

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING INDEX
NOVEMBER 13, 2023
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:05 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.**
- II. **Salute to the Flag**
- III. **Roll Call**
- IV. **Executive Session – 6:01 p.m.**
- V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:05 p.m.**
- VI. **Statement of Public Notice**
- VII. **Student Representative – Natalie Ramirez Porras**
- VIII. **Board President Comments**
- IX. **Superintendent’s Report**
 - 1) Affirm Receipt of **HIB Report** Dated November 13, 2023
 - 2) Approve **School Bus Evacuation Drills** 2023-24 School Year
 - 3) Approve Submission **2022-23 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Self Assessment**
 - 4) Code of Conduct/HIB Report 2022-2023
- X. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
- XI. **Approval of Minutes**
- XII. **Finance Committee Report**
 - 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated November 13, 2023
 - 2) Approve **Professional Development Expenses** 2023-24 School Year
 - 3) Approve **Non-Public Technology Aid and Security Aid** FY 2024
 - 4) Accept **Donation Liberty Corner School PTO**
 - 5) Appoint **Alternate Architectural Firm** 2023-24 School Year
 - 6) Approve **Vehicle Maintenance Agreement** 2023-24 School Year
 - 7) Approve **Joint Transportation Agreement** 2023-24 School Year

- 8) Approve **Home Instruction Services**
- 9) Approve **Home Instruction Services**

XIII. Personnel Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting October 20, 2023

- 1) Approve **William Mickley** District Facilities Director 2023-24 School Year

XIV. Policy Committee Report

Report on Progress

XV. Curriculum Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting on October 6, 2023

- 1) Approve **Revisions to Curriculum** Summer 2023
- 2) Approve **Textbooks/Online Textbooks** 2023-24 School Year

XVI. Wellness Committee Report

Report on Progress

XVII. Facilities & Operations Committee Report

Report on Progress

XVIII. Liaison Committee Reports

Report on Progress

XIX. Public Comment

XX. Board Forum

- 1) School Start Times/Bus Tiering

XXI. Adjournment

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING AGENDA
NOVEMBER 13, 2023
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:01 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:05 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Light, Mr. Rascio(arrived 6:04pm), Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. Csipak, Mr. Molinari, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Hira, Mr. Amin, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. Rollo, Board Counsel Arsen Zartarian

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. Light seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the Board recessed into executive session at 6:01 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. McKeon seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:57 p.m.

V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:05 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.

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 XIX. 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.

VII. Student Representative – Natalie Ramirez Porras

Student representative Natalie Ramirez gave updates on student activities at Ridge high school.

VIII. Board President Comments

Mr. Molinari recognized Veterans Day which was over the weekend.

IX. Superintendent’s Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated November 13, 2023.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **School Bus Evacuation Drills** for the 2023-24 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
Ridge High School	10/26/2023, 10/31/2023
William Annin Middle School	10/11/2023
Cedar Hill School	10/23/2023
Liberty Corner School	9/20/2023
Mount Prospect School	10/19/2022
Oak Street School	10/27/2023

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the submission of the **2022-23 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Self Assessment**.

4) Code of Conduct/HIB Report 2022-2023

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Mr. Salmon Items #1-4 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Markarian thanked community members for participating in the school board elections and thanked everyone who ran for the elections, Mr. Markarian noted that official election results will be available at the end of November but that preliminary results were for Ms. White, Ms. Corrado and Mr. Shaw.

Mr. Markarian also gave an update on the agenda items under superintendent report.

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

October 16, 2023 – Executive Minutes
October 16, 2023 – Regular Session Minutes

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Light, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. Csipak, Mr. Molinari,
Ms. McKeon, Ms. Hira, Mr. Amin
“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 November 13, 2023 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$7,772,527.06.

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 2023-24 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Dates:</u>
Alicia Schauer	Pension Updates	\$169.56	12/19/2023
Jessie Jiang	Intro to Payroll	\$325.00	11/14/23-6/30/24
David Yastermski	National Communication Association Conference	\$1,622.52	11/16/23-11/19/23

3) **WHEREAS**, the Bernards Township Board of Education received nonpublic technology aid in the amount of \$22,589.00 and nonpublic security aid in the amount of \$94,505.00 from the State of New Jersey in FY 2024; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey directed the Bernards Township Board of Education having nonpublic schools within its boundaries, the responsibility for providing security services, equipment, or technology to help ensure a safe and secure environment for students attending nonpublic schools and for providing nonpublic students technology within the limits of the funds provided by this program in the FY 2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Albrook School, Mendham Country Day School and Saint James School representatives along with the SCESC consultant reviewed the proposed technology and security aid expenditures with the Assistant Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey requires that the local Board of Education authorize the specific nonpublic expenditures for each of these grant awards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education authorizes the following nonpublic expenditures:

NONPUBLIC TECHNOLOGY**The Albrook School**

1 UPS battery backup, 1 desktop computer, 2 hard drives \$1,918.10

1 iPad, 1 server accelerator \$1,107.00

Funding Allocation **\$3,185.00****Mendham Country Day School**

15 Chromebooks w/ licenses \$5,678.85

Funding Allocation **\$5,978.00****Saint James School**

6 Dell computers and 20 Chromebooks w/licenses \$12,754.70

Funding Allocation **\$13,426.00****NONPUBLIC SECURITY AID****The Albrook School**

Update emergency response phone system, up to allowable amount \$13,325.00

Funding Allocation **\$13,325.00****Mendham Country Day School**

Install 2 updated exterior doors \$19,958.45

Funding Allocation **\$25,010.00****Saint James School**

Install wireless panic button system, firewall license, key fob system \$5,792.40

Replace emergency generator, up to allowable amount \$50,377.60

Funding Allocation **\$56,170.00**

- 4) **WHEREAS**, the Liberty Corner School PTO has offered to design, purchase and provide construction-installation services to the Bernards Township Board of Education (the "Board") for the construction of an Outdoor Learning Center at Liberty Corner Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, all such work to construct and install the Learning Center will be coordinated with respect to design, location and work schedule through the Board's District Facilities Team; and

WHEREAS, it is further understood that the contractor(s) undertaking the work shall be required to be (i) qualified to carry out the work, and (ii) fully insured, and that proof of same be provided to the Board prior to the commencement of any work on Board property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bernards Township Board of Education as follows:

1. The Administration is hereby authorized to accept and coordinate the donated design, purchase, installation and construction of an Outdoor Learning Center at Liberty Corner Elementary School in accordance with the conditions set forth above and herein.

2. This Resolution shall take immediate effect.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint Gianforcaro Architects as an alternate architectural firm of record for the 2023-24 school year, and authorizes the execution of a contract with the attached fee schedule. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized profession, licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique character of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measured.

Type of Project Construction Cost Fee:

New Facility Under \$2,000,000	two (2) steps.
Under \$4,000,000	6%
Over \$4,000,000	5.5% 5%
Facility Addition Under	7%
\$1,000,000 Under \$2,000,000	6%
Over \$2,000,000	5%
Renovations Under \$500,000	8%
Under \$1,500,000	7%
Over \$1,500,000	6%

Standard Rate Schedule for Architectural/Engineering Services for Projects which require an Hourly Rate:

Position Hourly Rate (\$)

- Principal Architect/Engineer/Planner \$100
- Mechanical/Electrical Designer \$85
- Spec. Writer/Estimator \$75
- Construction Administrator \$75
- Designer/Draftsman \$55
- Administrative Assistant \$35
- Printing: Copywork \$30

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the interlocal/shared services agreement for vehicle maintenance between Morris Union Jointure Commission and Bernards Township Board of Education effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the joint transportation agreement for school related activities between Somerset Hills Board of Education and Bernards Township Board of Education effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve home instruction for student #307211 from October 6, 2022 to October 6, 2022 at LearnWell Center in the amount not to exceed \$154.28.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve home instruction for student #2602296 from October 11, 2023 to November 8, 2023 at Silvergate Prep in the amount not to exceed \$1,187.25.

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Light Items #1-9 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

XIII. Personnel Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting October 20, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following personnel item upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **William Mickley** District Facilities Director at a salary of \$145,000 effective January 16, 2024 through June 30, 2024. Salary to be prorated to reflect start date.

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

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

Mr. Siet provided a report from the October 20, 2023 Personnel Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included growth in ESL/MLL program, the Director of Facilities position, request for additional lunch aide at Cedar Hill School and vacant positions.

XIV. Policy Committee Report

Report on Progress

XV. Curriculum Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting on October 6, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve revisions to the curriculum completed in Summer 2023 in the following content areas (detailed course lists on file in the Board of Education Office):

- a) English Language Arts
- b) Mathematics
- c) Curriculum & Instruction
- d) Social Studies and Quest
- e) Visual and Performing Arts
- f) Science and Tech Education
- g) Special Education
- h) World Languages

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the purchase and use of the following **textbooks/online textbooks** for the 2023-24 school year:

<u>Book:</u>	<u>Publisher:</u>	<u>Course:</u>	<u>Quantity:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>
Happier: Learn the Secrets to Daily Joy and Lasting Fulfillment	McGraw-Hill	The Study of Well-Being	100	\$2,560.00

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Light Items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Salmon provided a report from the October 6, 2023 Curriculum Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included textbook approval(The study of Well Being), new financial literacy textbook, elementary scheduling professional development, state assessment report for 2022-2023 which includes NJ graduation proficiency assessment, NJ student learning assessment, Dynamic learning map assessment and english language learners assessment, MAP test results, English language Arts summer curriculum

projects, Mathematics summer curriculum projects and program evaluations in Mathematics.

XVI. Wellness Committee Report

Report on Progress

XVII. Facilities & Operations Committee Report

Report on Progress

XVIII. Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. White provided a report on the SEPAC meeting that took place on October 18, 2023. Meetings and offerings of PEC and SEPAC were discussed at the meeting.

XIX. Public Comment

Comments from the public included board election results, board collaboration, the fall play at Ridge, PAC bathrooms at RHS being locked and election results.

XX. Board Forum

1) School Start Times/Bus Tiering

The Board discussed the options in regards to school start times and bus tiering. The Board agreed that a BT Connect meeting on the subject would be held on December 4, 2023 with a survey to follow.

XXI. Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Rascio and seconded by Ms. Light and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Rollo
Board Secretary