

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
FEBRUARY 28, 2022
REGULAR SESSION 6:31 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:32 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:04 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2022
REGULAR SESSION 6:31 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:32 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:04 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:31 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Mr. Khanna (via zoom), Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

Absent: None

IV. Executive Session – 6:32 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, b, 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

The Executive Session was tabled due to time constraints.

V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:04 p.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 P.L. 1975 Chapter 231A.

Due to the pandemic, the Board of Education expects that in-person attendees to this meeting:

- 1) Have completed and passed a self-assessment of personal health (done at home using the [district's screening tool](#)).
- 2) Wear a face covering pursuant to N.J. EO-251.
- 3) Sit in a socially distanced manner from members of different households.
- 4) Maintain social distancing if waiting in line to make public comment.

For those members of the public who are unable to attend our meeting in-person there are two livestream links of the meeting posted through the district website, www.bernardsboe.com. The two livestream links are both airing our meeting, each simply backs up the other to be prepared for possible technical difficulty.

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, when 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 matter of public concern related to the schools.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration. No participant may speak more than once during a given public comment session. 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 different time limit for individual comments and/or to set an overall time limit for the public comment portions of the agenda. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer, no participant may address or question Board members individually.

As a courtesy to those individuals unable to attend our meetings in person, public comment may be made remotely through Zoom. Interested individuals should navigate to the district webpage, www.bernardsboe.com, and select "Board of Education" followed by "Public Comment" to review specific instructions, or click [here](#).

Public comments made in-person will be processed first, then comments via Zoom. 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 speaking. 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 speaking 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.

VII. Student Representative – Gordon Li

Mr. Li provided a report of the recent accomplishments. Such accomplishments included successes of the Ridge High School Cheerleading Team, the Ridge High School Forensics and the Ridge Swim Team. Mr. Li noted that spring is coming and that the student body is looking forward to what the warmer weather will bring.

A board member followed up in regard to the recent meeting with the Ridge High School Student Government. Mr. Li commented on the success of the meeting and that the students are open to future meetings and the support that the Board provides to them.

VIII. Board President Comment

Board President McKeon commented about the GoGuardian announcement that went out to the district and stated that the pilot is on hold and asked that if there are any questions or concerns to please email the Board so they may be discussed in future meetings.

IX. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby acknowledge receipt of

the **2021-2024 English Language Learner Three-Year Plan**.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby recognize the inception of the following **New Extra-Curricular Club**:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Club:</u>
Ridge High School	The Cricket Club

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated February 28, 2022.

4) NJDOH February 22, 2022 Guidance Update

5) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Gray Items #1-3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Gray, Ms. Light, Ms. Khanna, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh, Ms. White
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - None

Superintendent Markarian thanked everyone for coming to the Board of Education meeting and provided a description of the Superintendent’s Report items.

Mr. Markarian discussed the NJDOH Guidance Update in relation to the changing health conditions in the state. Mr. Markarian noted guidance documents that were issued on February 22, 2022 and February 25, 2022 discussing the challenges in developing a plan to accommodate updates.

The District Nursing Coordinator, Rita Zarabara, provided data including vaccination rates for students and staff, student and staff COVID cases since September 2021 in relation to vaccination, recent rates of COVID infection in the schools from January 3, 2022 to February 3, 2022 in relation to Bernards Township statistics. Ms. Zarabara noted that numbers are decreasing and cited that there were a number of factors that contributed to in-school transmissions and varying numbers in the schools.

Ms. Zarabara noted that cases have continued to decrease since February 5, 2022 and discussed the community risk level including Bernards Township levels. Ms. Zarabara discussed how rates of household contact pose the greatest risk to transmission of COVID.

Ms. Zarabara discussed the tools that the CDC suggests be used should community cases rise again including mask wearing and booster vaccination.

Superintendent Markarian discussed implementation of changes to close contact considerations including implementing a Test-To-Stay program and discussed the dynamics for the program.

Superintendent Markian noted that mask wearing would also be optional on school buses beginning on Monday, March 7, 2022.

Assistant Superintendent Siet discussed the Diversion, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Consultant. Mr. Siet recapped discussions that had begun prior to the public health emergency in 2020, progressing with those discussions and the DEI group US². Mr. Siet explained that the purpose for the DEI Consultant is to take a temperature of the school district and understand where the community stands on these important issues.

Megan Fuciarelli, CEO for US², discussed the benefits and goals for assessing diversity, equity and inclusion in a district, the logistics behind understanding the dynamics within a district and potential benefits.

A board member asked if the observations and participation in are optional, how leadership members are chosen for the project and tiering costs in relation to the amount of surveys administered,

Assistant Superintendent Siet discussed optional participation, noting how results could benefit Human Resources in further understanding what types of credentials could potentially be useful in the hiring process.

Ms. Fuciarelli from US² discussed determinations as to what services would be covered, allocations for hours and how costs may be offset by other services needed. Ms Fuciarelli also discussed how personnel would be selected as leadership members.

Board members asked about the dynamics of capturing responses from all groups in the district.

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Comments from the public included questions regarding selection for leadership members for the DEI analysis, an expression of appreciation for the school nurses and their hard work during the past two years, concerns in regard to COVID testing and reporting, a question about references for the DEI consultant and a zoom comment regarding response rates, and the final product of the DEI consultant work..

Superintendent Markarian spoke to the Test-To-Stay program and the honors system including ways to encourage the submission of test results and expressed his appreciation for the school nursing staff. Assistant Superintendent Siet discussed the goals for the

leadership members during the DEI analysis and research done behind finding the US² consulting group.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

February 7, 2022 - Executive Minutes

February 7, 2022 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Ms. Hira the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Ms. Khanna, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon,
Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh, 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 February 28, 2022 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$6,058,495.44.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the December 2021 and Financial Report from the Board Secretary, the monthly Investment Report for December 2021 and January 2022, the weekly reports of Electronic Fund Transfers and Bank Wires For January 2022, and the Treasurer of the School Monies Report for December 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), the Bernards Township Board of Education, after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, and to the best of their knowledge, certifies that as of the date of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report, no major account or fund has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the January 2022 line item transfers totaling \$148,418.78 the 2021-22 school budget, list on file in the Board Office.

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 2021-22 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
J. Koppes	NJTESOL	\$350	06/02/2022 - 06/03/2022
J. Bae	NJTESOL	\$250	06/02/2022
K. Stotler	NJTESOL	\$365	06/02/2022 - 06/03/2022
R. Dragon	Wrestling State Championships	\$865	03/03/2022 - 03/05/2022

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve disposal of equipment/ books for the 2021-22 School Year; list maintained in the Board of Education office.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following agreements with Somerset County Educational Services Commission for the 2022-23 school year:

- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – Chapters 192/193 and Addendum
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – N.J. Nonpublic Technology Initiative
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – N.J. Nonpublic Textbook Program
- Nonpublic Instructional Services Agreement – Nonpublic School Nursing Services

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the agreement for participation in coordinated transportation services with Somerset County Educational Services Commission for the out-of-district Special Education and Vocational transportation services for the 2022-23 school year.

8) Resolution of the Board of Education of the Township of Bernards in the County of Somerset, New Jersey, authorizing certain actions necessary in connection with the sale and issuance of not to exceed \$9,200,000 aggregate principal amount of refunding school bonds and authorizing the appropriate officials to do all acts and things deemed necessary and advisable in connection with the sale, issuance and delivery of said bonds.

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2012, The Board of Education of the Township of Bernards in the County of Somerset, New Jersey (the “Board” when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) issued \$9,700,000 aggregate principal amount of tax-exempt Refunding School Bonds, Series 2012, dated May 22, 2012 (the “2012 School Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the current interest rate environment may enable it to realize going-forward debt service savings for property taxpayers residing in the School District through the issuance by the Board of Refunding School Bonds (the “Refunding School Bonds”) to refund all or a portion of the \$8,865,000 aggregate principal amount of the outstanding 2012 School Bonds maturing on July 15 in the years 2023 through 2029, inclusive (the “Refunded Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the Board introduced a refunding school bond ordinance (the “Refunding Bond Ordinance”) on first reading by resolution of the Board on January 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on the date hereof, the Board has held a public hearing on the Refunding Bond Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined to issue and sell such Refunding School Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to authorize certain actions in connection with the sale and issuance of the Refunding School Bonds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY (by not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring), AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Refunding Bond Ordinance is hereby adopted and shall take effect immediately.

SECTION 2. The Refunding School Bonds are hereby authorized to be sold to an underwriter (the “Underwriter”), as selected by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with the Municipal Advisor (as defined herein), after a proposal process.

SECTION 3. There is hereby delegated to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, subject to the limitations contained herein and in consultation with Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey, Bond Counsel to the Board (“Bond Counsel”), and Phoenix Advisors, LLC, as Municipal Advisor to the Board (the “Municipal Advisor”), the power with respect to the Refunding School Bonds to determine and carry out the following:

a) the sale of the Refunding School Bonds at private sale, provided that the purchase price paid by the purchaser thereof shall not be less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the principal amount of the Refunding School Bonds so sold;

b) the principal amount of Refunding School Bonds to be issued, provided that (i) such amount shall not exceed \$9,200,000, and (ii) such amount shall not exceed the amount necessary to pay the costs of issuance associated with the Refunding School Bonds and to fund the deposit to the escrow fund as set forth in the Escrow Deposit Agreement (as defined herein) in an amount that, when invested, will be sufficient to provide for the timely payments required for the Refunded Bonds;

c) the maturity dates and the principal amount of each maturity or sinking fund redemption amount of the Refunding School Bonds, provided that no Refunding School Bonds refunding the Refunded Bonds shall mature later than the maturity date of the Refunded Bonds;

d) the interest payment dates and the interest rates on the Refunding School Bonds, provided that the true interest cost on the Refunding School Bonds shall produce a present value debt service savings of at least three percent (3%) of the principal amount of the Refunded Bonds;

e) the denomination or denominations of and the manner of numbering and lettering the Refunding School Bonds, provided that all Refunding School Bonds of like maturity shall be identical in all respects, except as to denominations, amounts, numbers and letters;

f) provisions for the sale or exchange of the Refunding School Bonds and for the delivery thereof;

g) the form of the Refunding School Bonds shall be substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto, with such additions, deletions and omissions as may be necessary for the Board to market the Refunding School Bonds in accordance with the requirements of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, ("DTC") and the Purchase Contract (as defined herein);

h) the direction for the application and investment of the proceeds of the Refunding School Bonds;

i) the terms of redemption of the Refunding School Bonds, if any;
and

j) any other provisions deemed advisable by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary not in conflict with the provisions hereof.

In addition, the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:30-2.5, including that within ten (10) days of the date of the closing on the Refunding School Bonds, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall file a report with the Local Finance Board within the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs setting forth (a) a comparison of

the Refunding School Bonds' debt service and the Refunded Bonds' debt service, which comparison shall set forth the present value savings achieved by the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; (b) a summary of the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; (c) an itemized accounting of all costs of issuance in connection with the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; and (d) a certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that (i) all of the conditions of Section (b) of N.J.A.C. 5:30-2.5 have been met, and (ii) this resolution authorizing the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds, adopted pursuant to 18A:24-61.5(b), was approved by a two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Board.

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall execute a certificate evidencing the determinations or other actions taken pursuant to the authority granted hereunder, and any such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the actions or determinations of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary as to the matters stated therein.

SECTION 4. The President and Vice President of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute by manual or facsimile signature the Refunding School Bonds in the name of the Board and the corporate seal (or facsimile thereof) shall be thereunto affixed, imprinted, engraved or otherwise reproduced thereon. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to attest to such signature and to the affixing of said seal to the Refunding School Bonds.

SECTION 5. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, is hereby authorized and directed to approve a Bond Purchase Contract (the "Purchase Contract"), if required, for the Refunding School Bonds, to be dated the date of sale of such Refunding School Bonds and to be executed by the Underwriter. The President, Vice President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver said Purchase Contract.

SECTION 6. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, is hereby authorized and directed to apply and qualify for the issuance of any policy of municipal bond insurance and to approve a Commitment for Municipal Bond Insurance (the "Commitment"), if required, setting forth the terms and conditions (including premium charges) upon which a bond insurer proposes to issue its bond insurance policy covering the Refunding School Bonds. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver said Commitment.

SECTION 7. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, is hereby authorized and directed to approve the Escrow Deposit Agreement (the "Escrow Deposit Agreement") with an escrow agent (the "Escrow Agent") to be selected by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, with respect to the Refunded Bonds, to be dated the date of the closing on the Refunding School Bonds. The President

and Vice President of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Escrow Deposit Agreement in the name of the Board and the corporate seal (or facsimile thereof) shall be thereunto affixed, imprinted, engraved or otherwise reproduced thereon. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to attest to such signature and to the affixing of said seal to the Escrow Deposit Agreement. The Municipal Advisor is hereby authorized to act as the agent and representative of the Board for the purpose of subscribing for the purchase of United States Treasury Securities – State and Local Government Series to be held by the Escrow Agent. In the alternative, the Municipal Advisor is hereby authorized to seek bids for the acquisition of United States Treasury Securities – Open Market Securities.

SECTION 8. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to select a verification agent (the “Verification Agent”), if required, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, with respect to the Refunded Bonds. The Verification Agent shall prepare the verification report required to verify the sufficiency of the escrowed monies to refund the Refunded Bonds.

SECTION 9. It is hereby delegated to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary the authority to “deem final” (as defined under Rule 15c2-12, as amended and supplemented (the “Rule”), promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and supplemented), a Preliminary Official Statement (the “Preliminary Official Statement”) and such official is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver a certificate to the Underwriter evidencing the same. The preparation and distribution by the Board, in consultation with Bond Counsel, and counsel to the Underwriter, if any, of a Preliminary Official Statement for the Refunding School Bonds to be used in connection with the marketing of such Refunding School Bonds, is hereby approved and any previous actions undertaken by various representatives and officers of the Board with respect thereto are hereby ratified and confirmed. Upon the sale of the Refunding School Bonds to the Underwriter, the Preliminary Official Statement shall be so modified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel, to reflect the effect of the pricing of the Refunding School Bonds and the Purchase Contract and any other revision not inconsistent with the substance thereof deemed necessary or advisable by Bond Counsel, and said Preliminary Official Statement as so modified shall constitute the final Official Statement (the “Official Statement”). The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized and directed on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver said Official Statement.

SECTION 10. The Board hereby covenants and agrees that it will comply with and carry out all of the provisions of a Continuing Disclosure Certificate (the “Certificate”) which will set forth the obligation of the Board to file budgetary, financial and operating data on an annual basis and notices of certain enumerated events deemed material in accordance with the provision of the Rule. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver this Certificate evidencing the Board’s undertaking with respect to the Rule. Notwithstanding the foregoing, failure of the Board to comply with the Certificate shall not be considered a

default on the Refunding School Bonds; however, any Bondholder may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance to cause the Board to comply with its obligations hereunder.

SECTION 11. The President, Vice President and Business Administrator/ Board Secretary or any other appropriate officer or representative of the Board, are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents and to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out the transactions contemplated by this resolution, the Purchase Contract, the Certificate, the Escrow Deposit Agreement and the Commitment, and for the authorization, sale and issuance of the Refunding School Bonds. The execution by such officials and officers of any such documents, with changes, insertions or omissions approved by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel, as hereinabove provided, shall be conclusive and no further ratification or other action by the Board shall be required with respect thereto.

SECTION 12. The Board hereby covenants to maintain the exclusion from gross income under Section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), of the interest on the Refunding School Bonds. The Board hereby delegates to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary the authorization to designate the Refunding School Bonds as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Code.

SECTION 13. All other resolutions adopted in connection with the Refunding School Bonds and inconsistent herewith are hereby rescinded to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 14. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve bilingual speech/ language, educational and psychological evaluations for student #3701577 with Learning Tree Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting in the amount not to exceed \$2,400.00.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve bilingual speech/ language, educational and psychological evaluations for student #3701588 with Learning Tree Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting in the amount not to exceed \$2,400.00.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve bilingual speech/ language, educational and psychological evaluations for student #3601572 with Learning Tree Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting in the amount not to exceed \$2,400.00.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve Spanish speech/ language, with language dominance determination for student #3101587 with Learning Tree Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting in the amount not to exceed \$800.00.

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve AAC coaching sessions for student #306124 with Garden State AAC Specialists in the amount not to exceed \$1,320.00.

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a neuropsychological evaluation for student #303315 with Dr. Rosemarie Basile of Advanced Neuropsychology, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$3,800.00.

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a functional behavioral assessment for student #2301187 with Dr. David Sidener of ROOTS ABA Autism Center in the amount not to exceed \$3,300.00.

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a bilingual speech/ language, educational and psychological evaluations for student #2901316 with Learning Tree Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting in the amount not to exceed \$2,250.00.

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby amend tuition for student #307689 for May 24, 2021 Board approval for tuition from July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$34,960.11 and October 25, 2021 Board approval for tuition from October 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 at Douglas Development Disabilities Center in the amount not to exceed \$144,180.36 for the total annual tuition not to exceed \$179,140.47.

18) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve home instruction for student #1000519 from February 3, 2022 to February 24, 2022 at Four Winds in the amount not to exceed \$1,800.00.

19) BE IT RESOLVED, the Bernards Township Board of Education hereby approves the written contract with US² Consulting, Inc., Inc. for diversity, equity and inclusion consulting services, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00, and authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the contract.

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Mr. Salmon Items #1-19 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Ms. Khanna, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh, Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Ms. Gray provided a report from the February 24, 2022 Finance Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included a Bond Refunding update from Phoenix Advisors, Aramark work order status, the Ridge High School sanitary project and the Ridge High School Girls Varsity Softball Field.

Board members asked about the costs of the bond refunding, rates dropping and time constraint options for refunding.

Tony Solomine of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer discussed the scenario behind the refunding should the rate drop, future constraints to potential transactions and ideals behind refunding bonds. Bryan Morris, Phoenix Advisors, noted that the bond term is seven years.

Ms. Gray provided a summary of the 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 **Bill Tracy** Physical Education/Health Teacher Ridge High School effective June 30, 2022.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the retirement of **Mary Knell** Secretary William Annin Middle School effective June 30, 2022.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Kendall Casey** Music Teacher Cedar Hill & Liberty Corner Schools effective June 3, 2022 through June 20, 2022 utilizing 12 personal illness days then and unpaid New Jersey Family Leave running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective September 1, 2022 through November 28, 2022, returning November 29, 2022.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Sheri Smith** Grade 4 Teacher Oak Street School effect September 1, 2022 through September 28, 2022 utilizing 19 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave & Federal Family Leave effective September 29, 2022 through January 13, 2023, then an unpaid child care leave effective January 14, 2023 through January 31, 2023, returning February 1, 2023.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a New Jersey Family Leave for **Jason Stewart** Art Teacher Ridge High effective May 2, 2022 through June 30, 2022, returning September 1, 2022.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a New Jersey Family Leave for **Barbarann Wacha** Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective February 28, 2022 through March 28, 2022, returning March 29, 2022.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Changes in Assignment, Location and/or Salaries** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Will Alston	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 then 7.5 hours per day effective January 3, 2022 through June 17, 2022.	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 then 7.5 hours per day effective January 3, 2022 through February 28, 2022 then 7 hours per day effective March 1, 2022 through June 17, 2022.
Kimberly Andresen	Speech .6 Ridge High School at a salary of Step 18 MA \$81,363 effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Salary will be prorated to reflect .6 status.	Speech .6 Ridge High School at a salary of Step 18 MA \$81,363 effective September 1, 2021 through February 8, 2022 then Speech 1.0 at a salary of Step 18 MA \$ 81,363 effective February 9, 2022 through May 24, 2022 then .6 Speech at a salary of Step 18 MA \$81,363 effective May 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Salary to be prorated to reflect fte's.
Matthew Pucci	English Language Arts Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1-5 BA \$54,380 effective January 3, 2022 through April 12, 2022 as a leave replacement for M. Hale. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates	English Language Arts Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1-5 BA \$54,380 effective January 3, 2022 through June 30, 2022 as a leave replacement for M.

	worked.	Hale. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.
Michele Robinson	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 8 MA \$64,318 effective November 8, 2021 through March 1, 2022 as a maternity leave replacement for S. Lang. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 8 MA \$64,318 effective November 8, 2021 through March 2, 2022 as a maternity leave replacement for S. Lang. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.
Maggie Rossi	A paid Child Care Leave effective September 1, 2021 through November 16, 2021 utilizing 49 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective November 17, 2021 through February 28, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective November 17, 2022 through February 28, 2022, returning March 1, 2022.	A paid Child Care Leave effective September 1, 2021 through November 16, 2021 utilizing 49 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective November 17, 2021 through February 28, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective November 17, 2022 through April 30, 2022 returning May 1, 2022.
Sandy Whelan	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 then a .4 Special Education ICS at a salary of Step 1 MA \$60,958 effective September 1, 2021 through February 16, 2022 as a leave replacement for C. Onorato, then an Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7 hours per day effective February 17, 2021 through June	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 then a .4 Special Education ICS at a salary of Step 1 MA \$60,958 effective September 1, 2021 through February 16, 2022 as a leave replacement for C. Onorato, then a .2 Special Education ICS at a salary

	17, 2022.	of Step 1 MA \$60,958 and an Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 6 hours per day effective February 17, 2021 through June 17, 2022. Salary to be prorated to reflect .2 status and dates worked.
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8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Luke Maginnis** Physical Education/Health Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1-5 BA+30 \$57,894 effective February 14, 2022 through June 30, 2022 as a leave replacement for M. O'Donnell. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing-mentoring required. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Anastassia McAteer** Special Education Teacher Liberty Corner School at a salary of Step 8 BA \$57,380 effective February 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date. Certificate of Eligibility-Alternate Route-Mentoring Required.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Jessica Solodkin** Spanish Teacher District Wide at a salary of Step 19 MA \$83,968 effective April 11, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Daniel Askin** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective March 7, 2022 through June 17, 2022.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Diana Gomez** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 4 hours per day effective March 1, 2022 through June 17, 2022.

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Salary Guide Advancement** effective March 1, 2022:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From Step:</u>	<u>From Salary:</u>	<u>To Step:</u>	<u>To Salary:</u>
Dawn Borchert	23 MA (1500)	\$97,568	23 MA+30 (1500)	\$104,013
Megan Broadhurst	20 MA	\$86,468	20 MA+30	\$93,843
Jennifer Cook	18 BA	\$72,230	18 BA+30	\$76,874

Jennifer Flaherty	7 BA	\$56,380	7 MA	\$63,198
Theresa Glazier	23 MA (1000)	\$97,068	23 MA+30 (1000)	\$103,513
Olivia Lopes	6 MA	\$62,078	6 MA+30	\$66,338
Madison Mitchell	11 BA	\$60,580	11 BA+30	\$64,429
Linda Nollkamper	23 MA (1500)	\$97,568	23 MA+30 (1500)	\$104,013
Steve Richards	20 BA	\$76,330	20 MA	\$86,468
Danielle Sardone	8 BA	\$57,380	8 MA	\$64,318
Sheri Smith	12 MA	\$69,273	12 MA+30	\$74,053
Sarah Tompson	7 BA+30	\$59,994	7 MA	\$63,198
Elizabeth Wilson	21 MA	\$89,168	21 MA+30	\$96,893

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Extra-Sections** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Course Section:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Maria Sibaja	Spanish	\$1,087.60 per month effective 2/14/22-4/11/22
Yasmina Navarro	Spanish	\$1,087.60 per month effective 2/14/22-4/11/22
Matthew McConnochie	Spanish	\$1,087.60 per month effective 2/14/22-4/11/22
Brian Scott	Brit Litt RR RHS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 3/1/22-4/11/22
Marisa Marcus	Brit Litt RR RHS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 3/1/22-4/11/22
Danielle Lehmann	Brit Lit ICS RHS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 3/1/22-4/11/22

Vivian Longo	Brit Lit ICS RHS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 3/1/22-4/11/22
Matt Lyons	Brit Litt RR RHS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 3/1/22-4/11/22

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff members in the **Various Assignment** listed for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Lakiesha Beaubrum	At Home Visits-SE	\$69.33
Catherine Castoro	After School Activities Coverage OS	\$20.22 per hour
Bonnie Chester	After Care Student Worker CH	\$13.00 per hour
Beth Grabowski	After School Activities Coverage OS	\$22.40 per hour
Brenda Hilferty	Spring Track Assistance-SE	\$31.37 per hour
Emily Hsu	After Care Student Worker CH	\$13.00 per hour
Alexander Ingraham	After Care Student Worker OS	\$13.00 per hour
Matt Lyons	Ridge Ready Program	\$69.33 per hour
Chloe O'Malley	District Substitute	\$115.00 per diem
Jordan Marcus	Spring Track Assistance-SE	\$31.37 per hour
Nicole Polisenno	Before School Chorus Assistance - SE	\$62.50 per hour
Michele Robinson	District Substitute	\$125.00 per diem effective 3/3/22
Maureen Rodgers	Ridge Ready Program	\$69.33 per hour
Sari Springsteel	Spring Track Assistance-SE	\$31.37 per hour
Gavin Turner	After Care Student Worker	\$13.00 per hour
Janina Ann Yekelchik	After School Activities Coverage OS	\$20.22 per hour

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>21-22:</u>	<u>Years/Points/Longevity:</u>
RH	Marie Wurtemberg	AM Proctor (3/1/22-6/30/22)	\$1,064	0 years/0 points/\$0
RH	Marcus Perez	Assistant Forensic Debate - National Circuit	\$2,365	n/a
RH	Patrick Rynerson	Assistant Indoor Winter Track Girls'	\$5,747	n/a

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Mini Unit Instructors** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Teacher:</u>	<u>School:</u>	<u>Course:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>
William Baker	OSS	Lego Lovers	\$971.00
Carly Long	OSS	Pokemon Go!	\$971.00
Jessica DeRose	OSS	Crafty Kids	\$971.00
Theresa Glazier	OSS	Super Scientists A	\$971.00
Melanie Sackie	OSS	Super Scientists A	\$971.00
Shannon Baumann	OSS	Super Scientists B	\$971.00
Christine Buckner	OSS	Crochet for Beginners	\$971.00
Glen Denys	OSS	Nature Quest	\$971.00
Kerry Bowden-Testa	OSS	Houdini's Secret	\$971.00
Jessica DeRose	OSS	Jessica DeRose	\$971.00

Melanie Sackie	OSS	Discovering Spanish	\$971.00
Carly Long	OSS	I Can Draw!	\$971.00
Christine Buckner	OSS	Crochet Workshop	\$971.00

18) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Staff College Instructors** for the winter, spring 2021-22 school year:

<u>Teacher:</u>	<u>Course Description:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Ken Marsh	CPR, AED, First Aid for Coaches	\$225
Tom Blackwell	CPR, AED, First Aid for Coaches	\$225
Joseph Bae	Book Creator App for your Classroom	\$1,050
Jill Stedronsky	Seeing the Potential in all Humans	\$1,050
Jill Stedronsky	Teaching Writing from a Writer's Perspective	\$1,050

19) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **mentors** for the 2021-2022 school year, mentoring fee to be paid by the provisional teacher:

<u>Provisional Teacher:</u>	<u>Position:</u>	<u>Mentor:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Paul Zartler	ESL – District wide	Yasmina Navarro	\$58.83
Paul Zartler	ESL – District Wide	Joseph Bae	\$529.43

20) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **District Volunteers** for the 2021-22 school year:

Sean Ulichny	Baseball WAMSAO
John Fico	Softball WAMSAO
Margie Murray	Girls Lacrosse WAMSAO
Ryan Schilling	Boys' Lacrosse WAMSAO

Kevin Karch	Track & Field WAMSAO
Anthony Arimenta	Track & Field WAMSAO
Chloe O'Malley	Track & Field WAMSAO
Olivia Lopes	Track & Field WAMSAO
Sarah Kaufman	Track & Field WAMSAO
Lori Thompson	Track & Field Clinic WAMSAO
Frank LoCascio	Track & Field Clinic WAMSAO
Claire Lodato	Volleyball Clinic WAMSAO
Christopher Pereira	Volleyball Clinic WAMSAO
Philip Marton	Volleyball Clinic WAMSAO

On motion by Ms. Singh seconded by Ms. Schafer Items #1-20 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Ms. Khanna, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh, Ms. White
 “Noes” - None
 “Abstain” - None

XIV. Policy Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following policies on **first reading**:

- P 0155 - Board Committees (Revised)
- P 0169 - Board Member Use of Internet/Email (Revised)

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. White Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Ms. Khanna, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh, Ms. White
 “Noes” - None
 “Abstain” - None

Ms. Hira provided a report from the February 7, 2022 Policy Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included records retention policy, regulation for public complaints and grievances, the BOE committee regulation, the ending mask mandates and first readings of policies for board committees and board member use of the internet and email.

XV. Curriculum Committee Report

Ms. White provided a report from the February 4, 2022 Curriculum Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included course title updates, discussion updates for STEM and Board of Education Minutes February 28, 2022

Science 8, Option II, wellness, mathematics programs, community service, curricular mandates and the upcoming scheduling season.

XVI. Wellness Committee Report

Ms. Schafer provided a report from the February 17, 2022 Curriculum Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included a presentation from the K-5 Counseling Staff, a Ridge High School Wellness program update, an Academic Planning night review, a review for the January 2022 in-service day and an update to the Coach's Handbook.

XVII. Liaison Committee Reports

No report.

XVIII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Comments from the public included the DEI leadership selection, GoGuardian software and information monitoring, a question regarding the metrics in mathematics, questions regarding board committee selection logistics, a comment regarding the previous meeting's Board Forum and the board vacancy selection process, elaboration on public comments made at that meeting, literature concerns with consistency and a comment in regard to expressing diverse opinions. A zoom comment included a concern regarding the mathematics program.

Board President McKeon discussed the mathematics proficiency test results, the GoGuardian system, addressed the tension at the last Board meeting citing the public health crisis challenges and frustrations during the past two years and encouraged everyone to work together moving forward and discussed the development of committees.

Superintendent Markarian noted that there would be a presentation in April in regard to technology, that the website was being worked on and he explained the rationale for using the Performing Arts Center for Board meetings.

XIX. Board Forum

Ms. Gray questioned some wording in the policy on board committees, shared that the Twilight Challenge Run held by the Municipal Alliance would be held on June 5, 2022 and spoke to concerned members of the community and stressed the importance of being civil in varying opinions as the Board Members and community alike care about the welfare of children.

Ms. Light thanked the teachers and administration for taking on additional sections of classes and outstanding positions open citing their dedication to the children, thanked the

community for staying engaged and a concern regarding the GoGuardian communication and program.

Ms. White discussed committee formation and the various methods a committee uses to provide board members with information.

Ms. Singh reiterated that the board members care about the kids and stressed the need for working together for the betterment of the children.

Ms. Gray encouraged the public to reach out and ask questions.

Ms. Schafer discussed the logistics and work involved in being a committee member.

Mr. Salmon noted that new board members benefit from initially starting on the Policy Committee.

Business Administrator Rod McLaughlin noted that expertise is regularly brought into committee meetings that could not necessarily be presented otherwise and the importance and advantage of the committee system.

XX. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Hira and seconded by Ms. Light and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary