

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING INDEX
OCTOBER 4, 2021
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EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:01 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
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RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:01 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer,
Ms. Singh, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Board Counsel
John Croot

ABSENT: Ms. Beckman, 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, 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 Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. White, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into executive session at 5:39p.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 Ms. Singh, and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:48p.m.

V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:01 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. 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 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 discussed the student government at Ridge High School working hard to organize Spirit Week leading up to the Pep Rally, thanked the senior and junior class presidents and provided updates regarding Chromebook distribution and student ID's. Mr. Li also discussed the Ridge Report, a communication between the Ridge High School principal, Dr. Lazovick, and the students. Mr. Li thanked the PTO, administration, staff and volunteers that assist the students in making events successful.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Board of Education does hereby approve the overnight field trip for the **Ridge High School Competition Cheerleading Team** to attend the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida scheduled for February 9 - February 14, 2022.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated October 4, 2021.

On motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Ms. White 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

Superintendent Markarian provided an explanation of items on the Superintendent's report.

Superintendent Markarian shared news regarding the Ridge High School Marching Band competition in the Yamaha Cup in which Ridge was part of group three and successful over the other bands and achieved the highest ratings in several categories. Mr. Markarian congratulated the RHS Marching Band.

Superintendent Markarian discussed the challenges in transportation and noted that 71 out of 74 routes are being covered and that the situation is being monitored.

IX. Public Comment on Agenda Items

An emailed comment from the public included the national bus driver shortage and suggested possible solutions including school start time adjustments.

X. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

September 27, 2021 - Executive Session Minutes
September 27, 2021 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. McKeon seconded by Ms. Singh 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 October 4, 2021 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$5,948,982.35.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the August 2021 Financial Reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of the School Monies Report for August 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 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>
J. Dubois	PMT Recertification Training	\$410	10/14/2021
K. Martin	PMT Recertification Training	\$410	10/14/2021

- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve application to Play Unified for a grant in the amount of \$4,500.00.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the 2022-23 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan on file in the Board of Education office.
- 6) BE IT RESOLVED, the Bernards Township Board of Education hereby approves the submission of a New Jersey Department of Education Waiver Application seeking to reduce the minimum insurance liability limits for staff and parents providing student

transportation from \$1,000,000.00 combined single limit to \$250,000.00 combined single limit.

On motion by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Korn Items #1-6 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 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 Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Carol Engel** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective October 27, 2021.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Mary Anne Kopecki** Reading Specialist Liberty Corner School effective March 14, 2022 through May 6, 2022 utilizing 35 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave and Federal Family Leave effective May 9, 2022 through June 30, 2022, returning September 1, 2022.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignments, Locations, Leaves and/or Salaries** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Lidia D’Armiento	Fall Intramurals CH 2x week \$1,384 6 years/1 point/\$198	Fall Intramurals CH 1x week \$692 6 years/1 point/\$198
Danielle Clement	Accept resignation as an Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective September 24, 2021	Accept resignation as an Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School effective September 30, 2021

Suzanne Deady	School Aide Liberty Corner School at a salary of \$20.22 per hour 3 hours per day effective 9/1/21-9/8/21 and then 4 hours effective 9/8/21-6/17/21	School Aide Liberty Corner School at a salary of \$20.22 per hour 3 hours per day effective 9/1/21-6/17/21
Justin Esteves	Volunteer Wrestling RHS	Freshman Wrestling RHS \$8,022 n/a
Martha Harvey	Theater .9 Teacher .5/RHS & .4 WAMS at a salary of Step 7 MA \$56,878.20 effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	Theater .9 Teacher .5/RHS & .4 WAMS at a salary of Step 7 MA \$56,878.20 effective September 1, 2021 through October 15, 2021 and then a Theater .5 Teacher RHS at a salary of Step 7 MA \$31,599.00 effective October 18, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Sarah John	English Language Arts RHS \$59.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21	English Language Arts RHS \$54.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21
Donna Losita	Instructional Aide MP at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective October 1, 2021 through June 17, 2022	Instructional Aide MP at a salary of \$23.49 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective October 6, 2021 through June 17, 2022
Roma Martin	School Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$22.40 per hour 6.5 hours per day effective September 28, 2021 through June 17, 2022	School Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$20.22 per hour 6.5 hours per day effective September 28, 2021 through June 17, 2022
Kim Mazza	Paid Child Care Leave effective September 1, 2021 through October 25, 2021 then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective October 26, 2021	Paid Child Care Leave effective September 1, 2021 through November 10, 2021 then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective November 11,

	through January 31, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective October 26, 2021 through January 31, 2022 then an unpaid child care leave effective February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, returning February 1, 2023	2021 through February 18, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective November 11, 2021 through February 18, 2022 then an unpaid child care leave effective February 21, 2022 through January 31, 2023, returning February 1, 2023
Sarah Mueller	English Language Arts RHS \$59.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21	English Language Arts RHS \$54.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21
Christina Onorato	Approve a paid child care leave effective September 1, 2021 through October 29, 2021 utilizing 39 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective October 30, 2021 through January 31, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective October 30, 2021 through January 31, 2022, returning February 1, 2022	Approve a paid child care leave effective September 1, 2021 through November 15, 2021 utilizing 49 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective November 16, 2021 through January 31, 2022 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective November 16, 2021 through January 31, 2022, returning February 1, 2022
Danielle Presuto	English Language Arts RHS \$59.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21	English Language Arts RHS \$54.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21
Jennifer Raphaels	Accept the resignation of District Supervisor of Social Studies K-12	Accept the resignation of District Supervisor of Social Studies K-12 effective October 1, 2021

	effective September 30, 2021	
Kristin Thorpe	English Language Arts RHS \$59.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21	English Language Arts RHS \$54.00 per class period effective 9/1/21-10/18/21

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **John Terry** District Supervisor of Social Studies K-12 at a salary of \$85,000 effective December 6, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Leslie Santoro** School Aide/Campus Building Monitor at a salary of \$22.40 per hour 4 hours per day effective October 7, 2021 through June 17, 2022.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Various Assignments** for 2021-22 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Elizabeth Wilson	Teacher In Charge OS	\$1,500/year 2021-22 school year
Pam Burns	Teacher In Charge OS	\$1,500/year 2021-22 school year
Adria Carbonaro	Teacher In Charge OS	\$1,500/year 2021-22 school year
Jennifer Potts	Teacher In Charge CH	\$1,500/year 2021-22 school year
Connie Rus	Piano Accompanist	\$50.00 per hour 2021-22 school year
Christine Takayama	Bedside Instructor	\$80.34 per hour 2021-22 school year
Allyson Blanford	English Language Arts Extra Section WAMS	\$1087.60 per month effective 10/5/21-12/5/21
Lea Adamski	After School Program LC	\$22.00 per hour 2021-22 school year
Donna Legvari	After School Program LC	\$22.00 per hour 2021-22 school year

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

<u>School:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>21-22:</u>	<u>Years/Points/Longevity:</u>

RH	Activities Supervisor	Brenda Hilferty	\$32.00 per day	
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8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **Fall Mini Unit Instructors** for the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Teacher:</u>	<u>School:</u>	<u>Course Offerings:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>
Sherrie Kane	LC	Science Fun	\$971.00
Judy Pennino	CH	Don't be bored, play board games aide	\$485.50

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Student Workers** to work in the **After Care Program** at a salary of \$13.00 per hour:

Erica Chang

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Stephanie Fletcher** Theater .4 William Annin Middle School at a salary of Step 1-5 MA \$60,958 effective October 18, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date and .4 status.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Astha Upender** School Aide/Campus Monitor Ridge High School effective September 9, 2021.

On motion by Mr. Salmon, seconded by Ms. Schafer Items #1-11 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

Superintendent Markarian congratulated John Terry, the new K-12 Social Studies District Supervisor. Mr. Markarian thanked staff for their hard work in making this decision. Assistant Superintendent Siet discussed the passion that Mr. Terry has for Social Studies, projects he has worked on with the Department of Education and that he is a master practitioner.

Mr. Terry expressed his excitement and dedication to his new position and that he is honored to join everyone at the Bernards Township Board of Education.

XIII. Policy Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

- P8613- Waiver of Student Transportation

On motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mr. Salmon Items #1 was 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

Superintendent Markarian discussed the proposed policy noting that it provides an option for the Board of Education to utilize with regard to transportation.

XIV. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XV. Wellness Committee Report

Ms. Schafer provided a report from the September 30, 2021 Wellness Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included school opening wellness activities, school wellness resources available to students including the launch of the TEA Time program [Thought, Empathy and Action]. TEA Time will include a community BREW [Basking Ridge Embracing Wellness], a week of respect, a student and staff recognition program called TEA CUPS [Caught Upholding Principles] and a newsletter called The Spoon. The mission of TEA Time is to foster responsible behavior, good citizenship and social emotional wellness.

The Wellness Committee also discussed in-service planning, counseling resources and received an update from Athletic Director, Rich Shello, with regard to the Coaches Handbook.

XVI. Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. McKeon noted an email that came from the School Boards that workshop will be coming up and that any specific questions the Board would like to send to legislators should be done in advance.

XVII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Comments from the public included the topics of a bee problem occurring at Liberty Corner School and a transportation concern. Public comments emailed included the topic of transportation route shortages, a question regarding the 2022-23 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and the new K-12 Social Studies District Supervisor.

Superintendent Markarian addressed the bee issue and steps that the district is taking to mitigate it and where the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan is located. Mr. Markarian discussed the steps that were taken with regard to analyzing the safety with a stop and addressed bus driver shortages and impacts on certain routes that resulted. Mr. Markarian discussed how bus companies are trying to make up for driver shortages and discussed ways that the district is trying to mitigate issues.

Assistant Superintendent Siet spoke to the qualifications of Mr. Terry, the new K-12 Social Studies Director.

XVIII. Board Forum

Board Members noted that the Board of Education Candidates Forum will be on October 7, 2021 at the RHS PAC.

XIX. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. White and seconded by Mr. Salmon and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin (in absentia)
Board Secretary