

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012
REGULAR AGENDA 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- I. **Salute to Flag** – page 56
- II. **Roll Call** – page 56
- III. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium** – page 56
- IV. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 56
- V. **Superintendent’s Report**
 - 1) Approve **Ridge High School Forensics Overnight Trip** – page 57
- VI. **Public Comments on Agenda Items** – page 57
- VII. **Committee Reports**

FINANCE

- 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated September 10, 2012 – page 58
- 2) Approve **Professional Development Expense** 2012-13 School Year – page 58

PERSONNEL – page 58
Report on Progress

AD HOC FACILITIES – page 58
Report on Progress

CURRICULUM – page 58
Report on Progress

POLICY – page 59
Report on Progress

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – page 59
Report on Progress

LIASION REPORTS – page 59
Report on Progress

VIII. Board Forum

1) Discussion **2012-13 Board Goals** – page 59

IX. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items – page 59

X. Adjournment – page 60

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012
REGULAR MINUTES 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon,
Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian,
Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Attorney Cherie Adams

ABSENT: Mr. Koch

III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

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. 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. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, a member of the Board or Administration will address it in the Board Response portion of the agenda.

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

Superintendent Nick Markarian reported on the successful opening of the school year. He stated that, unlike last year, only a few transportation issues occurred with most involving private school routes. Enrollment increased by 42 students since last reported (CHS +6, LCS +9, MPS +7, OS +3, WAMS +9, RHS +8).

Mr. Markarian updated the Board on the two staff in-service days. He thanked Mr. Siet for the coordination of the staff training on September 5 stating this is the first time a pairing of teachers and administrators, as a training team, has been utilized. Training was held on the Danielson model and Teachscape in preparation for the new teacher observation system. Mr. Markarian noted the State changed the title of the teacher evaluation program from EE4NJ to TEACHNJ.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **2012 Ridge High School Forensics** overnight trip for September 2012:

9/21/2012 – 9/23/2012 Yale University, New Haven, CT

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah,
Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

VI. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

VII. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated September 10, 2012 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$1,005,356.20.
- 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 2012-13 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date:</u>
R. McLaughlin	GAAP Refresher/NJSCPA	\$269	9/21/2012

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

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah,
Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

Ms. McGowan updated the Board on the August 27 Finance Committee meeting. Items discussed included a review of the monthly reports, a proposal received in regard to refunding of bonds, an update on 2011-12 reserves, and funding concerns facing the 2013-14 school budget. At the September 19 meeting Business Administrator Rod McLaughlin will review the monthly reports and update the committee on healthcare.

PERSONNEL

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the next meeting is scheduled for September 20.

AD HOC FACILITIES

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated the next meeting is scheduled for September 14 with discussion to include TEACHNJ, review of in-service days, and an overview of summer curriculum writing.

POLICY

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the next meeting is scheduled for September 12. The committee plans to discuss the school calendar, Ridge High athletics, ESL, Strauss Esmay's Policy Alerts, and a planned 'wellness check' of all Board policies.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn stated the committee held its first meeting with the PTO Advisory Board on September 10. Discussion included the PTO meeting calendar, distribution of funds raised through PTO efforts, busing, and creating an online district calendar.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge updated the Board on scheduled meetings with Somerset County Educational Services Commission.

VIII. Board Forum

1) Discussion 2012-13 Board Goals

Mr. Markarian stated the Board does not need to adhere to a strict one-year timeline as development can be for two-year goals. He suggested topics such as how to generate revenue, continuing to move forward with a solution to the Ridge High School campus traffic issue, a joint project with the Ridge High Sports Foundation, and analyzing AP courses to expand and/or make a connection with local colleges/universities.

Board suggestions included developing a method for alumni donations, continuing to address student stressors, and reviewing the AP exam schedule to coincide with additional teaching time. It was also suggested that goals could be originated by individual Board committees and then brought to the full Board for discussion. All suggestions should be e-mailed to Mr. Markarian.

IX. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding various traffic studies completed in regard to Ridge High School, and the current and future traffic impact of this issue on the community.

This subject, as well as, the comments made this evening will continue to be discussed in the Board's Facility Committee with results of this discussion brought to the full Board.

X. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary