

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
MARCH 22, 2021
REGULAR SESSION 5:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:04 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:04 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00 PM
ON MARCH 22, 2021 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
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MARCH 22, 2021
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VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE
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ON MARCH 22, 2021 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

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

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Ms. Fox

IV. Executive Session – 5:04 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 and seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:04p.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. Beckman seconded by Mr. Salmon and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:44p.m.

V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:04 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 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. 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 in one of three ways:

PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 1 (PREFERRED) - FULL VIDEO VIA ZOOM

Step 1: When you are ready to make a public comment, join the Board of Education meeting via the Zoom link posted on the district webpage www.bernardsboe.com. Please plan for your participation in the meeting by:

- Turning your camera and microphone on
- Dressing appropriately
- Maintaining a proper background setting for your camera's view
- Having a quiet space

- Muting the YouTube live stream of the Board of Education meeting when you are speaking so that there is no feedback with your participation in the Zoom meeting

Step 2: You will be placed in a queue and admitted to the meeting when it is your turn to make a public comment. Once you see that you are admitted to the Zoom call it will be your turn to make your public comment. Please begin your public comment by stating your full name and address.

Step 3: After making your public comment please exit the Zoom meeting so that the next person waiting to make a public comment can be admitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 2 - DIAL-IN VIA ZOOM (VOICE ONLY)

Step 1: When you are ready to make a public comment, join the Zoom meeting using the dial in phone number and meeting ID posted on the district website www.bernardsboe.com. Please plan for your participation in the meeting by:

- Having a quiet space
- Muting the YouTube live stream of the Board of Education meeting when you are speaking so that there is no feedback with your participation in the Zoom meeting

Step 2: You will be placed in a queue and admitted to the meeting when it is your turn to make a public comment. Once you see that you are admitted to the Zoom call it will be your turn to make your public comment. Please begin your public comment by stating your full name and address.

Step 3: After making your public comment please exit the Zoom meeting so that the next person waiting to make a public comment can be admitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 3

If the preferred full video method of public comment is not an option for you and the dial-in method fails, please follow these directions to submit your public comment.

Step 1: Starting at 7PM: email your comment to BTCConnect@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.***

Regardless of whether you use method 1, 2 or 3 for public comment please note that:

- Public comments are limited to a maximum of approximately 3 minutes if read aloud.
- Individuals are permitted a maximum of one public comment during public comment on agenda items. Individuals are permitted a maximum of one public comment during public comment on non-agenda items.
- Public comments submitted via method 1 and 2 will be processed first, then comments submitted by method 3. An individual's comments made using method 1 or 2 will not also be read into the record through method 3.
- The Board of Education reserves the right to limit the length of time allotted for public comment (for both agenda items and non-agenda items). In the event that time limitations prohibit the reading of a public comment received pursuant to these instructions, the comment will be published as part of the meeting minutes.
- No public comments will be accepted before 7PM or after item XIX. 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.

VII. **Student Representative - Juliet Nolt**

Ms. Nolt provided an update regarding the Ridge High School senior class noting that there are less than 100 days left in the year, she gave updates for both the Ridge High School music program and Ridge Athletics, discussed an announcement regarding the color of the graduation grounds and congratulated the Ridge High School Speech and Debate Team (RHS Forensics Team) for winning First Place Overall Team Sweepstakes Awards at the New Jersey Speech & Debate League State Championships along with First Place Speech and First Place Debate Team Sweepstakes.

VIII. **Board Presentation**

1) **William Annin STEM Presentation: Creating & Analyzing Climatic Profiles**
- Aayush Bhakey, Shaurya Ganjoo, Daamodaran Lakshmipathi, James Mathai, Pranita Murali, Binish Narang, Yasemin Ocak, Molly Portas, Aarya Raval, Matthew Sherman, Matthew Sprinkle, Mahima Srivarshini, Isabel Su, Grace Younan and Zoey Zhu

Superintendent Markarian thanked the staff of William Annin Middle school and staff for the presentation that has been put together for the public.

Superintendent Markarian noted that the presentation would be posted on the website as technical issues prevented it from playing at the meeting.

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

2) **Preliminary 2021-22 Budget** - Nick Markarian, Superintendent, and Rod McLaughlin, Business Administrator

Business Administrator Rod McLaughlin presented an overview of the 2021-2022 school budget.

Items highlighted included:

- Comparisons between FY2021 and FY2022 outlining the general operating, grant and debt expense changes.
- The budgeted fund balance and a budget revenue comparison from year to year.
- An explanation of major factors affecting the budget include sustaining current programs, staffing, the continuing decline in enrollment, the state mandated Chapter 44 Health Benefit program, the impact of unionization of facilities

- services, sustainability of state categorical and state aid, capital projects and pandemic related costs that have been largely offset by federal funds that the district has been able to obtain.
- An 11 year history of taxes
 - Upcoming renovation/ improvement projects and an explanation of scope of the William Annin Science Rooms project

Superintendent Markarian thanked Mr. McLaughlin for his work on the budget. Mr. Markarian discussed staffing noting that any staffing realignments for the 2021-2022 school year needed to be funded through the existing personnel budget.

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

IX. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Markarian noted that there is no new report but that a report will be made at the April 5, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

March 8, 2021 - Executive Session Minutes

March 8, 2021 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Schafer the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

XII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated March 22, 2021 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$5,028,430.38.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the February 2021 Financial Reports from the Board Secretary, the monthly Investment Report for February 2021, the weekly reports of Electronic Fund Transfers and Bank Wires For February 2021, and the Treasurer of the School Monies Report for February 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), the Bernards Township Board of Education, after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, and to the best of their knowledge, certifies that as of the date of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report, no major account or fund has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the February 2021 line item transfers totaling \$2,554,733.81 the 2020-21 school budget, list on file in the Board Office.
- 4) The Board of Education hereby approves the acceptance of a grant from the Italian Language Center (IACE) in the amount of \$8,000.00 to be utilized to cover a portion of the salary costs for the Ridge Italian program.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an occupational therapy evaluation for student #307689 by Matheny Medical and Educational Center in the amount not to exceed \$950.00.
- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an AAC Consultations for student #301314 by Melissa Donovan, M.M. CCC-SLP, ATP of Garden State AAC Specialists, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$560.00.
- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve regular school related and extraordinary services for student #307421 from March 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 to be provided by Roots ABA in the amount not to exceed \$61,875.
- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve Invo Healthcare to provide compensatory speech services to various Bernards Township Board of Education students from the time period of October 28, 2020 to June 20, 2021 for an amount not to exceed 37,584.00.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve related services for student #1000794 with Behavior Analysis and Support Services from February 22, 2021 through June 18, 2021 in the amount not to exceed \$16,050.00.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve related services for student #1000795 with Behavior Analysis and Support Services from February 22, 2021 through June 18, 2021 in the amount not to exceed \$16,050.00.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve services for student #307936 to be provided by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually impaired from December 14, 2020 through June 30, 2021 in the amount not to exceed \$1,379.21.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the following resolution for out-of-district and intra-district travel for school year 2021-2022:

WHEREAS, the Bernards Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction of furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to the maximum expenditure of \$125,000 for all staff and Board members.

13) BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget to be approved for the 2021-2022 School Year using the 2021-2022 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</u> <u>FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL</u> <u>REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT</u> <u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2021-2022 Total Expenditures	\$103,448,153	\$1,632,999	\$5,369,623	\$110,450,415
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$12,792,837	\$1,632,999	\$ 263,612	\$14,689,448
Taxes to be Raised:	<u>\$90,655,316</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,105,651</u>	<u>\$95,760,967</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.

On motion by Ms. Richman, seconded by Ms. Korn Items #1-13 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Mr. Salmon provided a report from the March 18, 2021 Finance Committee meeting. Topics included the Aramark food service and Aramark facilities custodial staffing, the 2021-2022 Budget, a Ridge High School facilities update regarding food service locations for 2021, the Ridge Booster Club pavers project, the air ionization systems at Ridge High School and a Safety Grant update.

Mr. Salmon provided a summary of the Finance agenda items.

Ms. Korn inquired about changes in cleaning protocol during the public health emergency. Mr. Salmon provided further information about the requirements. Business Administrator McLaughlin further elaborated about cleaning of “high contact surfaces” in the facilities. Superintendent Markarian noted a link within the Road Back Document that the district used which provided guidance for appropriate cleaning protocols to use..

XIII. 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 **Diane Reilly** Spanish Teacher William Annin Middle School effective June 30, 2021.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Chet Lawson** Instructional Aide Ridge High School effective April 7, 2021.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Paul Galipeu** IT Technician District Wide effective April 19, 2021.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an unpaid leave of absence for **Kruti Kapadia** School Aide Mount Prospect School effective March 22, 2021 through April 30, 2021.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby terminate Employee #9248 effective May 23, 2021.
- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the following Extra-Curricular resignations for the 2020-21 school year:

Amy Lieberwirth

Assistant Softball RHS

- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Changes in Assignments** for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Anthony LaGreca	Unified Track Head Coach WAMS \$1,000	Unified Track Assistant Coach RHS \$1,000
Meg Jewson	Instructional Aide Nurse's Office RHS at a salary of Step 1 \$27.36 per hour 7 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through March 14, 2021 then a 10 month Secretary at salary of Step 1 \$51,555 prorated to \$41,244 to reflect 10	Instructional Aide Nurse's Office RHS at a salary of Step 1 \$27.36 per hour 7 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021 then a 10 month Secretary at salary of Step 1 \$51,555 prorated to \$41,244 to

	month status effective March 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.	reflect 10 month status effective March 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
Pam Collins	School Aide Nurse's Office \$22.81 per hour 6.5 hours per day effective October 12, 2021 through March 14, 2021 then a 10 month Secretary at salary of Step 1 \$51,555 prorated to \$41,244 to reflect 10 month status effective March 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.	School Aide Nurse's Office \$22.81 per hour 6.5 hours per day effective October 12, 2021 through February 28, 2021 then a 10 month Secretary at salary of Step 1 \$51,555 prorated to \$41,244 to reflect 10 month status effective March 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
Michele Campbell	School Aide RHS at a salary of \$21.75 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through March 14, 2021 then a 10 month Secretary at salary of Step 1 \$51,555 prorated to \$41,244 to reflect 10 month status effective March 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.	School Aide RHS at a salary of \$21.75 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021 then a 10 month Secretary at salary of Step 1 \$51,555 prorated to \$41,244 to reflect 10 month status effective March 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
Joseph Lipinski	Social Studies Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1-4 BA \$52,872 effective March 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for L. Filippini. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing - mentoring	Social Studies Teacher Ridge High School at a salary of Step 1-4 BA 52,872 effective March 24, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for P. Tamagnini. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing - mentoring

	required. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.	required. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
Stephanie Fletcher	Theater Teacher .9 Ridge High School & William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1-4 MA \$59,355 effective March 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for M. Harvey. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.	Theater Teacher .9 Ridge High School & William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1-4 MA \$59,355 effective March 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for M. Harvey. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date and .9 status.

- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Giulia LoPiccolo-Stewart** School Counselor Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 1-4 MA \$59,355 effective March 25, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as a maternity leave replacement for M. Mooney. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Chloe O'Malley** Social Studies Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$125.00 per day effective May 19, 2021 through June 18, 2021.
- 10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Ronald Bernstein** HVAC Technician District Wide at a salary of \$99,000 effective April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the staff member to the **Various Assignment** listed for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Travis Boop	Math Counts	\$30.00 per hour
Pauline Lartigue	Substitute Teacher	\$105.00 Per diem
Anthony Arimenta	Extra Section PE/Health WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective March 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021
Frank LoCascio	Extra Section PE/Health WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective March 29, 2021 through

		June 30, 2021
Meghan O'Donnell	Extra Section PE/Health WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective March 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021
Rebecca Diserio	Extra Section PE/Health WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective March 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021
Melanie Doering	Extra Section PE/Health WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective March 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>20-21 Salary:</u>	<u>Years/Points/Longevity:</u>
WA	Unified Track Coach	Ryan Reiss	\$1,000	0 years/\$0/0 points
WA	Unified Track Assistant Coach	Vanessa Ventrice	\$500	0 years/\$0/0 points

On motion by Ms. White, seconded by Mr. Salmon Items #1-13 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

XIV. Policy Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following policies and regulations on **first reading**:

- P 0145 - Board Member Resignation and Removal (M) (Revised)
- P 0164.6 - Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M)

- (New)
- R 1642 - Earned Sick Leave Law (M) (Revised)
 - P 1643 - Family Leave (M) (New)
 - P 2415 - Every Student Succeeds Act (M) (Revised)
 - P 2415.02 - Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities (M) (Revised)
 - P 2415.03 - Highly Qualified Teachers (M) (Abolished)
 - P 2415.05 - Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations (M) (Revised)
 - P 2415.20 - Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M) (Revised)
 - R 2415.20 - Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M) (Revised)
 - P 3431.1 - Family Leave (M) (Abolished)
 - P 3431.3 - New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (Abolished)
 - P 4125 - Employment of Support Staff Members (M) (Revised)
 - P 4431.1 - Family Leave (M) (Abolished)
 - P 4431.3 - New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (Abolished)
 - P 5330.01 - Administration of Medical Cannabis (M) (Revised)
 - R 5330.01 - Administration of Medical Cannabis (M) (Revised)
 - P 6360 - Political Contributions (M) (Revised)
 - P 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (Revised)
 - R 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (New)
 - P 7430 - School Safety (M) (Abolished)
 - R 7430 - School Safety (M) (Abolished)
 - P 8330 - Student Records (M) (Revised)
 - P 9713 - Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (M) (Revised)

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the revised **2021-22 School Calendar** on second reading and adopt.

On motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Ms. Schafer Items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer and Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Ms. Korn provided a report from the March 8, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting. Topics included end of year events in the district, both on and off school grounds, a first reading and discussion of several policies and regulation revisions and updates and a second reading of the revision of the 2021-22 district calendar.

XV. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XVI. Wellness Committee Report

Ms. Schafer provided a report from the February 25, 2021 Wellness Committee meeting. Topics included a review of supports available to struggling students, senior privileges, graduation gowns, a discussion about a private organization called Challenge Success that analyzes curriculum for school districts from a wellness standpoint, the K-12 counseling program and parent programming including two parenting events designed to assist parents during challenging times.

XVII. Liaison Committee Reports

No report.

XVIII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Comments from the public included a question of the student management of curriculum with the modified school days and the impact on student mental health and well-being, positive feedback regarding the return to instruction, concerns with the school day schedule and the return to full-day instruction, a question regarding contact tracing numbers and criteria for quarantining, the new CDC guidelines regarding social distancing space, comments regarding graduation gown color and inclusion concerns.

Superintendent Markarian noted the efforts by the Wellness Committee to identify students who are having challenges in the current public health emergency learning environment, commented on contact tracing statistics and challenges and referred to the COVID Dashboard on the district website where cases and transmissions are reflected singularly, the move to a full day schedule noting the parent selection form that just closed the previous week and stating the data will be discussed at the April 5, 2021 Board of Education meeting and recommendations will be presented for the fourth marking period and commented regarding inclusion in relation to the change in graduation gown color.

XIX. Board Forum

Ms. Korn discussed the video sent out by Ridge High School principal, Dr. Lazovick, with regard to the change in graduation gown color from green and white to green for all students, how some students reacted to the change and suggested that there could have been a broader discussion regarding the topic prior to the final decision being made. Ms. Schafer commented that this is a great opportunity to add to dialogues regarding inclusion in conjunction with preparation to sending the seniors out into the world. Board members echoed the need to facilitate conversations with students regarding the topics of inclusivity and diversity.

Ms. Schafer spoke about the struggles of the student body during the public health emergency noting that student mental health and well-being has been and remains a high

priority of the Board of Education members. Board members commented to this echoing the importance of student health and well-being.

Ms. Gray discussed the return to in person Board of Education meetings noting that the Board anticipates to resume in-person meetings starting on May 24, 2021.

XX. Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. Beckman and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary