

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 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 AGENDA  
NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 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 – 6:00 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. Singh, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: None

**IV. Executive Session – 6:01 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. Beckman seconded by Mr. Salmon, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into executive session at 6:09p.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. Schafer seconded by Ms. Singh, and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:38p.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.

Due to the pandemic, the Board of Education expects that in-person attendees to this meeting:

- 1) Have completed and passed a self-assessment of personal health (done at home using the district's screening tool).
- 2) Wear a face covering pursuant to N.J. EO-251.
- 3) Sit in a socially distanced manner from members of different households.
- 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 XVIII. 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 - Gordon Li**

Mr. Li provided an update on the Ridge High School end of the first marking period. Mr. Li discussed the annual Halloween Costume Contest that had recently happened at the school, provided updates with regard to student athletics congratulating those teams for their successes and discussed the Ridge Forensics Team's recent accomplishments.

Board members discussed scheduling a meeting with the student government as they had done prior to the public health emergency to discuss ideas and issues directly with the students.

**VIII. Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby recognize the inception of the following **New Extra-Curricular Clubs**:

<b><u>School:</u></b>	<b><u>Club:</u></b>
Ridge High School	Ridge Forensic Linguistics Club
Ridge High School	Career Experience Club

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Korn Item #1, Career Experience Club only, was 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

Superintendent Markarian provided an explanation of the item on the Superintendent's report providing further detail stating that he did not have access to the Forensics Linguistics Club and therefore suggested that the club be tabled to the next meeting.

**IX. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

**X. Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

- October 25, 2021 - Executive Session Minutes
- October 25, 2021 - Regular Session Minutes

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

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

## XI. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated November 8, 2021 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,209,952.56.
- 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>
T. Hine	American Choral Directors Association Conference	\$280	02/10/2022-02/12/2022
J. Koch	NECTFL	\$500	02/11/2022-02/12/2022
J. Oliver	NJPSA Conference	\$500	03/24/2022-03/25/2022
T. Thorp	NJPSA Conference	\$500	03/24/2022-03/25/2022

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

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

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

## XII. 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 Bernard Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Nicole Scaplen** Special Education CBAP Teacher Ridge High School effective December 31, 2021.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Jessica McCrea** Special Education Teacher Mount Prospect School effective January 17, 2022 through March 1, 2022 utilizing 28 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave and Federal Family Leave effective March 2, 2022 through June 3, 2022 then an unpaid child care leave effective June 4, 2022 through June 30, 2022, returning July 1, 2022.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Meghan O'Donnell** Physical Education/Health Teacher William Annin Middle School effective March 2, 2022 through May 6, 2022 utilizing 40 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave and Federal Family Leave effective May 7, 2022 through June 30, 2022, returning September 1, 2022.

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

Jamie Scott Head Girls' Ski Team RHS  
 Alex Ballas Assistant Boys' Ski Team RHS  
 Jaclyn Coyne Feminist Club RHS

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

<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
Alex Ballas	District ESL Extra Section \$1,087.60 per month effective 9/1/21-11/10/21	District ESL Extra Section \$1,087.60 per month effective 9/1/21-12/31/21
Michele Campbell	Secretary .8 RHS at a salary of Step 2 +2 tests \$43,844 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	Secretary .8 RHS at a salary of Step 2 +3 tests \$44,194 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Dawn Fiorilli	District ESL Extra Section \$1,087.60 per month effective 9/1/21-11/10/21	District ESL Extra Section \$1,087.60 per month effective 9/1/21-12/31/21
Christine Guibord	Secretary Oak Street School at a salary of Step 9+3 Tests \$63,230 effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	Secretary Oak Street School at a salary of Step 9+3 Tests \$63,230 effective July 1, 2021 through October 31, 2022 then at a salary of Step 9+4 Tests \$63,730 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Meg Jewson	Secretary .8 RHS at a salary of Step 2 +2 tests \$43,844 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	Secretary .8 RHS at a salary of Step 2 +3 tests \$44,194 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022



Eileen Keefe	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 6 BA \$55,380 effective September 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 as a leave replacement for S. Lang	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 November 30, 2021 as leave replacement for M. Lam
Lisa Miano	Secretary RHS Step 6+4 Tests \$58,480 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	Secretary RHS Step 6+6 Tests \$59,480 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Kristina O'Donnell	Secretary William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 9 +3 tests 63,230 effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	Secretary William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 9 +3 tests \$63,230 effective July 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 then at a salary of Step 9+4 tests \$63,730 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021
Karen Santonastaso	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7 hours per day effective October 4, 2021 through November 29, 2021 as a leave replacement for E.Coates, then and Instructional Aide at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective November 30, 2021 through June 17, 2022	Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7 hours per day effective October 4, 2021 through November 8, 2021 as a leave replacement for E.Coates, then and Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7 hours per day effective November 9, 2021 through June 17, 2022

Sandra Savage	Secretary Special Services at a salary of Step 9 +3 Tests \$63,230 effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	Secretary Special Services at a salary of Step 9 +3 Tests \$63,230 effective July 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 then at a salary of Step 9+4 Tests \$63,730 effective November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
Allyson Steitz	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 then an Instructional Aide effective November 1, 2021 through June 17, 2022	Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through November 12, 2021 then an Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School effective November 15, 2021 through June 17, 2022
Vanessa Ventrice	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 3 \$29.35 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through June 17, 2022	Instructional Aide Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 3 \$29.35 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2021 through October 26, 2021 then 7 hours per day effective October 27, 2021 through November 10, 2021 then 5.5 hours per day effective November 11, 2021 through June 17, 2022

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Matthew McConnochie** Spanish Teacher Ridge High School at a salary of 17 MA+30 \$84,683 effective December 6, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Certificate of Eligibility-Alternate Route-Mentoring Required. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Michele Robinson** Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 8 MA \$64,318 effective November 9, 2021 through March 1, 2022 as a maternity leave replacement for S. Lang. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Mousumi Biswas** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7 hours per day effective November 9, 2021 through November 30, 2021 as a leave replacement for E. Coates.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Mousumi Biswas** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 5.5 hours per day effective November 30, 2021 through June 17, 2022.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Jeanne Dombrowski** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 29, 2021 through June 17, 2022.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **David Montagna** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 23, 2021 through June 17, 2022.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff members in **Various Assignment** listed for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Tracy Curcio	After School Program CH	\$45.00 per hour
Donald Hart	Campus Monitor Coverage	\$20.22 per hour
Jeffrey Herring	District Substitute	\$115.00 per diem
Sean Kiernan	Campus Monitor Coverage	\$28.17 per hour
Carlene Lau	After School Program LC	\$22.00 per hour
Jennifer Marney	Camp Jump Start Director	\$7,500 2021-22 school year/summer 2022
Pat Miller	Football Ticket Seller	\$55.00 per game 2021 season
Tanya Minassian	Football Ticket Taker	\$55.00 per game 2021 season
Katie O'Sullivan	Football Ticket Taker	\$55.00 per game 2021 season
Katie O'Sullivan	After School Program Nurse	\$70.00 per hour
Jeffery Petrone	Campus Monitor Coverage	\$20.22 per hour

Leslie Santoro	Campus Monitor Coverage	\$22.40 per hour
Donella Sequeira	Campus Monitor Coverage	\$20.22 per hour
Judee Schroeder	Football Ticket Seller	\$55.00 per game 2021 season
Vandana Thaman	Campus Monitor Coverage	\$20.22 per hour
Lana Van der Brake	After School Program Student Worker LC	\$13.00 per hour 2021-22 school year

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Extra-Sections** for the 2021-22 School Year:

<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>Section:</u></b>	<b><u>Salary:</u></b>
Jonathan Ost	English Language Arts WAMS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 10/29/21-12/14/21
Jill Stredonsky	English Language Arts WAMS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 10/29/21-12/14/21
Jennifer Winters	English Language Arts WAMS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 10/29/21-12/14/21
Chris Romash	English Language Arts WAMS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 10/29/21-12/14/21
Sarah Tompson	English Language Arts WAMS	\$1,087.60 per month effective 10/29/21-12/14/21

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2021-22 school year:

<b><u>School:</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment:</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Member:</u></b>	<b><u>21-22:</u></b>	<b><u>Years/Points/Longevity:</u></b>
RH	Assistant Forensic Debate CFL	Malcolm Coates	\$2,365	0 years/0 points/\$0
RH	Assistant Forensic Debate NFL	Malcolm Coates	\$2,365	0 years/0 points/\$0

RH	Assistant Forensic Debate -National Circuit	Malcolm Coates	\$2,365	0 years/0 points/\$0
RH	Assistant Girls' Fencing	Mike McTernan	\$5,747	0 years/0 points/\$0
RH	Assistant Boys' Ski Team	Jamie Scott	\$5,747	n/a
RH	Head Girls' Ski Team	Alex Ballas	\$8,707	5 years/1 point/\$198
RH	Spring Fitness Center 3 x week	Kyle Baach	\$2,076	0 years/0 points/0
RH	Feminist Club	Janine Quimby	\$1,330	none
RH	Head Girls' Ski Team Assistant .5	Chris Everetz	\$2,874	n/a
RH	Head Girls' Ski Team Assistant .5	Tom Haas	\$2,874	n/a

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff as **Quarantine Tutors** at a salary of \$80.34 per hour for the 2021-22 school year:

Christine Buckner	Melanie Sackie	Jennifer Walter
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16) The Bernard Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **District Volunteers** for the 2021-22 school year:

Frank LoCascio	Boys' Basketball WAMS
Scott Miller	Boys' Basketball WAMS
Brian McCarty	Girls' Basketball WAMS
John Gerke	Ice Hockey RHS
Joe Narcise	Ice Hockey RHS
Brian Aronoff	Boys' Basketball RHS
Kevin Byelick	Boys' Basketball RHS
JD Moore	Boys' Basketball RHS
Anna Hill	Ski Team RHS

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following additional **Summer Curriculum Writing** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Last Name:</u>	<u>First Name:</u>	<u>Project:</u>	<u># of Days:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Koch	Julie	Wellness Training	1	\$200.00

18) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following Math Contest Proctors at a salary of \$30.00 per hour for the 2021-22 school year:

Mary Henry	Marybeth Gakos
Pat Gambino	Lauren Baker
Robin Wells	

19) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Monica Gupta** Special Education Teacher William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 6 MA \$62,078 effective November 15, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as a leave replacement for L. Moran. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

20) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Julia Fackelman** Special Education CBAP Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 1-5 BA \$54,380 effective November 9, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

On motion by Mr. Salmon, seconded by Ms. McKeon Items #1-20 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

**XIII. Policy Committee Report**

No report.

**XIV. Curriculum Committee Report**

Ms. White noted that the Curriculum Committee had met the previous week to discuss QSAC logistics.

**XV. Wellness Committee Report**

Ms. Schafer discussed the October 28, 2021 Wellness Committee meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included the Ridge High School wellness program including future T.E.A. Time plans and upcoming events, in service planning, a summer projects

update, a counseling update and a discussion surrounding school start times for the middle and high schools.

**XVI. Liaison Committee Reports**

Ms. Korn discussed the upcoming event for middle and high school students, Escape the Vape 2.0, a vaping prevention program.

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

A comment from the public was related to a concern with a bus stop. Emailed comments from the public included concerns with mask wearing and vaccination and a concern with a bus stop.

**XVIII. Board Forum**

Ms. Korn discussed concerns with local social media behavior and noted that board members are volunteers who live in town and are elected by the community and do so to help the children of the community. Ms. White echoed the sentiments of Ms. Korn and invited the public to come to the Board meetings to air their concerns.

Ms. Gray encouraged the public to act in a responsible way on social media and please contact the board members with any questions and concerns.

**XIX. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Korn and seconded by Ms. Singh and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary