

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
FEBRUARY 7, 2022
REGULAR SESSION 5:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:01 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
MEETING WITH RIDGE HIGH STUDENT GOVERNMENT 6:00 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:00 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Mr. Khanna, 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 – 5:01 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

On motion by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Schafer and approved by all present, the Board recessed into public session at 5:05p.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. Schafer seconded by Ms. Singh and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 5:58p.m.

V. Public Session, Meeting with Ridge High School Student Government – 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education members met with the Ridge High School Student Government to discuss the challenges and concerns of the student body.

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

VII. 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 XXI. 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.

VIII. Student Representative – Gordon Li

Mr. Li provided a report of the upcoming events that the student body is looking forward to including 2022-23 school year class selections, post-graduate considerations, upcoming studies presentations from the Guidance Department and student activity achievements including the Swim Team, Ridge Forensics and Ridge Band accomplishments. The Ridge High School Student Government thanked the Board Members, Administration and staff for meeting with the students earlier in the evening.

IX. Board President Comments

Board President McKeon spoke about the recent lift of the mask mandate by Governor Murphy and described some of the logistics that the Board is taking into consideration to keep the students and staff safe.

X. Board Presentation

1) State and Local Assessments Fall 2021 – Kristin Fox, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Fox, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction provided an overview of the State and Local Assessment presentation and thanked administrators, teachers and support staff that assisted with the presentation.

Assistant Superintendent Fox discussed state reporting guidelines, a Start Strong assessment overview that assessed English Language Arts, Math and Science for the 2020-21 school year. Ms. Fox described the design of the assessment, considerations in interpreting the results including the impact of learning during the public health emergency. Ms. Fox also discussed how the data collected would be utilized in the school district.

Assistant Superintendent Fox provided an overview of students who tested in the sections of English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science and how the assessments aligned with the courses the students had completed. Ms. Fox discussed participation rates in each grade, scales that measured how much support is needed in each area and district level achievement in all three categories broken into support levels. Ms. Fox also provided a demographic breakdown of scoring and support levels needed. Ms. Fox provided analytics for Start Strong data and how the data was used.

Assistant Superintendent Fox discussed ACCESS testing for English Language Learners, how the tests were administered and their results and Dynamic Learning Map testing for students with significant learning needs. Ms. Fox also discussed the MAP assessment that measures student growth and achievement and placement decisions, provided a six year history of MAP scores by grade level, tracking of mean scores in all grades in comparison to national mean scores and an overall analysis of MAP data.

Assistant Superintendent Fox discussed areas that will be further addressed based on the data from the testing and interventions that will take place and upcoming assessments scheduled for the Spring of 2022.

Board members asked a question with regard to testing and graduation requirements, thanked Assistant Superintendent Fox for her presentation and the time that was put into it, asked about follow up testing in the future and other metrics that will be used in the future to determine student needs and thanked the teachers for the hard work during the public health emergency to educate effectively that is being reflected in the student's testing scores.

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

XI. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Board of Education does hereby approve the following **2022 Board Committee Assignments**:

Finance Committee

Karen Gray (Chair)
Robin McKeon
Tim Salmon
Guddia Singh
Alternate: Kirsten Light

Personnel Committee

Tim Salmon (Chair)
Ruchika Hira
Robin McKeon
Jennifer White
Alternate: Karen Gray

Curriculum Committee

Jennifer White (Chair)
Karen Gray
Robin McKeon
Tim Salmon
Alternate: Dinesh Khanna

Policy Committee

Ruchika Hira (Chair)
Dinesh Khanna

Kirsten Light
Suzanne Schaefer
Alternate: Robin McKeon

Wellness Committee
Suzanne Schafer (Chair)
Kirsten Light
Guddia Singh
Jennifer White
Alternate: Karen Gray

Liaisons

Bernards Township Committee
Robin McKeon

Bernards Township Municipal Alliance
Karen Gray

NJSBA Legislative Committee
Robin McKeon

PTO Advisory
Karen Gray

Somerset County Educational Services Commission
Tim Salmon
Alternate: Robin McKeon

SEPAC Advisory
Jennifer White

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated February 7, 2022.

On motion by Ms. Singh seconded by Ms. White Items #1-2 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

Ms. Hira was not present for the vote.

Superintendent Markarian provided a description of the Superintendent’s Report items.

XII. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

XIII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

- January 24, 2022 - First Executive Session Minutes
- January 24, 2022 - Second Executive Session Minutes
- January 24, 2022 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. Light 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

XIV. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated February 7, 2022 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,305,731.02.
- 2) BE IT RESOLVED, the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Bernards for the 2021-22 school year. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Township will provide engineering and project management services for mutually agreeable civil site work projects for the Bernards Township School District.
- 3) 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>
T. Sharples	NJPSA/FEA/ NJASCD Conference	\$520	03/24/2022- 03/25/2022

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the RHS PTO in the amount of \$3,850 to be used for the services of Mr. David Levitan, educational entertainer.

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Gray Items #1-4 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

President McKeon thanked the Ridge High School PTO for their generous donation.

XV. 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 resignation of **Heather Bernardo Almeida** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective February 25, 2022.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Peter Polizzano** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective February 28, 2022.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave for **Caroline Clark** Special Education Teacher Mount Prospect School effective January 31, 2022 through March 11, 2022, returning March 14, 2022.

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

Joanna Messineo	Assistant Drama Club OS
Patrick Rynerson	Spring Track RHS
Madison Mitchell	Unified Assistant Track RHS
Malcolm Coates	Assistant Forensic Debate CFL RHS
Malcolm Coates	Assistant Forensic Debate NFL RHS

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignments, Locations and/or Salaries** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Carol Beadle	Assistant Musical Choral RHS \$4,182 1 year/0 points/\$0	Assistant Musical Choral .5 RHS \$2,091 1 year/0 points/\$0
Eileen Keefe	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 6 BA \$55,380 effective September 1, 2021 through November 9, 2021 as a leave replacement for S. Lang then a Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill & Liberty Corner Schools at a salary of Step 6 BA \$55,380 effective November 10, 2021 through February 15, 2022 as leave replacement for M. Lam	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 6 BA \$55,380 effective September 1, 2021 through November 9, 2021 as a leave replacement for S. Lang then a Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill & Liberty Corner Schools at a salary of Step 6 BA \$55,380 effective November 10, 2021 through March 15, 2022 as leave replacement for M. Lam.
Joseph Rullis	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of Step 4 \$30.07 7.5 hours per day effective January 31, 2022 through June 17, 2022	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of Step 4 \$30.07 7.5 hours per day effective February 8, 2022 through June 17, 2022
Linda Valera	Transition Coordinator Ridge High School effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a stipend of \$11,000	Transition Coordinator Ridge High School effective September 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 at a stipend \$7,700
Kristin Winters-Johnson	Accept the resignation of Special Education Teacher & Transition Coordinator Ridge High School effective February 11, 2022	Accept the resignation of Special Education Teacher & Transition Coordinator Ridge High School effective February 2, 2022

Kristin Winters-Johnson	Transition Coordinator 2021-22 school year at a stipend of \$6,050 effective September 1, 2021 through February 11, 2022	Transition Coordinator 2021-22 school year at a stipend of \$5,500 effective September 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022
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- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Devon Berger** as a School Counselor Ridge High School at a salary of Step 1-5 MA \$60,958 effective February 10, 2022 through end of assignment as a medical leave replacement. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.
- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Samantha Brain** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective February 17, 2022 through June 17, 2022.
- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Kate Jones** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 3 hours per day 2 days per week effective February 2, 2022 through June 17, 2022 for a total of 34 days.
- 9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Mahwish Mustafa** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 4 hours per day effective February 14, 2022 through June 17, 2022.
- 10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Sara Zuber** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective February 14, 2022 through June 17, 2022.
- 11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Beth Brooks** Assistant Business Administrator District Office at a salary of \$150,000 effective February 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff in the **Various Assignments** listed below for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Clayton Beyert	Trumpeter RH Musical	\$1,200.00
Kim Miller	After Care Teacher	\$45.00 per hour
Dawn Piper	PAC Box Office Ticket Sales	\$37.00 per hour
Jennifer Richardson	At Home Visits	\$69.33 per hour

Mary Russoniello	PAC Box Office Ticket Sales	\$37.00 per hour
Greg Turrone	Quarantine Tutor	\$80.34 per hour
Wendy Schlosser	Transition Coordinator	\$5,500.00 3/1/22-6/30/22
Clare Sweeny	Intervention Program Staff WAMS	\$69.33 per hour
Stephanie Zichichi	At Home Visits	\$69.33 per hour
Dan Zugale	Music Arranging RH Musical	\$500.00

13) 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>
OS	Sheri Smith	Assistant Drama Club	\$1,878	none
RH	Heidi Fox	Mock Trial Prosecution	\$2,425	none
RH	Dave Hanson	Assistant Ice Hockey	\$6,163	n/a
RH	Hector Martinez	Assistant Boys' Volleyball	\$5,747	n/a
RH	Siobhan Devlin	Head Girls' Golf	\$8,707	n/a
WA	Vanessa Ventrice	Head Unified Basketball	\$1,015	0 years/0 points/\$0
RH	Andy West	Assistant Baseball	\$6,757	6 years/1 point/\$198
WA	Brendan Amicone	Site Manager	\$59.00 per day	none
RH	Madison Mitchell	Unified Head Track RHS	\$1,523	1 year/0 points/\$0
RH	Anthony LaGreca	Unified Assistant Track RHS	\$1,015	1 year/0 points/\$0
RH	Martha Harvey	Assistant Musical Choral .5	\$2,091	1 year/0 points/\$0

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

<u>Teacher:</u>	<u>Course:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Caitlin Annese	Cricut for the Classroom	\$225.00

Courtney Slack	Cricut for the Classroom	\$225.00
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15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **ACT Staff** for February 12, 2022:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Dawn Piper	Extended Time Proctor	\$185.00
Georgiana Paril	Extended Time Proctor	\$185.00
Christine Corigliano	Standard Time Proctor	\$125.00
Jennifer Baccarini	Standard Time Proctor	\$125.00
Rebecca Tritt	Standard Time w/ Writing Proctor	\$135.00

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **mentor** 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	\$588.24

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

<u>Teacher:</u>	<u>School:</u>	<u>Course Offerings:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>
Cassie Nerger	LC	Art Creations	\$971.00
Stephanie Ranieri	LC	Art Creations	\$971.00
Emmanuel Cruz	LC	Cartoon Club	\$485.50
Marybeth Carlucci	LC	Toy Factory	\$971.00
Leyna Lillia	LC	Comic Creators	\$971.00
Fiorella Bologna	LC	Italian Club	\$971.00
Emily Barisonek	LC	Lego Club	\$971.00

Devin Glinsky	LC	Mind Over Matter	\$971.00
Grace Campbell	LC	Chess Club	\$971.00
Patrick Vreeland	MP	STEM Olympics	\$971.00
Joyce Osanyinlusi	MP	Young Author's Club	\$971.00
Joyce Osanyinlusi	MP	Reader's Theater	\$971.00
Katie Miller	MP	The Magical World of Harry Potter	\$971.00
Katie Miller	MP	The Magical World of Harry Potter for Advanced Students	\$971.00
Laura Lambert	MP	MPS Garden Club	\$971.00
Kate Whitely	MP	MPS Garden Club	\$971.00
Lisa Roman	MP	Lego/STEM Builders Club	\$971.00
Daniella Ventrice	MP	MPS Chess Club	\$971.00
Karen Pellicone	MP	MPS Chess Club	\$971.00
Deborah Reynolds	MP	Art Creations	\$971.00
Sheri Jakubowski	MP	The Magical World of Droon	\$971.00
Karen Lai	MP	Let's Make Great Stuff	\$971.00
Barbara Caporaso	MP	Let's Make Great Stuff	\$971.00
Karen Lai	MP	Get Crafty	\$971.00
Barbara Caporaso	MP	Get Crafty	\$971.00
Marguerite LeBoef	CH	Simple Crafts	\$971.00
Joseph Bae	CH	Board Game Masters	\$971.00
Sherri Shumate	CH	Slime Science (Monday)	\$971.00
Sarah Toombs	CH	Lots of Legos	\$971.00

Linda Picardo	CH	Board Games	\$971.00
Sarah Toombs	CH	Movement through Dance and Yoga	\$971.00
Sherri Shumate	CH	Slime Science (Friday)	\$971.00
Pam Jernegan	CH	CH Young Builders	\$971.00

18) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Substitute Teachers** at a salary of \$105.00 per diem with a Valid County Substitute Certificate, \$115.00 per diem with a Valid New Jersey Instructional Certificate and **Substitute Nurses** at a salary of \$250.00 per diem 2021-22 school year. Substitute teachers with a Valid County Substitute Certificate who have earned longevity will be paid at a salary of \$115.00 per diem. Substitutes with a Valid New Jersey Instructional Certificate who have earned longevity will be paid at a salary of \$125.00 per diem:

Gabrielle Sheridan	Raphael Armenti
Jennifer Hamilton	Sophie Martucci
Sundari Srinivasamurthi	Elaine (Edna) Khan
Crissy Adinolfi	Nicolle Grace
Sheela Yadav	Melanie Hodges
Brandon Williams	

* Denotes Sub Nurse

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

Gabby Moises	Girls' Lacrosse RHS
Courtney Lailey	Ski Team RHS

20) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the separation of employment agreement and accept the resignation of employee #9330 effective March 4, 2022.

On motion by Ms. Schafer seconded by Ms. Singh 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

XVI. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XVII. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XVIII. Wellness Committee Report

No report.

XIX. Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. Gray shared that the Municipal Alliance is having a narcan training February 15, 2022.

XX. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Comments from the public included a question about the process for developing school procedures and consistency, board of education responses, questions about the board vacancy selection process, concerns about the Ridge High School varsity softball field and a thank you for making masks optional and concerns about the dynamics of student lunch breaks.

Superintendent Markarian noted the encouraging news and thanked the crowd for attending. Mr. Markarian discussed the effort by the district nursing team to keep people healthy, commented on the condition of the softball field and spoke to the challenges for student lunch breaks.

XXI. Board Forum

Board Members discussed a public comment made about the vacancy selection process and the appointed members.

Ms. Gray spoke to the financial logistics to fixing the Ridge High School softball field and noted that solutions would have to be considered to fix issues.

President McKeon thanked the board members for their service and hard work and noted that members are passionate about supporting the children of the district.

XXII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Singh and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary