

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
JUNE 7, 2021  
REGULAR SESSION 5:45 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:53 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
REGULAR SESSION 7:06 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.** – page 465
- II. **Salute to the Flag** – page 465
- III. **Roll Call** – page 465
- IV. **Executive Session – 5:31 p.m.** – page 465
- V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:06 p.m.** – page 466
- VI. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 466
- VII. **Student Representative - Juliet Nolt** – page 468
- VIII. **Statements from Candidates for Board Vacancy** – page 468
- IX. **Second Executive Session – Estimated to Start 7:30 p.m. – Estimated Return to Regular Session 8:00 p.m.** – page 468
- X. **Appointment of New Board Member** – page 468
  - 1) Elect New Board Member
  - 2) Administer Oath of Office
  - 3) Issue Code of Ethics
- XI. **Acknowledge 2020-21 Teachers of the Year** – page 469
- XII. **Superintendent’s Report**
  - 1) Affirm Receipt of **HIB Report** Dated June 7, 2021 – page 470
  - 2) Safe Reopening Plan – page 470
  - 3) 1 Student : 1 Computing Device – page 470
- XIII. **Public Comment on Safe Reopening Plan** – page 470

XIV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – page 471

XV. **Approval of Minutes** – page 471

XVI. **Finance Committee Report**

- 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated June 7, 2021 – page 471
- 2) Approve **Withdrawal Capital Reserve Fund** – page 472
- 3) Approve **DOE State Project #35-350-050-21-1000** – page 472
- 4) Approve **DOE State Project #35-350-050-21-1000** – page 472
- 5) Appoint **Contract Compliance and Monitor of Food Services** 2021-22 School Year – page 472

XVII. **Personnel Committee Report**

- 1) Appoint Substitute Teachers 2020-21 School Year – page 473

XVIII. **Policy Committee Report** – page 473  
Report on Progress

XIX. **Curriculum Committee Report** – page 473  
Report on Progress

XX. **Wellness Committee Report** – page 473  
Report on Progress

XXI. **Liaison Committee Reports** – page 473  
Report on Progress

XXII. **Public Comment on Non-agenda Items** – page 474

XXIII. **Board Forum** – page 474

XXIV. **Adjournment** – page 474

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 2021  
REGULAR SESSION 5:45 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:53 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
REGULAR SESSION 7:06 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**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, Mr. Salmon,  
Ms. Schafer, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. McLaughlin

**IV. Executive Session – 5:45 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 Ms. Korn seconded by Mr. Salmon, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into the first closed executive session at 5:45p.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. McKeon seconded by Ms. White, and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:53 p.m.

**V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:06 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 requires that in-person attendees to this meeting:

- 1) Complete and pass the visitor screening form provided at the sanitation station in the Ridge Performing Arts Center entrance.
- 2) Wear a face covering.
- 3) Sit in a socially distanced manner from members of different households to the greatest extent possible with the available seating in the auditorium.
- 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](http://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.

For those members of the public who are not attending our meeting in-person, public comments may be submitted via email. Please follow the instructions below:

Step 1: Starting at 7PM: email your comment to [BTConnect@bernardsboe.com](mailto:BTConnect@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.***

Public comments made in-person will be processed first, then comments submitted by email. No public comments sent via email will be accepted before 7PM or after item XXIII. 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 - Juliet Nolt**

Ms. Nolt provided an update on the ongoing accomplishments of students at Ridge High School during the end of the school year including proms and the upcoming senior graduation. Ms. Nolt thanked the Board of Education for inviting her to attend the Board of Education meetings during the year.

**VIII. Statements from Candidates for Board Vacancy**

- 1) Nimish Amin
- 2) Carl Bird
- 3) Titus George
- 4) Guddia Singh

Each candidate spoke to the Board of Education on subjects such as their background, qualifications, professional experience, and how they wanted to serve and contribute to the district's system of public education.

**IX. Second Executive Session – Estimated to Start 7:30 p.m. – Estimated Return to Regular Session 8:00 p.m.**

On motion by Ms. Korn seconded by Ms. Hira, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into the second closed executive session at 7:31p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: personnel and contract negotiations; matters of litigation; confidential student matters; and further

BE IT RESOLVED that the matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public as soon as and to the extent that such disclosure can be made without adversely affecting the public interest or without violation of the confidentiality of personnel.

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Mr. Salmon and approved by all present, the Board closed the Second Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.

President Gray reconvened the regular meeting at 8:03p.m.

**X. Appointment of New Board Member**

- 1) Elect New Board Member
- 2) Administer Oath of Office
- 3) Issue Code of Ethics

Ms. Schafer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Beckman, to nominate Ms. Singh to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education. Ms. Gray asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. The Board of Education then passed the motion to appoint Ms. Singh to the Board of Education to fill the current vacancy with the following roll call vote:

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

President Gray thanked each candidate for their willingness to serve, noting that all of the candidates were qualified and that choosing one candidate is a tough decision for the Board.

Board Attorney John Croot administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Singh as the newly elected Board Member.

Ms. Gray congratulated Ms. Singh and welcomed her to the Board of Education.

Superintendent Markarian thanked the candidates for coming out and congratulated Ms. Singh.

Superintendent Markarian took a moment to thank outgoing member, Ms. Richman, for her service to the Bernards Township Board of Education. Ms. Richman thanked all of the Board of Education members, administration, teachers and support staff for having a wonderful experience as a member of the Board of Education. Ms. Gray thanked Ms. Richman for her service on behalf of the Board of Education echoing the sentiments of Mr. Markarian.

**XI. Acknowledge 2020-21 Teachers of the Year**

Taylor Kurilew	Cedar Hill School
Christopher Keri	Liberty Corner School
Katie Miller	Mount Prospect School
Melissa Baron	Oak Street School*
Brian McGowan	William Annin Middle School
Fiorella Bologno	Ridge High School

Administrators introduced the Teachers of the Year from their respective buildings. They noted the contributions made by each staff member and their impact on students and other members of the staff.

\*unable to attend

Ms. Gray congratulated the Teacher’s of the Year on behalf of the Board of Education.

## **XII. Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated June 7, 2021.
- 2) Safe Reopening Plan
- 3) 1 Student: 1 Computing Device

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

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

Superintendent Markarian discussed items #2 and #3 of the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Markarian discussed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant stating that in order for the district to apply for funds, a Safe Reopening Plan needs to be filed with the Department of Education. Mr. Markarian discussed the goals for the Fall 2021 return to school. The three aspects of the safe reopening plan are maintaining health and safety, ensuring continuity of services including IEP, 504 and tiered system of support plans and to include public comment feedback regarding the first two items and then the plan provides a description as to how the final plan will be shared with the public.

Superintendent Markarian then discussed how item #3, 1:1 student to computing device, on the Superintendent's report, factors into the Safe Reopening Plan. Superintendent Markarian discussed how the ARP Grant may represent an opportunity to invest more into technology.

## **XIII. Public Comment on Safe Reopening Plan**

Public comments with regard to the Safe Reopening Plan addressed concerns with mask mandates, appreciation to the Board of Education in getting the students back in school, concerns with safety guidelines such as quarantine and social distancing rules and requesting that they reflect the neighboring states around New Jersey including for the district to address Governor Murphy, in writing, and requests to take the mental and emotional wellbeing of people into serious consideration when developing the return to school plan for the Fall of 2021.

Superintendent Markarian also read public comments that had been emailed into the meeting. Topics included mask wearing, student socialization and support for the school



district to request to make their own decisions with regard to mask mandates and social distancing.

Superintendent Markarian thanked everyone for their comments. Mr. Markarian discussed the changing executive orders throughout the months and the work to keep up with the changes, discussions with staff regarding use of masks and discussed facilitating and assisting with a letter from the Board of Education to Governor Murphy.

Board members discussed the Safe Reopening Plan on the state and federal levels,  $\frac{2}{3}$  is contingent upon getting the Local Education Agency's approval and the other portion is available after the state plan is approved. Ms. Korn discussed her concerns with the application process and addressing points in the process that may be moot upon reopening in the Fall of 2021. Ms. McKeon noted her support for Ms. Korn's statements and also noted that concerns could also be addressed by the public directly to the Governor's Office.

#### XIV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

#### XV. **Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

May 24, 2021 - Board Retreat Minutes  
May 24, 2021 - Executive Session Minutes  
May 24, 2021 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Beckman seconded by Ms. Korn the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon,  
Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh and Ms. White  
"Noes" - None  
"Abstain" - None

#### XVI. **Finance Committee Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated June 7, 2021 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$3,896,001.16.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education approves the withdrawal in the amount not to exceed \$3,300.00 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) BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bernards Township Board of Education to approve the submission of the Ridge High School Serving Line Project A to the New Jersey Department of Education, **DOE State Project #35-350-050-21-1000**, for review and Department approval of an “other capital project” with no state funding and amendment of the long range facilities plan to be consistent with the project.

Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

4) BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bernards Township Board of Education to approve the submission of the Ridge High School Serving Line Project B to the New Jersey Department of Education, **DOE State Project #35-350-050-21-2000**, for review and Department approval of an “other capital project” with no state funding and amendment of the long range facilities plan to be consistent with the project.

Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

5) Whereas the Bernards Township Board of Education issued a request for Proposals for companies to provide for the management and operation of the district’s custodial, grounds and maintenance services and

Whereas this request and the submitted proposals were issued and evaluated pursuant to the competitive contracting provisions of NJSA 18A:18A-4.1 (b)(2)(f)

Whereas the proposal submitted by Aramark Management Services, Limited Partnership is the most advantageous, price and other factors considered

Now therefore be it resolved that the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the award of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Custodial, Maintenance, Grounds and Management Services contract in the amount of \$8,900,030.76 to:

Aramark Management Services, Limited Partnership  
1101 Market Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

On motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Ms. Schafer Items #1-5 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Salmon provided a description of the five finance agenda items.

**XVII. Personnel Committee Report**

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Substitute Teachers** at a salary of \$105.00 per diem with a Valid County Substitute Certificate for the 2020-21 school year:

Kajal Kochar

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

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

**XVIII. Policy Committee Report**

No report.

**XIX. Curriculum Committee Report**

No report.

**XX. Wellness Committee Report**

Ms. Schafer provided a report from the May 27, 2021 Wellness Committee meeting. Topics included upcoming meeting dates, trauma informed practices and counseling in the school district, a career grant application, the virtual mental health fair posted on the bernardsboe.com website and a K-12 counseling update.

**XXI. Liaison Committee Reports**

No report.

## **XXII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

Comments from the public included concerns with students wearing masks and state legislation, expressing gratitude to the board members for their hard work during the past fifteen months, a request for clarification regarding mask wearing and heat and requests for updated social emotional wellness and the impact of the public health crisis on the students.

No public comments were made via email.

Superintendent Markarian discussed mask wearing stating that for students that are inside, in rooms without air conditioning, wearing a mask would be optional.

## **XXIII. Board Forum**

Ms. Beckman discussed the mask wearing and the return to in-person instruction. Ms. Schafer asked questions regarding the plan for students who may not be comfortable around other students who are not wearing masks. Ms. Hira discussed how the board and administration are advocating in the best interest of the students and acknowledged the comments from the public with regard to heat and mask wearing. Ms. White discussed the return to school in Fall 2021 and mask wearing.

Mr. Salmon discussed his own frustrations with the clarity and inconsistency of executive orders and the impact of those inconsistencies on students. Board members echoed Mr. Salmon's frustrations.

Ms. Gray discussed the logistics, frustrations and hard work that is put into making decisions regarding safety guidelines during the public health emergency within the district.

Board members thanked Ms. Richman for her many years of service to the Bernards Township Board of Education.

## **XXIV. Adjournment**

On motion by Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin (in absentia)  
Board Secretary