

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
JUNE 5, 2017
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EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:46 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION 7:08 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 5, 2017
REGULAR SESSION 5:45 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:46 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION 7:08 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:45 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Dr. Dunten, Ms. Richman

IV. Executive Session – 5:46 p.m. – Ridge High School Principal's Conference Room

On motion by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:45 p.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 Mr. Fry seconded by Ms. Gray and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:55p.m.

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

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.

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.

VII. **Student Representative - Lucas Miller**

Mr. Miller provided an update focusing on the activities of the senior class. Students have received their yearbooks, the Senior Dinner will take place on June 9, 2017 and graduation practices are scheduled for June 15, 2017 and June 16, 2017. The Graduation ceremony for the class of 2017 will take place on June 16, 2017.

VIII. **Student Presentation – Project Citizen**

- 1) Grade 11 – Honors US History of Government and Economics –
Thomas Liska, Teacher

"Kyleigh's Law"

Julia Cohen, Claire Keller, Alexa Horowitz, Maggie Cooney and Meghan Convery

Thomas Liska, a Social Studies teacher at the High School, discussed Project Citizen and described it as a year-long curricular program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education that is designed to promote competent and responsible participation with government at all levels. The program helps participants learn how to monitor and influence public policy while developing support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy.

As a result of Project Citizen, Honors Government & Economics students have had the opportunity to investigate a problem that impacts their daily lives. Through their research and collaboration with the various stakeholders involved, the students analyzed how the problem could best be addressed and developed an action plan to make their policy ideas a reality. Project Citizen prepares students to be active citizens outside of the classroom by fueling their commitment to be involved and by providing them with the skills that they will need to do so.

Five students, Julia Cohen, Claire Keller, Alexa Horowitz, Maggie Cooney and Meghan Convery, created a presentation that focused on Kyliegh's Law. Kyliegh's Law was enacted to create driver awareness of underage and inexperienced drivers. The students took turns providing detailed information regarding the process, problem, potential solutions to the problem and the final solution they agreed would create the impact desired.

To view the presentation click [here](#).

Superintendent Nick Markarian thanked the students for their hard work and effort.

IX. Student Recognition

1) Military Awards

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award – William Koch

Isabella Saylan

William Koch provided a history of the award, that it is to celebrate a student who excels in athletics, academics and citizenship.

Mr. Koch then presented the award to Isabella Saylan and described her achievements in academics, athletics and within the community.

USMC Awards – USMC Sgt. Brandon Whitlock

Edward Hu	Semper Fidelis Music Award
Hannah Petersen	Scholastic Excellence Award
Annabelle Pesarchick	Distinguished Female Athlete Award

Patrick Bayeux
RJ Milligan

Distinguished Male Athlete Award
Semper Fidelis All-American Award

United States Marine Corp Sergeant Brandon Whitlock introduced himself and noted that the USMC Awards are given for displaying honor, courage and commitment. Sergeant Whitlock then introduced each student and explained their achievements to the audience and presented them with their award.

2) **Ridge High Forensics**

David Yastremski, Forensics Advisor

David Yastremski, Forensic Advisor, remarked that the Forensics Team has excelled, achieved and enjoyed many accomplishments with some students holding numerous successes. Mr. Yastremski discussed some of the topics that the Forensics Team had debated during the 2016-17 School Year. The following students were recognized and their individual successes were announced:

Omar Bekdash	Matthew W. Perez
Daanyal Farooqi	Anvitha Prasad
Libah Farooqi	Tarun Puppala
Camille Furst	Siddarth Rahalkar-Sasane
Udheesh Gaddipati	Malaika Ravindran
Kishan Gandham	Kruthik Ravishankar
James Gao	Adit Roy
Rajan Gupta	Rebecca Schenkman
Jennifer Huang	Chandni Singhvi
Rohan Jinkurtar	Sanil Torani
Vikram Kalghatgi	Hannah Usadi
Shankar Krishnan	Druhi Vandse
Mason Krohn	Allen Wang
Benjamin Levy	Kyle Watkins
Brandon Lu	Lucy Wei
Anjini Mathur	Albert Wen
Ryhan Moghe	Brian Wen
Collin Montag	Albert Wu
Rayhan Murad	Jerry Yang
Sonali Pai	

X. **Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated June 5, 2017.

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

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

Superintendent Markarian discussed the various surveys that are being presented to the students, teachers and parents and thanked those that took their time to participate in those surveys.

XI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments.

XII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

May 22, 2017 – Executive Session Minutes
 May 22, 2017 – Regular Session Minutes

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

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon 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 June 5, 2017 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,178,959.20.

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

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

XIV. Personnel Committee Report

Ms. McKeon provided a report from the Personnel Committee Meeting on May 18, 2017. Topics included non-aligned staff renewals and a discussion about the Effective School Solutions presentation.

XV. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XVI. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XVII. Advocacy Committee Report

No report.

XVIII. Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. Wooldridge reported on upcoming Community in Crisis events. On October 10, 2017 there will be a Town Hall meeting with Michael Robertson, Somerset County Prosecutor at Bernards High School regarding opiates. Dr. Bradley will speak at Ridge High School on January 31, 2018 on the topic of teen stress and resilience for high school parents and on February 1, 2018 at Bernards High School on teen stress and resilience for middle school parents.

XIX. Ad Hoc SEL Committee Report

Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Gray and Ms. McKeon provided reports regarding several meetings that took place on May 1, 2017, May 12, 2017, May 23, 2017 and June 1, 2017. Topics at these meetings included the School Climate Surveys, teacher grading policies and practices, the Effective School Solutions presentation, homework policy and social-emotional learning.

XX. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Public comments included recommendations for curriculum, Child Study Team meetings and parental advocacy, inclusion in the classroom, a question regarding the teacher in-service day on May 26, 2017, the College Board at Ridge High School and a comment from an educator regarding the need for educator input.

President Cwerner thanked everyone for their comments and concerns. Superintendent Markarian responded to some comments and concerns and noted that he would follow up on others individually.

XXI. Board Forum

No comments.

XXII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Wooldridge and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary