

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING INDEX
OCTOBER 3, 2022
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:04 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
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MEETING AGENDA
OCTOBER 3, 2022
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
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RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:04 P.M.
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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, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Schafer, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Singh, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Board Counsel Cherie Adams

Absent: Mr. Khanna, Mr. McLaughlin

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, 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 Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the Board recessed into executive session at 5:47 p.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. Singh seconded by Ms. Light and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:52p.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 P.L. 1975 Chapter 231A.

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 XV. Public Comment.

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** - Petra Deffenbaugh

Ms. Deffenbaugh discussed the launching of clubs at Ridge High School and upcoming fundraisers, school spirit and the upcoming Spirit Week, an upcoming football game and provided a rundown of events and fundraisers coming up for the senior class. Ms. Deffenbaugh also discussed the blood drive, back to school night, completion of the first round of state testing, Forensics team accomplishments, opportunity periods for extra help and relaxation for students and other club events. Ms. Deffenbaugh provided an update for the athletic teams and wished the teams luck in their upcoming events.

VIII. **Board President Comments**

IX. **Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated October 3, 2022.

On motion by Ms. Singh seconded by Ms. Schafer Item #1 approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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:

- September 19, 2022 - Executive Minutes
- September 19, 2022 - Regular Session Minutes

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

- “Ayes” - Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Schafer, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Singh, 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 October 3, 2022 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$6,281,517.38.

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 2022-23 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
A. Hughes	NCSSA	\$995	12/01/2022-12/04/2022
J. Koch	ACTFL Annual Conference	\$1,026	11/17/2022-11/20/2022
J. Koch	Northeast Conference of Teachers of Foreign Languages	\$644	03/02/2023-03/04/2023
N. Lechleider	Dyslexia - Early Intervention	\$279	12/12/2022

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the Cedar Hill School PTO in the amount of \$10,850.00 toward the enhancements of the Cedar Hill side parking lot.

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Ms. Gray Items #1-3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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 **Richard Shello** Director of Athletics effective December 31, 2022.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Dena Nahas** Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill School effective November 24, 2022.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Amy Stem** School Counselor/SAC William Annin Middle School effective November 30, 2022.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Barbara Vega-Martins** Instructional Aide BD Program Mount Prospect School effective October 28, 2022.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the following **Extra-Curricular Resignations** for the 2022-23 school year:

Rob Romanyshyn	Assistant Boys’ Basketball RH
William Fratto	Assistant Girls' Lacrosse RH

- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignments** for the 2022-23 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Carlene Lau	School Aide Liberty Corner School at salary of \$20.89 per hour 5 hours per day 2022-23 school year	School Aide Liberty Corner School at salary of \$20.89 per hour 5 hours per day effective September 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022 then an Instructional Aide LLD

		Program at a salary of Step 2 \$25.04 per hour 4 hours per day effective on or before November 1, 2022 through June 16, 2023
Carson Michura	Extra-Section Dance WAMS (full year) \$11,676	Extra-Section Dance WAMS (2nd Semester) \$5,838
Tara Nixdorff	Grade 2 Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$55,378 effective October 10, 2022 through March 16, 2023 as a leave replacement for J. Cocuzza. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing-Mentoring required.	Grade 2 Teacher Cedar Hill School at a salary of Step 1 BA \$55,378 effective September 26, 2022 through March 16, 2023 as a leave replacement for J. Cocuzza. Salary to be prorated to reflect dates worked. Certificate of Eligibility w/Advanced Standing-Mentoring required.
Jeffery Petrone	School Aide/Campus Monitor Ridge High School at a salary of \$20.89 per hour 4.5 hours per day effective September 1, 2022 through June 16, 2023	Security Campus Monitor Ridge High School at a salary of \$26,100 (\$29.00 per hour 5 hours per day) effective September 6, 2022 through June 16, 2023

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Janine Gebbia** Instructional Aide CBAP Program William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 5 \$27.74 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective November 1, 2022 through June 16, 2023.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Deepa Hunashimarad** Instructional Aide CBAP Program Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 5 \$27.74 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective October 25, 2022 through June 16, 2023.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Aarti Varman** Instructional Aide CBAP Program William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1 \$24.58 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective October 4, 2022 through June 16, 2023.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Various Assignments** for the the 2022-23 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Samantha Brain	Orchestra Assistance SE	\$31.37 per hour

		2022-23 school year
Jane Conklin	After School Activities & Club Assistance SE	\$69.33 per hour
Jeannine Contreras	After School Activities & Club Assistance SE	\$31.37 per hour
Lisa Corbin	District Substitute	\$62.50 per diem half day
Angela DiPetta	After Care Teacher	\$45 per hour 2022-23 school year
Nicole Ferguson	New Teacher Orientation Mentor Meeting	\$150.00
Jennifer Flaherty	Genesis New Teacher Training	\$40.00 per hour
Kathleen Genovese	Drama Club Assistance SE	\$31.37 per hour 2022-23 school year
Kristine Mercurio	CST Summer Assistance	Per diem rate
Stacey Osucha	Summer 504 meetings WA	Per diem rate/1 day
Jaclyn Pistilli	Summer 504 meetings WA	Per diem rate/1 day
Anika Pophali	Chromebook & Technology Assistance	\$17.00 per hour 2022-23 school year
Maureen Rodgers	New Teacher Orientation Mentor Meeting	\$150.00
Shawn Scriffiano	New Teacher Orientation Mentor Meeting	\$150.00
Lori White	After School Activities & Club Assistance SE	\$31.37 per hour
Donna Wilson	After School Activities & Club Assistance SE	\$31.37 per hour

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Extra-Sections** for the 2022-23 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Extra-Section:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Elizabeth Ciccarelli	Special Education WAMS	\$58.00 per day

	9/26/22-11/7/22	
Ann Delaney	Special Education WAMS 9/26/22-11/7/22	\$58.00 per day
Regina DiGiovanni	Special Education WAMS 9/26/22-11/7/22	\$58.00 per day
Christine Flanagan	Special Education WAMS 9/26/22-11/7/22	\$58.00 per day
Ryan Hughes	Pathway Program (Senior Internship)	\$5,838/year
Sydney McGivney	Pathway Program (Senior Internship)	\$5,838/year

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2022-23 school year:

<u>Loc:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>2022-23 Stipend/Years/Points/Longevity:</u>			
RH	Science League Advisor Bio 1 & 2	Madeline Greene	\$3,301	0 years	0 points	\$0
WA	Assistant Unified Soccer	Debbie Bune	\$508	1 year	0 points	\$0

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Staff College Instructors** 2022-23 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Course Description:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>
Pat Miller	AHA Heartsaver First Aid CPR	\$900
Amy Lynn	AHA Heartsaver First Aid CPR	\$900
Erin Noonan	AHA Heartsaver First Aid CPR	\$900
Nicole Williams	Building a Thinking Classroom	\$525
Katie Beykirch	Cross-Curricular Learning	\$750
Suzy Westlake	Cross-Curricular Learning	\$750
Tara McDonough	Incorporating Exercise and Fitness	\$1,050

Vivekanand Balija	Model Building for All Subjects	\$1,050
Patricia Coto	Mentoring the Special Education Student at Ridge High	\$525
Marie Wurtemberg	Mentoring the Special Education Student at Ridge High	\$525
Vicki Daglian	Genesis 201 for Grades 6 – 12	\$350
Chiara Kupiec	Genesis 201 for Grades 6 – 12	\$350
Vicki Daglian	Evaluations Made Easy	\$350
Chiara Kupiec	Evaluations Made Easy	\$350
Jennifer Kaltenbach	Evaluations Made Easy	\$350
Katie Miller	Utilizing Seesaw to Integrate Technology	\$1050
Katie Miller	Soundboards K – 1	\$1,050
Chiara Kupiec	Managing the Classroom	\$375
Vicki Daglian	Managing the Classroom	\$375
Janine Quimby	NTO – Academic Integrity	\$220
Gabriella Cavagnaro	NTO – Peer Panel & Tech Clinic	\$200

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Pay to Play Club Advisors** William Annin Middle School for the 2022-23 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Club:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>
Dana Romano	6th Grade Speech & Debate	\$2,544
Lacie Wolfe	Dungeons & Dragons Club	\$2,544

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Mini Unit Instructors** for 2022-23 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>School:</u>	<u>Mini Unit:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>
Carly Long	OSS	Go Pokémon!	\$971.00
Jessica DeRose	OSS	Crafty Kids	\$971.00

Adria Carbonaro	OSS	Adorable Animal Art	\$971.00
Kathleen Balzarotti	OSS	Chess Club	\$971.00
Christine Buckner	OSS	Crochet	\$971.00
Theresa Glazier	OSS	Super Scientists	\$971.00
William Baker	OSS	Lego Masters	\$971.00
Carly Long	OSS	I Can Draw...and More!	\$971.00
Kristine Ford	OSS	Character Crafts	\$971.00
Jessica Perrotta	OSS	Crafts with Miss Perrotta	\$971.00
Glen Denys	OSS	Nature Quest	\$971.00
Christine Buckner	OSS	Crochet	\$971.00
Nancy Lechleider	OSS	Bullet Journaling	\$971.00
Ralph Louren-Torres	MP	Aide for The Magical World of Harry Potter	\$485. 50
Angela DiPetta	MP	The Magical World of Harry Potter	\$971.00
Ben Green	CHS	Video Game Design	\$971.00
Amanda Avena	CHS	Dance Trends For Kids	\$971.00
Joseph Bae	CHS	Sensational STEAM	\$971.00
Marybeth Carlucci	LC	Handmade by...	\$485.50

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Student Workers** for the District After Care Program at an hourly rate of \$13.00 per hour effective September 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 then at an hourly rate of \$14.00 per hour effective January 1, 2023 through June 16, 2023:

Anthony Panuccio	Alec Zernovak	Matt Foster
Keshav Arvind	Rohan Shakthimani	Yejin Lee
Zoe Hodges	Tanya Joseph	Tovi Keller
Troy Barrett		

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Summer Curriculum Writing** for the 2022-23 school year:

<u>Last Name:</u>	<u>First:</u>	<u>Project:</u>	<u># of Days:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
O'Leary	Mary	Health Updates	2	\$400

On motion by Ms. Hira seconded by Mr. Salmon Items #1-17 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Schafer, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Singh, Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Superintendent Markarian commented on the retirement of Athletic Director, Rich Schello. Mr. Markarian recognized Mr. Shello’s service to the district and noted he would be further recognized at the June meeting as done annually.

XIV. BT Connect Meeting: District Reserves, Debt and Capital Projects - Planning for the Future

Board Members: Robin McKeon, Tim Salmon and Karen Gray

President McKeon introduced the BT Connect Meeting topic and outlined the goals for the meeting that included a high level overview of issues, considerations for long term planning and to collect input through the community discussion. Ms. McKeon provided information for state aid and funding and trends over the last decade and provided information for extraordinary aid funded for special education students. Ms. McKeon discussed the 2% cap on the budget and the impact on the district.

Ms. Gray discussed trends in the student population, construction projects from 1994-2007 noting that no money has been borrowed for construction projects since 2005 and the logistics of the debt levy.

Vice President Salmon discussed district reserves and their limits along with the current district reserve funding including the emergency, maintenance and capital reserves and their balances. Mr. Salmon discussed the long range facilities plan including the plans to add on to the Ridge High School cafeteria.

President McKeon discussed the function of the strategic plan and BT Connect meeting in comparison to where the district currently is in regard to reserves, COVID relief, a new long term capital plan, demographic forecasting and potential challenges.

Vice President Salmon provided an outline of expectations for discussion groups and the input the Board of Education is looking for in consideration of the General Operating Budget and Capital Projects and Maintenance.

Attendees broke into groups to discuss balancing needs with saving for the future for the Bernards Township School District.

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

XV. Public Comment

Comments from the public made through the BT Connect Meeting discussion included the following items:

- Updating high school science labs
- Parking lot, fencing, walkway and exterior lighting maintenance and improvements, add parking
- Enhance school safety and security, parking lot speed bumps, better door and access control
- Adding air conditioning in cafeterias, auditoriums and gyms
- Improving athletic fields at Ridge and Annin
- Improving stormwater management/drainage
- Providing for more seating at lunch for Ridge and Annin, challenges of unit lunch at Ridge
- Work order processing for day to day repairs and maintenance, emphasis on HVAC/climate control, pest control, having more stock on hand to expedite timeliness of repairs
- Maintain appropriate class size and a focus on academic courses and electives
- Add counseling staff emphasis on elementary schools and college admissions
- Provide tax relief without compromising rankings (e.g. prioritize teacher salaries over administrators)
- Solicit community members to help, Veterans Association for bus drivers and substitute teaching staff
- Difficulty in finding staff, staff shortages, especially teachers, retaining staff, teacher salaries
- Parity for boys and girls athletic team facilities
- Management of district debt
- School start times
- Additional paved access points to Ridge campus
- Renovate Ridge Locker Room and add air conditioning to it
- Repave area in front of Ridge wellness center
- Renovate Ridge snack shack
- Address bathroom vandalism
- Provide more food options for people with food allergies
- Improve Lee Field sound system
- Expand instructional coaching program and ESS staff
- Improve the lighting in the RHS main gym

XVI. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Light and seconded by Ms. Singh and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary