

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
MARCH 16, 2020  
REGULAR SESSION 7:01 P.M.  
VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00PM  
ON MARCH 16, 2020 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

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MEETING MINUTES  
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**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:01 p.m.**

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. White, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: None

**IV. 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 the Open Public Meetings Act.

Due to the public health emergency in the State of New Jersey, as declared in Executive Order 103, the Board will be suspending its normal meeting procedures this evening and conducting a virtual meeting. Directions for accessing the virtual public meeting were posted on the District website: [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com). These same directions were posted at our intended but unavailable meeting location.

We very much welcome input from the public. Because this is a virtual meeting, public comment will be handled as follows:

Instructions for submitting a public comment starting at 7PM:

- 1) Email to [BTConnect@bernardsboe.com](mailto:BTConnect@bernardsboe.com) or text to (908) 292-3047.
- 2) Use PUBLIC COMMENT as the email subject or start of text message.

3) Indicate your first and last name and address. ***THIS IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED.***

4) Please keep your comments to a maximum of approximately 3 minutes if read aloud.

No public comments will be accepted after item XVI. 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 providing comments. 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 commenting 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.

### **Resolution**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education hereby approves the suspension of its normal meeting procedures pursuant to By-Law 131, and authorizes this meeting to be conducted as a virtual meeting, as described in the Statement of Public Notice, due to the public health emergency declared in Executive Order 103.

### **V. Student Representative - Jimmy Gao**

Mr. Gao discussed the reactions of the students concerning the public health emergency and resulting school closure.

### **VI. Board Presentation**

#### **1) Preliminary 2020-21 Budget - Nick Markarian and Rod McLaughlin**

Business Administrator Rod McLaughlin presented an overview of the 2020-21 school budget.

Items highlighted included:

- Comparisons between FY1920 and FY2021 by budget expenditures and operating expense changes.
- The budgeted fund balance and upcoming capital projects
- A six year revenue snapshot
- Lost state aid and a 10 year history of taxes
- A five year budget expenditure snapshot or general operating and capital expenses, general operating budget change, breakdown of instruction, special education and support services
- Staffing considerations
- FY2021 Transportation Budget including number of students transported and percentage of seats used

For the complete presentation click [here](#).

## VII. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated March 16, 2020.

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. McKeon Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Superintendent Markarian discussed the public health emergency and thanked the teachers and staff for going above and beyond to communicate and set up a distance learning environment. Mr. Markarian noted the many personal challenges that all families are dealing with and requested collective patience and grace.

President Gray also thanked the administration and staff.

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

Ms. Fox read a comment from Ms. Dupuis, a Social Studies teacher, that thanked the teaching staff, aides, administration and secretaries for their flexibility and grit during the public health emergency.

### IX. **Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

February 24, 2020 - Executive Session Minutes  
February 24, 2020 - Regular Session Minutes  
March 5, 2020 - BT Connect Meeting Minutes

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. White and Ms. Wooldridge (abstain from BT Connect Meeting Minutes Only)

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - Ms. Wooldridge (BT Connect Meeting Minutes Only)

### X. **Finance Committee Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated March 16, 2020 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$8,947,619.37.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the Society for Science and the Public in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Ridge High School.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the William Annin Middle School PTO in the amount of \$7,916.91 for funding a Epson SureColor P6000 in the amount of \$2,095.00, 3D Printer in the amount of \$3,039.91 and 10 Chromebooks and a cart in the amount of \$2,782.00.

4) BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget to be approved for the 2020-2021 School Year using the 2020-2021 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>CURRENT</u> <u>EXPENSE FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL</u> <u>REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT</u> <u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>2020-2021 Total Expenditures</b>	\$100,041,689	\$1,632,643	\$5,372,213	\$107,046,545
<b>Less:</b>				
<b>Anticipated Revenues</b>	\$11,163,928	\$1,632,643	\$264,323	\$13,060,894
<b>Taxes to be Raised:</b>	<u>\$88,877,761</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,107,890</u>	<u>\$93,985,651</u>

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the William Annin Middle School in Basking Ridge, New Jersey on May 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2020-2021 School Year.

5) The Bernards Twp. Board of Education does hereby approve a contract with the firm of **John Standish Perrin Architect LLC** for the provision of construction administration services for the period March 17, 2020 to June 30, 2020, for a fee not to exceed \$30,000.00.

6) WHEREAS, the Bernards Twp. Board of Education maintains the Bernards Twp. Board of Education 403(b) Retirement Plan (“Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to retain the services of U.S. OMNI (OMNI) as Third-Party Administrator of its plan(s);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that U.S. OMNI has been designated as Third-Party Administrator and the Bernards Twp. Board of Education also hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to sign all relevant contracts to effect that appointment:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the District has caused this Resolution and Amendment to be adopted this 16th day of March, 2020.

7) WHEREAS, the Board is improving the drainage and asphalt surfaced area in front of the Ridge High School Wellness Center as part of its long-term maintenance plans (an area of approximately 1,000 square feet), and

WHEREAS, the Foundation provides broad-based support and funding for capital improvements of facilities, gifts, grants and scholarships for deserving student athletes at Ridge High School and desires a location for the purpose of selling and installing engraved paving stones for a fundraising project that will benefit the Foundation and the District's students (the "Tribute Walk"), and

WHEREAS, the terms of the Board's May 13, 2019 Resolution (the "Resolution") regarding the paver fundraiser are incorporated by reference into this Memorandum of Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board and the Foundation agree as follows:

1. The Board will commission the \$7,000 engineering study plan (the "Study") as soon as possible but no later than March 10, 2020.
2. The Foundation will commit to fund \$3,500 of the Study to be paid to the Board within 90 days from the date the Study is completed. Once completed, the Study will be used to facilitate any construction bids for the previously approved Board resolution.
3. Once construction bids are obtained for the Tribute Walk, and the project can be completed at not more than \$17,000 (approximately 10% above the original \$15,500 original bid), then the project will proceed. In this case, the Foundation will commit to fund the remaining \$3500 for the engineering study and an additional \$2400 for construction administration services as long as construction begins by July 15, 2020.
4. If bids for the Tribute Walk are in excess of \$17,000, then the parties agree to discuss options for the Tribute Walk. In the event the Tribute Walk does not proceed at this time, the Board agrees to provide the Foundation with the opportunity to participate in any project or repair for the areas covered by the Study.

On motion by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Schafer Items #1-7 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Salmon provided a summary of the action items on the Finance Agenda.



**XI. 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 appoint **Kathleen O'Rourke** School Aide Cedar Hill at a salary of \$19.06 per hour 3 hours per day effective March 17, 2020 through June 19, 2020.

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

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

**XII. Policy Committee Report**

No report.

**XIII. Curriculum Committee Report**

No report.

**XIV. Wellness Committee Report**

No report.

**XV. Liaison Committee Reports**

Ms. Korn noted that events scheduled to be held at the end of March 2020 by the Municipal Alliance have been put on hold.

**XVI. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

A member of the public asked about a decrease in expenditures for extraordinary services.

Business Administrator McLaughlin provided further explanation regarding the decrease.

**XVII. Board Forum**

Board members discussed the positive feedback that they were receiving with regard to the transition to distance learning.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Korn and seconded by Ms. Schafer and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned into the Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin