

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
MARCH 14, 2022
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2022
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 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. 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 – 5:31 p.m.

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

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

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Gray, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into executive session at 5:40p.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 Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. Singh, and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:45p.m.

V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 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.

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 XX. 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/Administration will respond to public comments to the extent possible. 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 wished everyone a Happy Pi Day. Mr. Li spoke about the outstanding successes of the Ridge Dance Team, the Ridge Swim Team, Ridge Ice Hockey and Ridge Forensics and outlined various placements and awards that had been earned by these teams and clubs. Mr. Li discussed the upcoming Senior Prom and events that occurred during Pi Day designed to benefit the community.

VIII. Board President Comments

President McKeon discussed the upcoming Town Hall meeting that will be held and noted that the Board is working toward setting up Bernards Connect meetings again that had previously stopped during the public health emergency.

IX. Board Presentation

1) Post Secondary Report – Sean Siet, Assistant Superintendent, and Kristin Fox, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Assistant Superintendent Fox and Assistant Superintendent Siet provided the Bernards Township School District Post-Secondary Report for the Class of 2021 as Mr. Siet and Ms. Fox are the current acting Co-Directors of Guidance for the 2021-22 School Year.

Topics addressed in the SAT/ ACT presentation by Assistant Superintendent Siet were as follows:

- SAT and ACT Status, number of students who participated in testing, average scores and the test optional status
- SAT vs. ACT including test contents, timing, including significant changes, guessing penalties, scoring and updates
- SAT Benchmark scores for course areas and mean scores during the past four years in comparison with the State of New Jersey and nationally and also a comparison between Ridge High School and other select high schools in New Jersey
- ACT mean scores during the past five years both for Ridge High School and the State of New Jersey, ACT benchmark scores, percent of students meeting college readiness benchmarks during the past six years and scores between comparison districts
- An overview of the Method Test Prep 2.0, a program to assist students with preparing for SAT and ACT testing

Assistant Superintendent Fox discussed Advance Placement (AP) exam scores. Items addressed were:

- An overview of advanced placement courses and exams
- The impact of the public health emergency on AP exams and modifications made during the Spring of 2021 and the exam schedule that was instituted as a result
- Student participation rates during the past six years, increases and decreases in course testing students participated in and the percentage of students enrolled in a course participating in the corresponding exam
- A five year score summary for AP testing, a breakdown of passing scores during the past five years, an AP equity and excellence analysis for 10th, 11th and 12th graders and a breakdown of scores by subject matter.

Assistant Superintendent Siet discussed college admissions for the class of 2021 including matriculation data by type during the past six years and the top four states in which students matriculated.

Assistant Superintendent Fox discussed class profiles noting that all metrics increased from the class of 2020 to the class of 2021. Metrics included the average GPA, PSAT,

SAT and ACT scores, class application trends and the top ten colleges attended for the class of 2021.

Assistant Superintendent Siet discussed college comparisons and percentage of Ridge High School applicants accepted including a breakdown of Ivy League College acceptance rates vs. applications received. Mr. Siet discussed current trends in college admissions. Mr. Siet provided a graphic that provided a visual representation of where the class of 2021 attended.

Board members questioned and discussed what could be done to capture the numbers of students who move from one school to another after the first year of post-secondary enrollment, asked about student application and selection rates for Ivy League schools, a board member suggested that the focus adjust to the fact that a high percentage of students are going to to highly competitive schools and discussed other methods of post-secondary education such as technical school.

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

X. **Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated March 14, 2022.

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. White Item #1 was 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 discussed the receipt of state aid figures noting that would be a topic at the March 28, 2022 Board of Education meeting, discussed the success of the recent school play, Matilda, and noted the success of the Ridge Boys during the Distance Medley Relay.

XI. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

XII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

February 28, 2022 - Board Retreat Minutes
 February 28, 2022 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Gray 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

XIII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated March 14, 2022 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$2,391,939.31.

2) 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. Terry	NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference	\$588	03/24/2022-03/25/2022
G. Bologno	AP Italian Workshop via Zoom	\$175	03/01/2022-03/08/2022

**County-office retroactive approval given on 03/01/2022*

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following field trip destination for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Group Attending:</u>	<u>Number of Students:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
Model UN Conference	RHS Model UN Club	15	03/18/2021 to 03/21/2021

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve regular school year vocational school tuition for student #2400421 from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 at Somerset County Vo-Tech (TOPS program) in an amount of \$26,500.00.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve regular school year vocational school tuition for student #1000764 from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 at Somerset County Vo-Tech (Academy Program) in an amount of \$1,400.00.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve regular school year vocational school tuition for various students from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 at Somerset County Vo-Tech in an amount of \$11,200.00.

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Singh Items #1-6 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 summary of the finance agenda items.

XIV. 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 **Mary Henry** Math Teacher William Annin Middle School effective June 30, 2022.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Suzanne Deady** School Aide Liberty Corner School effective April 8, 2022.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Nicole Kaminski** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective March 17, 2022.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Vanessa Kuronya** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective April 7, 2022.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Mahwish Mustafa** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective April 5, 2022.

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

Kyle Baach Spring Fitness Center RHS
Bill Tracy Spring Fitness Center RHS

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave for **Brandon White** Science Teacher William Annin Middle School effective September 1, 2022 through November November 27, 2022, returning November 28, 2022.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Changes in Assignments/Locations/Salaries** and/or Child Care Leaves for 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Devon Berger	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.	School Counselor Ridge High School at a salary of Step 1-5 MA \$60,958 effective February 10, 2022 through March 25, 2022 as a medical leave replacement. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.
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.	Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 4 hours per day effective March 1, 2022 through March 14, 2022 then an Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective March 15, 2022 through June 3, 2022.
Nicolle Grace	Reading Specialist Liberty Corner School at a salary of Step 9 MA \$68,438 effective March 14, 2022 through June 30, 2022 as a leave replacement for M. Kopecki. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.	Reading Specialist Liberty Corner School at a salary of Step 9 MA \$65,438 effective March 14, 2022 through June 30, 2022 as a leave replacement for M. Kopecki. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
Eileen Keefe	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 6 BA \$55,380 effective September 1, 2021 through	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.	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 April 15, 2022 as leave replacement for M. Lam.
Mary Anne Kopecki	Paid Child Care Leave effective March 14, 2022 through May 6, 2022 utilizing 35 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave and Federal Family Leave effective May 9, 2022 through June 30, 2022, returning September 1, 2022.	Paid Child Care Leave effective March 14, 2022 through May 20, 2022 utilizing 45 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave and Federal Family Leave effective May 21, 2022 through June 30, 2022, returning September 1, 2022.
Yasmina Navarro	District Spanish Extra-Section \$1,087.60 per month effective 2/14/22-4/11/22.	District Spanish (2) Extra-Section \$2,175.20 per month effective 2/14/22-4/11/22.
Suzete Pinto	Instructional Aide Oak Street School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective January 25, 2022 through March 16, 2022 as a leave replacement for E. Darabrant and N. Kaminsky	Instructional Aide Oak Street School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective January 25, 2022 through June 17, 2022 as a leave replacement for E. Darabrant and N. Kaminsky

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Katherine O'Melia** Special Education ABA Teacher at a salary of Step 1-5 BA \$54,380 effective March 16, 2022 through June 30, 2022 as a leave replacement for N. Fechter. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked. Certificate of Eligibility-Alternate Route Mentoring required.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Michele Robinson** Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 8 MA \$64,318 effective March 16, 2022 through June 30, 2022 as a maternity leave replacement for D. Nahas. Salary to be prorated to reflect start dates worked.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Patricia Zenchak** Special Education Teacher Oak Street School at a salary of Step 11 MA \$67,913 effective March 28, 2022 through June 30, 2022 as a maternity leave replacement for K. Bignell. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Various Assignments** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Ann Delaney	After School Intervention Program WAMS	\$69.33 per hour
Samantha Della Bovie	After Care Program-MP	\$22.00 per hour
Ben Donaghy	Transition Coordinator 4/1/22-6/30/22	\$3,300.00
Christine Flanagan	After School Intervention Program WAMS	\$69.33 per hour
Louis Garbarini	After Care Program-MP	\$45.00 per hour
Kim Gavin	After School Intervention Program WAMS	\$69.33 per hour
Diana Gomez	Substitute Teacher	\$105.00 per diem
Maliha Merchant	Social Skills Program-SE	\$31.31 per hour
Christian O'Brien	After School Intervention Program WAMS	\$69.33 per hour
Katherine O'Melia	At home Program-SE	\$31.37 per hour
Roseanne O'Rourke	After School Intervention Program WAMS	\$31.37 per hour
Alyssa Solli	Musical/Drama Club Assistance SE	\$31.37 per hour
Marie Wurtemberg	After School Intervention Program WAMS	\$69.33 per hour
Patricia Zenchak	Substitute Teacher	\$115.00 per diem

13) 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>
Michele Lenzi	Behaviorist-District (2 sections)	\$2,175.20 per month effective 3/1/22-4/30/22

14) 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	Dallas Harvey	Lighting Supervisor	\$44.00 per hour	none
RH	Jennifer Kozlowaski	.5 Assistant Girls Track Coach	\$3,379	n/a
RH	Tim Youtkus	.5 Assistant Girls Track Coach	\$3,379	n/a
RH	Joe Lipinski	Spring Fitness Center 4x week	\$2,768	0 years/0 points/\$0
RH	Roy Dragon	Spring Fitness Center 2x week	\$1,384	0 years/0 points/\$0
District	Kathy Forsell	Special Education Webmaster	\$4,616	5 years/1 point/\$198

15) 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:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>
Gina Villegas	MP	Legos/STEM Builders (aide)	\$485.50
Anthony LaGreca	MP	Chess Club	\$971.00
Erin Noonan	MP	Art Creations	\$971.00
Danielle Ventrice	MP	Magical World of Harry Potter	\$971.00

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Taylor Liska** Art Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 6 BA \$55,380 effective April 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing - Mentoring required. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

On motion by Ms. Schafer seconded by Mr. Khanna Items #1-16 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

XV. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XVI. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XVII. Wellness Committee Report

No report.

XVIII. Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. White discussed a meeting with the PEC the previous week and noted the Special Services Lunch and Learn Meetings that would be held during the spring.

Ms. Gray discussed the Municipal Alliance meeting that was held on March 8, 2022. Upcoming events are a Covid-19 vaccine awareness event, a Johnny’s Ambassadors event regarding the science of natural highs on March 22, the presentation The Dangerous Truth about Marijuana on March 23, the Twilight Challenge on June 25th and a prescription drug take back on April 30. Ms. Gray noted that REACH, the Ridge High School Club, is collecting nominations for students to be chosen to participate in the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute summer camp.

XIX. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

No comments were made.

XX. Board Forum

Ms. Light discussed Technology and proposed that the Board of Education create a Technology Committee to assist in guiding the district and assist the community with the Technological needs. Board members discussed various ways that technology is currently addressed during the various committee meetings and the nature of the commitment the Board Members currently have in committees.

Board members discussed post secondary attendance, the merits of tracking Ivy League School admissions and how to determine if students remain with their choices after the first year or what changes are made.

XXI. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Light and seconded by Ms. Hira and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary