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BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY MEETING AGENDA NOVEMBER 2, 2020 REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M. REGULAR SESSION 7:03 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00PM ON NOVEMBER 2, 2020 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM

- I. Regular Session Call to Order 5:30 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. 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 and seconded by Ms. Wooldridge and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:34p.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. Korn seconded by Mr. Salmon and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:29p.m.

V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:03 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 two ways:

PUBLIC COMMENT METHOD 1 (PREFERRED) - FULL VIDEO

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

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

- Step 1: <u>Starting at 7PM</u>: email your comment to <u>BTConnect@bernardsboe.com</u> 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 or method 2 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.
- 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 Halloween celebrations at Ridge High School as part of the effort to increase school spirit. Ms. Nolt discussed the upcoming Homecoming, fall sports and student stress.

VIII. Board Presentation

1) **Return to Instruction Survey -** Administrative Team

Superintendent Markarian discussed the breakdown of students in the virtual learning program and the blended learning program and the logistics between A and B cohorts. Mr. Markarian provided a breakdown of these students and what the breakdown is between the schools in the district.

Superintendent Markarian thanked the families who participated in the survey and Supervisor of Mathematics, Mr. Kolmer for organizing the information. Mr. Markarian discussed the response rate by school, grade level and current program the child is enrolled in. Mr. Markarain discussed the ratings of the educational program and maintenance of a safe school environment, the direction that parents would like to see the district go as the school year proceeds and results for in-person alternative choices. Superintendent Markarian also discussed several results for questions surrounding the use of technology and access of devices for students.

Assistant Superintendent Fox discussed the survey question "If you could make ONE improvement to the educational program that you child is in, what would it be?" and the

responses received to that question. Many of the answers focused on the use of live instruction and groups along with the logistics of independent work. Superintendent Markarian discussed how the information from this question is being considered and used to make decisions moving forward.

Superintendent Markarian discussed a probable COVID-19 case and noted that the Board of Education is working in conjunction with the Bernards Township Health Department to mitigate risk and communicate to the community in a timely and effective manner. Mr. Markarian discussed the breakdown of open-ended responses to the question "Which of the following statements best characterizes the direction you would like to see the district go as we move through the school year?". Mr. Markarian also discussed the thoughts and ideas for new alternatives program responses.

Superintendent Markarian noted that the student and staff surveys are currently being worked on and hopefully there will be further information at the next Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Markarian thanked Mr. Kolmer for his hard work on the survey.

Board members had follow up questions for clarification for the survey and noted the consistency in the results.

Ms. Gray thanked everyone for their hard work.

To view the presentation <u>click here</u>.

IX. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following School Bus Evacuation Drills for the 2020-21 school year:

School: Dates:

Cedar Hill School 10/19/2020, 10/22/2020

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Schafer 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

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Comments from the public included questions regarding virtual learning and a question regarding the survey and out of district students.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

October 19, 2020 - Executive Session Minutes October 19, 2020 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. White the foregoing were 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

XII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a <u>list of disbursements</u> dated november 2, 2020 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$7,044,209.17.
- 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 2020-21 school year:

Name:	Name of Conference:	Cost:	Date(s):
C. Kupiec	Jim Knight's Coaching to Increase Engagement	\$189	11/10/2020
C. Kupiec	Better Conversations- Jim Knight	\$189	1/05/2021 to 02/02/2021
V. Daglian	The Art of Coaching Teams	\$595	11/18/2020 to 11/19/2020

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the following out-of-district students for the 2020-21 school year and 2020 extended school year:

Student #:	School District:	Annual Tuition:	ESY:
301982	Dunellen	\$53.446.00	\$5.873.19

302374	Jersey City	\$53,784.00	\$5,910.33
304449	Livingston	\$53,784.00	\$5,910.33
1000507	New Providence	\$78,309.59	
308370	South Bound Brook	\$53,446.00	\$5,873.19
307943	Warren Township	\$53,784.00	\$5,910.33
202567	Watchung Hills	\$53,784.00	\$5,910.33
303390	Watchung Hills	\$86,708.90	\$8,419.79
305389	Watchung Hills	\$80,152.01	\$8,419.79

4) WHEREAS, the District previously acknowledged and affirmed the emergency circumstances warranting an emergency contract for certain Sanitary Sewer Renovations at Ridge High School (the "Work"); and

WHEREAS, a proposal was subsequently received from and Notice to Proceed issued to Salazar & Associates, Inc., to carry out the Work for the proposed amount of \$334,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE DISTRICT hereby affirms the foregoing award of contract to Salazar & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$334,000.00 for the Sanitary Sewer Renovations at Ridge High School.

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Schafer Items #1-4 were approved by the following roll call vote:

"Abstain" - None

Mr. Salmon provided a description of finance agenda items.

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 resignation of **Judy Aronoff** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective November 30, 2020.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Patricia Hall** School Aide Oak Street School effective November 20, 2020.

[&]quot;Ayes" - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Wooldridge and Ms. White

[&]quot;Noes" - None

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Laura Steiner** Special Education ICS Teacher Cedar Hill School effective December 18, 2020.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Leave for Employee **Jessica Malta** Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School effective October 28, 2020 through December 23, 2020, returning January 4, 2021.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby rescind the following appointments of Extra-Curricular Assignments for the 2020-21 school year:

Steve Kohut Mock Trial Prosecution Team RHS
Steve Kohut Future Business Leaders of America RHS

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignments/Locations and/or Salaries** for the 2020-21 school year:

Staff Member:	From:	<u>To:</u>
Christine Cancillieri	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School at a salary of \$22.81 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective 9/1/20-6/18/21	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School at a salary of \$22.81 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective 9/1/20-11/2/20 then an Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School at a salary of \$22.81 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective 11/3/20-6/18/21
Evona Panycia	Approve an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective November 9, 2020 through November 30, 2020, returning December 1, 2020	Approve an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective November 9, 2020 through November 27, 2020, returning November 30, 2020
Kristine Karnich	Grade 2 Teacher Cedar Hill School effective November 9, 2020 through June 30, 2020 as a leave replacement for M. Kane	Grade 2 Teacher Cedar Hill School effective November 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020 as a leave replacement for M. Kane
Kristine Karnich	Accept the resignation as an Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective	Accept the resignation as an Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School

November 4, 2020	effective November 12, 2020

- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Kristie Babiarz** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$22.81 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 3, 2020 through June 18, 2021.
- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Carlos Luciano** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$22.81 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 3, 2020 through June 18, 2021.
- 9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Peter Polizzano** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$22.81 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 17, 2020 through June 18, 2021.
- 10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Tiffany Zona** Secretary to the Director of IT & Facilities at a salary of \$60,500 effective December 3, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff members in the **Various Assignment** listed for the 2020-21 school year:

Staff Member:	Assignment:	Salary:	
Clare Sweeney	ICS Math Grade 7 Extra Section WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective 10/28/20-12/28/20	
Dana Romano	ICS Math Grade 7 Extra Section WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective 10/28/20-12/28/20	
Melanie Turtur	Study Skills Grade 6 Extra Section WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective 10/28/20-12/28/20	
Samantha Zukatus	LLD Math Grades 6-7 Extra Section WAMS	\$1,057 per month effective 10/28/20-12/28/20	
Tara Cantagallo	Physical Education/Health Extra Section RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/13/20-1/28/21	
Sean Kiernan	Football Game Security	\$27.35 per hour/6 hours 11-6-20	
Heidi Fox	Extra Section Entrepreneurs RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/1/20-2/28/21	
Dawn Piper	Extra Section Entrepreneurs RHS	\$1,057 per month effective	

		11/1/20-2/28/21	
Jennifer DiGiuseppe	Extra Section Entrepreneurs RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/1/20-2/28/21	
Theresa Emma	Extra Section Entrepreneurs RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/1/20-2/28/21	
Emily Lipnick	Extra Section English RR Special Education RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/24/20-5/24/21	
Sarah Mueller	Extra Section English RR Special Education RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/24/20-5/24/21	
Matt Lyons	Extra Section Special Education RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/17/20-2/17/21	
Marisa Marcus	Extra Section Special Education RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/17/20-2/17/21	
Brian Scott	Extra Section Special Education RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/17/20-2/17/21	
Kara Higgins	Extra Section Special Education RHS	\$1,057 per month effective 11/17/20-2/17/21	
Tara Cascarelli	Mentor Classified Student-SE	\$68.30 per hour 2020-21 school year	
Emily Lipnick	Mentor Classified Student-SE	\$68.30 per hour 2020-21 school year	

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

School:	Assignment:	Staff Member:	<u>20-21</u> <u>Salary:</u>	Years/Points/Longevity:
RH	Head Boys' Fencing	Stephen Kovacs	\$8,579	n/a
RH	Assistant Girls' Fencing	Zachary Brown	\$5,662	n/a
RH	Freshmen Wrestling	Max Sidoli	\$7,904	n/a

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Mary Fairbanks** Latin Teacher Ridge High School effective March 29,

2021 through May 27, 2021 then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective June 1, 2021 through October 27, 2021 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective June 1, 2021 through October 27, 2021 then an unpaid leave effective October 28, 2021 through June 30, 2022, returning September 1, 2022.

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff members to received their **CDL Stipend** of \$1,000 for the 2020-21 school year:

Lawrence Mongno Louis Puopolo Chet Lawson Peter Samila Christopher Pereira Patricia Sugrue

- The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Shannon Baumann** Instructional Support Teacher Oak Street School at a salary of Step 11 BA \$59,822 effective November 16, 2020 through June 30, 2021 as a maternity leave replacement for K. Taccarino. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.
- 16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Kruti Kapadia** School Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of \$19.63 per hour 4.5 hours per day effective November 16, 2020 through June 18, 2021.

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge, seconded by Ms. Korn Items #1-16 were approved by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon,

Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Wooldridge and Ms. White

"Noes" - None

"Abstain" - None

XIV. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XV. Curriculum Committee Report

Ms. Richman reported from the October 2, 2020 Curriculum Committee Meeting. Topics included summer curriculum writing updates, the gifted and enrichment program, return to instruction, senior internship, an ELL program update, a scheduling update, diagnostic assessments for grades K-5, a hybrid/virtual update, a K-12 homework update and academic integrity and course assessments on virtual and hybrid days.

XVI. Wellness Committee Report

Ms. White reported from the October 22, 2020 Wellness Committee Meeting. Topics included the rotating drop mock schedule for Ridge, the ESS program, a vaping

prevention grant project update, counseling program updates, a career education program evaluation update and a discussion about an article about remote learning.

XVII. Liaison Committee Reports

No report.

XVIII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Comments from the public included the implementation of the rotating drop schedule during the 2021-2022 school year and the current learning environment, the parent survey, the return to in-person learning and MAP testing results.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the potential rotating drop schedule logistics.

XIX. Board Forum

Ms. Korn expressed her concerns regarding students going to school and in-person instruction in conjunction with the survey results.

Ms. Schafer discussed the upcoming performance at Ridge High School being held on November 13th and 14th.

Ms. Gray and Superintendent Markarian discussed responses to the survey and Mr. Markarian noted that if further information for a survey answer was needed that there is the ability to reach out directly to the respondent.

XX. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Korn and seconded by Mr. Salmon and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin Board Secretary