

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 2, 2024
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:02 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:12 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Salute to the Flag – 7:01 p.m.**
- II. **Statement of Public Meeting Notice**
- III. **Reorganization of Board – 7:02 p.m.**
- IV. **Statement of Election Results**
- V. **Oath of Office**
- VI. **Roll Call of New Board**
- VII. **Election of Board President**
- VIII. **Election of Board Vice President**
- IX. **Regular Session Agenda – 7:12 p.m.**
- X. **Approval of 2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**
- XI. **Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics**
- XII. **Student Representatives – Natalie Ramirez Porras and Daniel Speeney**
- XIII. **Superintendent’s Report**
 - 1) Affirm Receipt of **HIB Report** Dated January 2, 2024
- XIV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
- XV. **Approval of Minutes**
- XVI. **Finance Committee Report**
 - 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated January 2, 2024
- XVII. **Personnel Committee Report**

Report on Progress

XVIII. Policy Committee Report

Report on Progress

XIX. Curriculum Committee Report

Report on Progress

XX. Wellness Committee Report

Report on Progress

XXI. Liaison Committee Reports

Report on Progress

XXII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

XXIII. Board Forum

XXIV. Adjournment

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RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Salute to the Flag – 7:01 p.m.**

- II. **Statement of Public Meeting 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.

For those members of the public who cannot attend our meeting in person, a livestream link to the meeting is posted on the district website, www.bernardsboe.com.

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; the first public comment session will be limited to 30 minutes and the second will be unlimited. 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 the 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. No public comments will be accepted before 7:00PM or after item XXII. Public Comment of the agenda ends.

Please understand that public comment portions of our agendas are not structured as question-and-answer sessions but 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 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.

III. **Reorganization of Board – 7:02 p.m.**

IV. **Statement of Election Results**

November 7, 2023 School Election Results:

3. Three Year Terms

Janice Corrado	4,338
David Shaw	4,315
Jennifer White	4,358

V. **Oath of Office**

Mr. Rollo, Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Board members.

Janice Corrado, David Shaw and Jennifer White

VI. **Roll Call of New Board**

Present: Ms. Light, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. Csipak, Mr. Molinari, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Amin, Ms. Corrado, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. Rollo, Board Counsel Matthew Giacobbe

Absent: None

VII. **Election of Board President**

Board Secretary Mr. Rollo requested nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education.

Ms. White nominated Mr. Salmon
Ms. Corrado seconded the nomination of Mr. Salmon.

Mr. Molinari nominated Ms. Light
Ms. Light seconded the nomination of Ms. Light

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Ms. McKeon nominations were closed, and Mr. Salmon was elected President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Shaw, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. Csipak, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Amin, Ms. Corrado

“Noes” - Ms. Light, Mr. Molinari

“Abstain” - None

VIII. Election of Board Vice President

President Salmon requested nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. McKeon nominated Ms. White
Mr. Shaw seconded the nomination of Ms. White.

Ms. Csipak nominated Ms. Light
Mr. Molinari seconded the nomination of Ms. Light

On motion by Ms. McKeon seconded by Mr. Molinari nominations were closed, and Ms. White was elected Vice President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Shaw, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Amin, Ms. Corrado

“Noes” - Ms. Light, Mr. Molinari, Ms. Csipak

“Abstain” - None

IX. Regular Session Agenda – 7:12 p.m.

X. Approval of 2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

2024 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as necessary)
PUBLIC SESSION 7:00 P.M.

Meeting Date:

January 2, 2024[□]

January 22, 2024

Location:

Ridge High School PAC
Reorganization Meeting
Ridge High School PAC

February 12, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
February 26, 2024	Ridge High School Cafeteria
March 11, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
March 25, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
April 29, 2024 [↓]	Ridge High School PAC
May 6, 2024 [‡]	Ridge High School PAC
	<i>Public Hearing on 2023-24 Budget</i>
May 20, 2024 [*]	Ridge High School PAC
June 10, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
July 22, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
August 26, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
September 9, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
September 23, 2024	Ridge High School PAC
October 14, 2024 [*]	Ridge High School PAC
November 18, 2024 [*]	Ridge High School PAC
December 16, 2024 [*]	Ridge High School PAC
January 6, 2025 [‡]	Ridge High School PAC
	<i>Reorganization Meeting</i>

- 1st Tuesday of the month
- ‡ 1st Monday of the month
- * 3rd Monday of the month
- ↓ 5th Monday of the month

On motion by Mr. Molinari seconded by Ms. McKeon , the 2024 schedule of Board of Education meeting dates was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Mr. Shaw
 “Noes” - None
 “Abstain” - Ms. Corrado

XI. Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics

Copies of the Code of Ethics were distributed to the Board Members and it was requested that signed acknowledgements of the code of ethics from each Board of Education member be given back to the Board Secretary Mr. Rollo.

XII. Student Representatives – Natalie Ramirez Porras and Daniel Speeney

Student representative Natalie Ramirez introduced Daniel Speeney.

Ms. Ramirez gave updates on the Ridge High school student activities and athletics which included updates on Ridge swim team, Boys basketball, Ridge Hockey team, Girls basketball team, Ridge Ski team, Forensic teams, Ridge band and band showcase.

Ms. Ramirez also gave updates on the student clubs, upcoming talent show and school wide volleyball tournament.

XIII. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated January 2, 2024.

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Mr. Molinari item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - Ms. Corrado, Mr. Shaw

Superintendent Markarian said that he hoped everyone had a good holiday break, spent time with family and has a great new year - 2024.

Mr. Markarian thanked Mr. Molinari and Mr. Amin for their services as Board President and Vice President and welcomed the new board members Mr. Shaw and Ms. Corrado.

Superintendent Markarian congratulated the new Board President Mr. Salmon and new Vice President Ms. White.

Mr. Markarian also gave an update on a possible school start time schedule.

XIV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Comments from the public included school start times and bus tiering.

XV. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

December 18, 2023 – Executive Session Minutes

December 18, 2023 – Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Mr. Molinari the foregoing approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - Ms. Corrado, Mr. Shaw

XVI. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated January 2, 2024 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,287,363.13.

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Ms. White item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - Ms. Corrado, Mr. Shaw

XVII. Personnel Committee Report

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XXII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

No comments

XXIII. Board Forum

Board members discussed and gave suggestions on forming committees which included the number of people assigned to each committee, committee timing and format.

XXIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Light and seconded by Mr. Molinari and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Rollo
Board Secretary