- a) Policy File Code: 0134 Board Self Evaluation
- b) Policy File Code: 0142.1 Nepotism (M)
- c) Policy File Code: 0152 Board Officers
- d) Policy File Code: 2622 Student Assessment (M)
- e) Policy File Code: 3212 Attendance (Teaching Staff Member)
- f) Policy File Code: 4212 Attendance (Support Staff Member)
- g) Policy File Code: 5465 Early Graduation (M)

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

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne (except Item #1a, c, e & f), Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Kusel, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
- “Noes” - Mr. Byrne (only Item #1a, c, e & f)
- “Abstain” - None

ADVOCACY

Chairperson Karen Richman stated the committee met with the PTO Advisory Board on Monday, May 4.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge stated the next Municipal Alliance meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5.

X. Public Comment

Comments were made regarding a resolution/statement by the Board of Education in regard to state mandated testing. A comment was made in regard to the positive value of student testing.

XI. Board Forum

Board President Robin McKeon distributed and read a draft resolution on the topic of mandated standardized asking for Board member feedback. Feedback should be sent to Mr. Markarian. Ms. Wooldridge read a list of concerns from the public in regard to PARCC testing. A letter will be sent to state officials after the completion of the EOY assessments.

A comment was made in regard to science labs and the rotating drop schedule. This schedule will be brought back to the supervisors and staff for their input.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Mr. Fry, and approved by all the present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary