

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 3, 2017  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:05 P.M.  
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES 7:13 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Salute to Flag – 7:05 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center – page 195**
- II. **Statement of Public Meeting Notice – page 195**
- III. **Reorganization of Board – 7:05 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center – page 195**
- IV. **Oath of Office – page 196**
- V. **Roll Call of New Board – page 196**
- VI. **Election of Board President – page 196**
- VII. **Election of Board Vice President – page 196**
- VIII. **Regular Session Agenda – 7:13 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center – page 197**
- IX. **Approval of 2017-18 Board of Education Meeting Schedule – page 197**
- X. **Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics – page 198**
- XI. **Superintendent’s Report – page 198**
- XII. **Public Comment on Agenda Items – page 198**
- XIII. **Approval of Minutes – page 198**
- XIV. **Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

- 1) **Approve Participation in Coordinated Transportation Services Morris-Union Jointure Commission 2016-17 School Year – page 198**
- 2) **Approve Field Trip Destination 2016-17 School Year – page 199**

**PERSONNEL – page 199**  
Report on Progress

**POLICY** – page 199  
Report on Progress

**CURRICULUM** – page 199  
Report on Progress

**ADVOCACY** – page 199  
Report on Progress

**LIAISON REPORTS** – page 199  
Report on Progress

XV. **Public Comment** – page 200

XVI. **Board Forum** – page 200

1) Grading from the Inside Out - Part 2

XVII. **Adjournment** – page 200

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BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 3, 2017  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD MINUTES 7:05 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES 7:13 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Salute to Flag – 7:05 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**
  
- 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.

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.

- III. **Reorganization of Board – 7:05 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

**IV. Oath of Office**

Rod McLaughlin, Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Board members:

Rhonda Duntun, Karen Gray

**V. Roll Call of New Board**

Present: Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Duntun, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Mr. Byrne, Mr. Fry, Ms. Shah

**VI. Election of Board President**

Mr. McLaughlin requested nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Wooldridge nominated Ms. Cwerner.  
Ms. Richman seconded the nomination of Ms. Cwerner.

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Duntun, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

**VII. Election of Board Vice President**

Board President Beverly Cwerner requested nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. McKeon nominated Ms. Wooldridge.  
Ms. Gray seconded the nomination of Ms. Wooldridge.

On motion by Dr. Duntun, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, nominations were closed, and Ms. Wooldridge was elected Vice President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Duntun, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge  
“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

President Cwerner congratulated Dr. Dunten and Ms. Gray for their re-election and also congratulated Ms. Wooldridge for her appointment as the Vice President and thanked them all for their service.

**VIII. Regular Session Agenda – 7:13 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

**IX. Approval of 2017-18 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

**2017 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as necessary)

PUBLIC SESSION 7:00 P.M.

<b><u>Meeting Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Location:</u></b>
January 23, 2017	William Annin Middle School
February 13, 2017	William Annin Middle School
February 27, 2017	Ridge High School PAC
March 13, 2017	Cedar Hill School
March 27, 2017	Ridge High School PAC
April 3, 2017*	Ridge High School PAC
April 17, 2017**	Ridge High School PAC
May 8, 2017	Ridge High School PAC
May 22, 2017	William Annin Middle School
June 5, 2017*	Ridge High School PAC
June 19, 2017**	Ridge High School PAC
July 24, 2017	Board of Education Building
August 28, 2017	Board of Education Building
September 11, 2017	Ridge High School PAC
September 25, 2017	Ridge High School PAC
October 9, 2017	Ridge High School PAC
October 30, 2017***	Ridge High School PAC
November 13, 2017	William Annin Middle School
November 27, 2017	Ridge High School PAC
December 18, 2017**	William Annin Middle School
January 2, 2018* (Tuesday)	Ridge High School PAC
	<i>Reorganization Meeting</i>
*1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of month	
**3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of month	
***5 <sup>th</sup> Monday of month	

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge, seconded by Dr. Dunten, the 2017-18 schedule of Board of Education meeting dates was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

**X. Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics**

Mr. McLaughlin distributed a copy of the Ethics Act and Code of Ethics. He requested each Board member read and then sign. Signed copies were returned to Mr. McLaughlin.

**XI. Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Nick Markarian congratulated Dr. Dunten and Ms. Gray on their re-election and thanked Ms. Cwerner and Ms. Wooldridge for their willingness to serve as the President and Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Markarian also wished everyone a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

**XII. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

**XIII. Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

December 19, 2016 – Executive Session Minutes

December 19, 2016 – Regular Session Minutes

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

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

**XIV. Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) WHEREAS the Bernards Township Board of Education desires to transport special education, public and vocational school students to specific destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Morris-Union Jointure Commission (“MUJC”) offers coordinated transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the MUJC will organize, provide and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed that the MUJC will provide coordinated transportation services to the Bernards Township Board of Education on an as needed basis for the period July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 with cost of such services to be billed and paid in accordance with NJAC 6A:27-10.1 et seq.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **field trip destinations** for the 2016-17 school year:

<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Group Attending:</u>	<u>Number of Students:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
Middletown Arts Center, Middletown, NJ	National Honor Society Dance Members	7	01/22/2017 Sunday

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge, seconded by Ms. McKeon, Item #1 and Item #2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

**PERSONNEL**

No report.

**POLICY**

No report.

**CURRICULUM**

Ms. Gray provided a report from the December 9, 2016 Curriculum Committee Meeting. Topics included the Ridge Student Internship Pilot Proposal, the Ridge High School STEAM application process, Academic Planning Night, a change in the course title for “Forensic Speaking” to “Speech and Debate” and course proposals for World Language and the STEAM program.

**ADVOCACY**

No report.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

No report.

Board of Education Minutes January 3, 2017

**XV. Public Comment**

Public comments included a question about access to the schools and playgrounds after the security enhancements and a concern from a student regarding student access to counseling services.

Superintendent Markarian explained some of the procedures for security for the school buildings and properties. Mr. Markarian thanked the student for her input, comments and ideas that she addressed with the Board.

**XVI. Board Forum**

1) Grading from the Inside Out - Part 2

Board of Education Members discussed their observations from chapters four, five and six from the book Grading from the Inside Out. Topics included the Standards-Based Grading versus Traditional Grading Practices and the impact on students, the weighting of student assessments and the potential distraction it may cause them and the repurposing of homework to engage students in the process of learning as an opportunity to practice skills rather than achieve a final result.

**XVII. Adjournment**

On motion by Dr. Dunten, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary