BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
JUNE 6, 2022
BT CONNECT MEETING* 7:00 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

*No action items are being voted on at this meeting.

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<u>**RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**</u>

I.   **Call to Order – 7:03 p.m.**

II.   **Salute to the Flag**

III.   **Roll Call**

Present: Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Singh, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox

 Absent: Ms. Light, Ms. Schaefer, Mr. Khanna

IV.   **Statement of Public Notice**

This is a special 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.

Public comment is welcome at the end of the meeting. 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.

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.

V. **Town Hall Meeting: Technology in Education**

Mr. Markarian, Ms. Fox, Mr. Miziak, Mr. Blinder, Ms. Corcoran and Ms. DuPuis presented several slides to highlight how technology is being used in education.

Several examples of hardware and software illustrated included Google Forms, Chromebooks, QR codes, Nearpod, Google Classroom and Hapara. Mr. Blinder explained the settings being used in the classroom management software being piloted, Hapara, and Ms. Dupuis illustrated how Hapara is utilized by teachers while audience members were the classroom students.

Following the presentation working groups of parents, teachers, Board of Education members and administrators discussed each group's thoughts about technology in education.

To view the slide deck that was presented please click here.

VI. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Each discussion group shared comments about the conversations had within their group with the meeting participants. Administrators helped to facilitate the sharing.

Comments were documented by group participants and are shared below.

What are barriers to meaningful use of technology in the	- What happens if technology fails, network is done - Hacker danger at elementary to high school level

classroom?	- Transition periods; teachers may struggle with the new way of teaching - Convincing parents that technology is a positive - Concerned about too much technology/screen time; parents being able to support their kids at home - technology/screen overload – learning now to balance - Insufficient amount of chromebooks or cell phones, especially at the elementary level - Difficult to transfer math instruction (symbols, efficiency, etc) to technology - Inability to see students' mathematical thinking without a stylus and is bulky otherwise - Distractions - Younger children have a more difficult time using technology, as many can't type - Less face to face time - Teacher's inability to closely monitor student tabs. Individual student use of technology affect them as well
What are the benefits of meaningful technology use in the classroom? Drawbacks?	- Teachers keeping students engaged - Redefining how kids are learning - Learning how to use it as an asset is important - Access to more information, connections, more student engagement - When used appropriately, supports deeper instruction/learning - Helps with remediating basic skills - A lot of kids are cheating - Ensuring students are on task and are focused - Keeps students engaged and on task. Enables us to remain connected regardless of location. Enable teacher to interact with student work outside of the classroom
How do students feel	- Overall, at home; kids feel happy about having

about technology use in the classroom? Outside of the classroom?	individual chrome books - In the school classroom, some of the students said it was too much time on the screen during a self-paced lesson - It is a very personal opinion; some children thrive with technology; some may not - They are very much at ease in the classroom, outside of class - even more! - Students love to use devices, but also can make them nervous as they feel like someone is monitoring them
How distracted are students? At school and at home?	- Some students were very focused; they would go through their work and want more - New users of technology would be easily distracted - Students tend to listen to teachers better than their own parents - In school, very distracted! When devices are available, they cannot stay on one task. Their attention span is very short.
How can teachers / admin / parents promote academic integrity?	- A better information tracking system for incidents - parents/teachers have to model how to do things correctly; kids model behavior more than what is said/taught to them - Defining what "academic integrity" means to a young child - Having ground rules/contracts at home - "Parent that child you have" - They can model proper citations as well as appropriate behavior on social media - Make students familiar with AUP and have ongoing conversations
What do parents need to support students with technology?	- Access to some of the tools that the district is using - how to supervise what they are doing - Parent awareness on how to navigate and achieve - They need to set boundaries on usage of

	technology - Lessons and tutorials like the BTEA sessions in September 2020 - More open sessions to the public

VII.   **Adjournment**

On motion by Guddia Singh and seconded by Ruchika Hira and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary