

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
APRIL 3, 2017  
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.  
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MEETING WITH RHS STUDENT GOVERNMENT 6:30 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
REGULAR SESSION 7:08 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30p.m. by President Cwerner.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Ms. Shah

**IV. Executive Session – 5:31 p.m. – Ridge High School Principal's Conference Room**

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge and seconded by Ms. Richman, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:31p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: confidential personnel and contract items; matters of litigation; confidential student matters; and further

BE IT RESOLVED that the matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public as soon as and to the extent that such disclosure can be made without adversely affecting the public interest or without violation of the confidentiality of personnel.

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. McKeon and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:30p.m.

**V Public Session, Meeting with Ridge High School Student Government – 6:30 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

Representatives from the Ridge Student Government brainstormed several ideas that they felt could improve student life at Ridge including door access, Home Access Center grade posting practices and ideas for school spirit.

**VI. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:08 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

**VII. 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, and 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 topic whatsoever.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. 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 time limit for individual comments and/or public comment portions of the agenda. 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. Any Board responses to public comment will be addressed during Board Forum, or during committee reports.

There are times when a member of the public makes a comment or asks a question about an employee. New Jersey statute does not permit us to discuss personnel issues in public. Also as a matter of law, a Board of Education may only vote for or against the hiring of an employee upon the recommendation of the superintendent. If the superintendent does not recommend a person, that person's name is not listed on the agenda and there is no vote on that action.

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.

**VIII. Student Representative - Lucas Miller**

No report.

## IX. Board Presentation

### 1) Summary Results of the 2016-17 American Drug & Alcohol Survey, Lucy Forgione & Kaitlin Kordusky, Bernards Township Municipal Alliance

Lucy Forgione and Kaitlin Kordusky presented the summary results of the survey. They noted the survey has been conducted nine times to the students of the Bernards Township School District. Participation was by students in grades 6th (72% response rate), 8th (71% response rate), 10th (47% response rate), & 12th (43% response rate).

Information presented included:

- Drug use over the past 12 months for 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders compared between the 2013-14 & 2016-17 school years
- Drug use by 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders during the last month compared between the 2013-14 & 2016-17 school years
- Alcohol & marijuana use during the past 12 months and the past 30 days
- First usage age reported by 12<sup>th</sup> graders & percent of high risk drug use by grades surveyed
- Location where alcohol & drugs other than alcohol are used
- The 10 most frequent issues resulting from alcohol use
- Electronic cigarette and painkiller findings

The summary results indicated that alcohol use remains high among students, marijuana is the second most frequently utilized drug and alcohol and drug use increases from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Usage is mainly in social settings or at home and the use of alcohol among 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Bernards Township is higher in proportion than the national average although the percentage of students using drugs and alcohol appears to be on the decline. Ms. Kodusky and Ms. Forgione also reviewed the community-based efforts and programs that are currently in place.

Questions from the Board included the comparison of data from prior years, factors that may have contributed to the decline in drug and alcohol use, the high school survey participation rate and sample size in comparison to prior years and concerns about the rate of alcohol use in Bernards Township versus the national average.

For the complete presentation click [here](#).

## X. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated April 3, 2017.

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Dr. Dunten Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon,  
Ms. Richman and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

#### XI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public comment included concerns regarding the participation rates and parental permission for students to take the Drug and Alcohol Survey and information from a representative of Community in Crisis (a group in Bernards Township formed three years ago to create a movement of concerned citizens, parents and professionals to provide awareness education regarding substance abuse).

#### XII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

March 27, 2017 – Board Retreat Minutes  
 March 27, 2017 – Executive Session Minutes  
 March 27, 2017 – Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Richman the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon,  
Ms. Richman and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

#### XIII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated April 3, 2017 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,176,859.41.
- 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 2016-17 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
M. Pepitone	Positive Discipline in the Classroom	\$375	04/21/2017- 04/22/2017

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Mr. Fry Items#1 and #2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon,  
Ms. Richman and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

#### XIV. Personnel Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Drew Krause** Principal Ridge High School at a salary of \$159,555 effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby place employee #4213 on paid administrative leave effective March 29, 2017.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **C. Jamie Scott** Instructional Aide PEACH Program Mount Prospect School effective June 30, 2017, with regret, for the purpose of retirement.
- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Cynthia Kwalwasser** Occupational Therapist effective June 30, 2107, with regret, for the purpose of retirement.
- 5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Stefan White** Instructional Aide Ridge High School at a salary of \$21.00 per hour 7 hours per day effective April 4, 2017 through June 16, 2017

On motion by Ms. McKeon seconded by Ms. Richman Items#1-5 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon,  
Ms. Richman and Ms. Wooldridge  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

Superintendent Markarian made special note of Personnel Item #1 congratulating Drew Krause on his appointment as Ridge High School principal and provided background about Mr. Krause’s education and work history. Mr. Markarian also thanked the members that served on the hiring committee for their assistance with the hiring decision.

Mr. Krause thanked everyone for the appointment and stated that he is grateful for the opportunity to serve as the principal of Ridge High School and looks forward to working with the administration, staff and students.

President Cwerner congratulated Mr. Krause on behalf of the Board of Education.

**XV. Policy Committee Report**

No report.

**XVI. Curriculum Committee Report**

Ms. Gray provided a report from the March 10, 2017 Curriculum Committee Meeting. Topics included an overview of PARCC results, a World Language update and Suicide Prevention Programming.

**XVII. Advocacy Committee Report**

Ms. Richman noted that a report would be available at the next Board of Education meeting.

**XVIII. Liaison Committee Reports**

Ms. Wooldridge reported that she, Ms. Cwerner and Ms. McKeon attended a Somerset County School Boards Association meeting with New Jersey state legislators on March 29, 2017 in Flemington. Topics at the meeting included school funding inequities, PARCC testing, the opiate epidemic, the upcoming 2017 gubernatorial campaign and the submission of New Jersey's ESSA plan.

**XIX. Public Comment**

Public comments included a welcome from the co-presidents of the Ridge High School PTO to Mr. Krause, a memorial service for a student who passed away one year ago, pending PARCC testing legislation and a congratulations to the Ridge High A Capella Choir and Barbara Retzko, Ridge High School Choral Director, for receiving first place-Gold rating on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Big Apple Classic at the College of Staten Island.

President Cwerner thanked the PTO co-presidents for welcoming Mr. Krause, thanked the student for her invitation to the Board of Education and noted the fantastic job the Ridge High A Capella Choir did with a performance at a prior Board of Education meeting.

**XX. Board Forum**

Ms. McKeon proposed an ad hoc committee to be formed on Social Emotional Learning. The Board indicated unanimous support with a show of hands.

Topics also included the hiring of Mr. Krause as the Ridge High School Principal and his credentials and comments on the sound system quality during Board of Education meetings.



**XXI. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge and seconded by Mr. Fry and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary