

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
APRIL 5, 2021
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00 PM
ON APRIL 5, 2021 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2021
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00 PM
ON APRIL 5, 2021 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon,
Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian,
Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Ms. Fox

IV. Executive Session – 5:31 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, b, e, f, g and h below which falls within an exception of our open meeting policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule:

- a. Individual privacy
- b. Collective bargaining agreements
- c. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- d. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- f. Pending or anticipated litigation
- g. Attorney – client privilege
- h. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

On motion by Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. Richman and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:38p.m.

Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

On motion by Ms.White seconded by Ms. McKeon and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:34p.m.

V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:02p.m.

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 the Open Public Meetings Act.

Due to the public health emergency in the State of New Jersey, as declared in Executive Order 103, the Board will be suspending its normal meeting procedures this evening and conducting a virtual meeting. Directions for accessing the virtual public meeting were posted on the District website: www.bernardsboe.com. These same directions were posted at our intended but unavailable meeting location.

We very much welcome input from the public. Because this is a virtual meeting, public comment will be handled in one of three ways:

PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 1 (PREFERRED) - FULL VIDEO VIA ZOOM

Step 1: When you are ready to make a public comment, join the Board of Education meeting via the Zoom link posted on the district webpage www.bernardsboe.com. Please plan for your participation in the meeting by:

- Turning your camera and microphone on
- Dressing appropriately
- Maintaining a proper background setting for your camera's view
- Having a quiet space
- Muting the YouTube live stream of the Board of Education meeting when you are speaking so that there is no feedback with your participation in the Zoom meeting

Step 2: You will be placed in a queue and admitted to the meeting when it is your turn to make a public comment. Once you see that you are admitted to the Zoom call it will be your turn to make your public comment. Please begin your public comment by stating your full name and address.

Step 3: After making your public comment please exit the Zoom meeting so that the next person waiting to make a public comment can be admitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 2 - DIAL-IN VIA ZOOM (VOICE ONLY)

Step 1: When you are ready to make a public comment, join the Zoom meeting using the dial in phone number and meeting ID posted on the district website www.bernardsboe.com. Please plan for your participation in the meeting by:

- Having a quiet space
- Muting the YouTube live stream of the Board of Education meeting when you are speaking so that there is no feedback with your participation in the Zoom meeting

Step 2: You will be placed in a queue and admitted to the meeting when it is your turn to make a public comment. Once you see that you are admitted to the Zoom call it will be your turn to make your public comment. Please begin your public comment by stating your full name and address.

Step 3: After making your public comment please exit the Zoom meeting so that the next person waiting to make a public comment can be admitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 3

If the preferred full video method of public comment is not an option for you and the dial-in method fails, please follow these directions to submit your public comment.

Step 1: Starting at 7PM: email your comment to BTCConnect@bernardsboe.com or text your comment to (908) 292-3047.

Step 2: Use PUBLIC COMMENT as the email subject or start of a text message.

Step 3: Indicate your first and last name and address. ***THIS IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED.***

Regardless of whether you use method 1, 2 or 3 for public comment please note that:

- Public comments are limited to a maximum of approximately 3 minutes if read aloud.

- Individuals are permitted a maximum of one public comment during public comment on agenda items. Individuals are permitted a maximum of one public comment during public comment on non-agenda items.
- Public comments submitted via method 1 and 2 will be processed first, then comments submitted by method 3. An individual's comments made using method 1 or 2 will not also be read into the record through method 3.
- The Board of Education reserves the right to limit the length of time allotted for public comment (for both agenda items and non-agenda items). In the event that time limitations prohibit the reading of a public comment received pursuant to these instructions, the comment will be published as part of the meeting minutes.
- No public comments will be accepted before 7PM or after item XIX. Board Forum of the agenda begins.

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. The Board may or may not respond to public comments. Any Board responses to public comments will generally be addressed during Board Forum, or during committee reports. However, all comments are considered and will be investigated and addressed as appropriate.

Please be courteous and mindful of the rights of others when providing comments. Comments may not be abusive, obscene, threatening or irrelevant. Please understand that students and employees have specific legal and privacy protections. The Board is not permitted to respond in public to comments about students and employees. Please also understand that the Board will not be responsible for the content of comments made by members of the public. Members of the public are cautioned that they are commenting at their own risk and any personally directed statements they make may subject them to legal liability to the effected individual.

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.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education hereby approves the suspension of its normal meeting procedures pursuant to By-Law 131, and authorizes this meeting to be conducted as a virtual meeting, as described in the Statement of Public Notice, due to the public health emergency declared in Executive Order 103.

VII. Student Representative - Juliet Nolt

Ms. Nolt provided an update regarding the end of marking period three, rescheduling of Senior Prom and the excitement for the end of the school year.

VIII. Board Presentation

1) Instructional Program Plans for Spring 2021 - Administrative Team

Superintendent Markarian welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the principals of the schools and Ms. O'Connell, Director of Special Education, for attending the meeting to help discuss the upcoming adjustments to the school year that are anticipated to take place later this spring.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the form issued on March 12, 2021 to all of the families in the district to indicate what instructional program they would like their child enrolled in for the fourth marking period of the school year and how those numbers would impact the plans of the district. Mr. Markarian provided a breakdown of the schools and the percentage of the current student body from each school that would potentially be returning to school. Mr. Markarian also reviewed the health conditions and daily rates of cases as reported.

Assistant Superintendent Sean Siet discussed the vaccination efforts within the school district. Mr. Siet discussed that two rounds of vaccinations were made available to the staff, the survey of staff with regard to their vaccine status and upcoming schedules for staff vaccination.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the new guidelines for school operations that were issued on March 19, 2021 by the CDC and then the following week the New Jersey Department of Health updated their recommendations on March 23, 2021. Mr. Markarian noted that in elementary schools that students should be at least 3 feet apart and that for middle and high school students should be at least 3 feet apart in areas of low, moderate or substantial community transmission but that they remain 6 feet apart in areas of high community transmission.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the recommendations that resulted from the research and factors that he discussed. Recommendations were to keep school schedules status quo for the week of April 19, 2021. For the week of April 26, 2021 maintain the early dismissal and no lunches but implement the selections parent made for 4th marking period. Finally, on Monday, May 3, 2021 full day schedules would begin for all in-person and virtual students with students needing to provide their own lunches. Mr. Markarian also discussed what-if scenarios that included an uptick in cases following spring break or the regional CALI scores stay orange and health conditions are not satisfactory. Mr. Markarian reiterated that all positive student cases of COVID-19 should be reported to covidcase@bernardsboe.com.

Superintendent Markarian discussed action items that need to be done to return to full day instruction. Items included scheduling in Genesis, transportation, lunch plans, specials, restaging of classrooms and safety measures.

Ms. O'Connell, Director of Special Education, discussed the Special Education program in relation to self-contained classes, resource room and in-class support and the Extended School Year program and the impact of the potential school day changes on these programs. Ms. O'Connell stressed the importance of student attendance in the classroom for success.

Dr. Oliver, Ms. Hozeny, Ms. Foley and Mr. Ciempola, the principals of the elementary schools, discussed common changes in the elementary schools. Changes included specials and passing time, the special education schedule, instructional support schedule, ESL schedule, Spanish schedule, related services schedule and recess. Also discussed were average class sizes, indoor and outdoor lunch, specials, arrival and dismissal times and grade level schedules.

Ms. Hudock, principal of William Annin Middle School, discussed the secondary schedules returning to the nine period day, the daily COVID screening, anticipated traffic increases and social distancing requirements. Some of the implications that Ms. Hudock discussed were the nine period day with three minute passing time, start and end times of the school day, teacher availability to cover classes, class sizes and end of year activities such as celebrations, awards, graduation and the eighth grade dance that had been cancelled but noted that celebrations are taken into consideration if restrictions ease. Ms. Hudock also discussed the lunch schedule for both the abbreviated day and full day schedules.

Dr. Lazovick, principal of Ridge High School, discussed implications at the high school that vary from the middle school. Dr. Lazovick noted the four minute passing time, social distancing, the full day school schedule, online pass system, a daily entry pass that will be needed to enter the school, teacher availability, the reinstatement of senior privilege, average class sizes and the lunch implementation plan. Dr. Lazovick stressed that cooperation by the student body is necessary and important to keep the new schedule and end of school year activities such as proms, senior breakfast, project graduation and awards ceremonies intact.

Superintendent Markarian encouraged everyone who travels during spring break to follow CDC and NJDOH guidance noting that if guardians would like their students to be virtual the week after spring break they may do so, reiterated that close contacts are still 6 feet/ 15 minutes and quarantine is 14 days, desired CALI scores of yellow or better, noted that the district is still awaiting NJDOE guidance for end of year events and thanked everyone for their vigilance in monitoring their household health so that schools may stay open and numbers improve. Mr. Markarian also thanked the Business Office for working with the principals to obtain outdoor seating arrangements for students.

Ms. Richman discussed her prior reservations regarding lunch periods and that after hearing the presentations from the principals she feels more confident about them and expressed her appreciation to the principals for their hard work in keeping the students and staff safe.

Ms. Korn echoed Ms. Richman's sentiments and also acknowledged the hard work of the Health Department and nurses in the district. Ms. Korn discussed the frustration with the return to school and the length of time it has taken to have the children back in school.

Ms. McKeon made note of the advancements toward going back to a full day schedule and expressed her optimism about the plans in place for the schools.

Ms. White commented with regard to the decision making process of the Board for the students of Bernards Township and her trust in the plan that is being implemented.

Mr. Salmon highlighted the work that Assistant Superintendent Siet did along with the BTEA in coordination with Atlantic Health to make vaccines available to the staff and that he is hoping the anticipated feedback for the new plan is positive.

Ms. Gray reiterated Mr. Salmon's statement and provided her support to the plan going forward. Ms. Gray noted the positive feedback from parents and thanked the administrative team for their hard work.

To view the presentation click [here](#).

IX. Superintendent's Report

No report.

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Comments from the public included a comment from a student stating her comfort level with the return to Ridge High School and that she is concerned with students complying to safety protocol and with her comfort with the half day schedule versus the proposed full day schedule, a concern with transmission rates and the full day schedule, support for allowing students to remove their masks at their desks and outside, a concern with eating at school and transmission, support for the return to school plan, student excitement with the return to full instruction and concerns with with return to school the week after spring break.

Superintendent Markarian addressed the mask mandate while students are at school, addressed playground equipment use, discussed the school schedule after spring break and several logistics behind the plan for return to instruction.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

March 22, 2021 - Executive Session Minutes

March 22, 2021 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Mr. Salmon the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

XII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated April 5, 2021 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$5,272,078.88.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education approves the withdrawal in the amount not to exceed \$534,500 from the Capital Reserve Fund to be transferred to the Capital Projects fund to cover the costs of the approved project for the William Annin Middle School Science Lab Renovations project.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the submission of the FY 2021 CRRSA – ESSER II grant application in the amount of:

- CRRSA – ESSER II - \$1,000,565
- Learning Acceleration - \$64,211
- Mental Health - \$45,000

On motion by Mr. Salmon, seconded by Ms. Richman Items #1-3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Mr. Salmon provided a description of finance agenda items.

XIII. Personnel Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following personnel items upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the retirement of **Barbara Kurlansik** Student Assistance Counselor William Annin Middle School effective June 30, 2021.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the retirement of **Bruce Morozko** Art Teacher Ridge High School effective June 30, 2021.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the retirement of **Kim Kenworthy** Secretary Mount Prospect School effective June 30, 2021.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Lynn LaMonte** Accountant District Business Office effective April 30, 2021.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Carrie Capozzi** School Counselor Ridge High School effective August 25, 2021 through September 7, 2021 utilizing 10 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective September 8, 2021 through November 26, 2021 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective September 8, 2021 through November 26, 2021 then an unpaid child care leave effective November 27, 2021 through November 30, 2022, returning December 1, 2022.
- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Jenna Halpin** LDTC Cedar Hill and Oak Street Schools effective September 1, 2021 through October 20, 2021 utilizing 33 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective October 21, 2021 through January 13, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective October 21, 2021 through January 13, 2022 then an unpaid Child Care Leave effective January 14, 2022 through June 30, 2022, returning September 1, 2022.
- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave for **Mario Licata** Music Teacher ABA Program Mount Prospect School effective May 3, 2021 through June 22, 2021 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective May 3, 2021 through June 22, 2021, returning September 1, 2021.
- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Kimberly Mazza** Grade 1 Teacher Oak Street School effective

September 1, 2021 through October 25, 2021 utilizing 35 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective October 26, 2021 through January 31, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective October 26, 2021 through January 31, 2022 then an unpaid child care leave effective February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, returning February 1, 2023.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave for **Justine Rolandelli** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective April 19, 2021 through May 16, 2021 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective April 19, 2021 through May 16, 2021, returning May 17, 2021.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Changes in Assignments/Locations/Leaves and/or Salaries** for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Joanna Rice	Approve a paid Child Care Leave effective February 8, 2021 through April 6, 2021 utilizing 38 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective April 7, 2021 through June 30, 2021 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective April 7, 2021 through June 30, 2021, returning September 1, 2021	Approve a paid Child Care Leave effective February 8, 2021 through April 27, 2021 utilizing 48 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective April 28, 2021 through June 30, 2021 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective April 28, 2021 through June 30, 2021, returning September 1, 2021
Lisa Pisciotta	AM Proctor .2 Oak Street School \$262.00 1 year/0 points/\$0 September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	AM Proctor .2 Oak Street School \$170.30 1 year/0 points/\$0 September 1, 2020 through March 15, 2021
Nancy Leichleider	AM Proctor .2 Oak Street School \$262.00 0 years/0 points/\$0 (10 months)	AM Proctor .2 Oak Street School \$235.80 0 years/0 points/\$0 (9 months)

Kristin Bobowicz	AM Proctor .2 Oak Street School \$262.00 0 years/0 points/\$0	AM Proctor .2 Oak Street School \$288.20 0 years/0 points/\$0
Sarah Riley	Ridge High School	Mount Prospect School

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Lynn LaMonte** Comptroller Business Office at a salary of \$117,000 effective May 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Alison McKenna** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$22.81 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective April 19, 2021 through June 18, 2021.

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following Staff Members in the **Various Assignment** listed for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Maureen Rodgers	Ridge Ready	\$69.33 per hour (21-22 school year)
Matt Lyons	Ridge Ready	\$69.33 per hour (21-22 school year)
Sari Sprinsteel	Spring Track Assistance-SE	\$30.91 per hour
Brenda Hilferty	Spring Track Assistance-SE	\$30.91 per hour
Ben Donaghy	Assistant Unified Track Coach WAMS	\$500.00 (paid directly from the Special Olympics)
Ryan Hughes	Overlap Guidance Counselor RHS	\$125.00 (4/8/21)
Steve Hendershot	Mentor High School Classified Students	\$68.30 per hour
Taylor Boehmer	Mentor High School Classified Students	\$68.30 per hour
Jennifer Richardson	At Home Program Aide SE	\$30.91 per hour

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>20-21 Salary:</u>	<u>Years/Points/Longevity:</u>
RH	Jeff Sutherland	Spring Fitness Center 5 x week	\$3,410	0 years/0 points/\$0
RH	Bill Tracy	Spring Fitness Center 4 x week	\$2,728	10 years/2 pnts/\$399

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **ACT Proctors** for April 17, 2021:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Christine Corgiliano	Standard Proctor w/Writing	\$135.00
Nesi Calderon	Standard Proctor	\$125.00
Laura Phillips	Standard Proctor	\$125.00
Fiorella Bolgona	Standard Proctor	\$125.00
Georgiana Paril	Extended Time Proctor	\$185.00
Mary Russoniello	Hall Monitor	\$100.00

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **mentors** for the 2020-21 school year, mentoring fee to be paid by the provisional teacher:

<u>Provisional Teacher:</u>	<u>Position:</u>	<u>Mentor:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Philip Marton	Social Studies	Karen Applebaum	\$238.34
Julie Shicatano	Dance	Carson Michura	\$383.34

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby hereby **abolish** the position of Assistant Business Administrator effective May 1, 2021.

On motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Ms. Schafer Items #1-17 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White
 “Noes” - None
 “Abstain” - None

Ms. McKeon provided a report from the March 19, 2021 Personnel Committee Meeting. Topics included BTAA negotiations, district vaccination efforts and several stipends in consideration.

XIV. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XV. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XVI. Wellness Committee Report

No report.

XVII. Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. Korn mentioned the Grab and Go program at the library for teens.

XVIII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Comments from the public included the timing of spring break, the return to instruction plan and concerns regarding transmission in high school and during gym class.

Superintendent Markarian addressed the concern with gym class at Ridge High School and thanked the commenter for the reminder to discuss with Dr. Lazovick, Ridge High School principal, and Mr. Shello, the Athletic Director.

XIX. Board Forum

Ms. Schafer urged board members to focus on academic testing with regard to scheduling of spring break.

Ms. Gray referred to the Board asking if they would like them to send the spring break schedule to the Policy Committee for review. Board members commented that this topic has been discussed and considered recently.

Ms. Gray noted that any movement of spring break must consider academic impact and noted that no members were in support of reviewing this issue again.

XX. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Korn and seconded by Mr. Salmon and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary