

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
APRIL 8, 2013  
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES 7:05 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President McGowan.

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**
- II. **Salute to Flag**
- III. **Roll Call**

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan,  
Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge

ABSENT: None

- IV. **Executive Session – 5:31 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: negotiations; 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. Shah, seconded by Ms. Kusel, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:31 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Kusel, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:01 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:05 p.m.

V. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:05 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

VI. **Statement of Public Notice**

This was 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. We do not have a specific time limit, but we ask that you keep your comments brief. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, a member of the Board or Administration will address it in the Board Response portion of the agenda.

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. **Board Presentation**

- 1) English Language Learners in Bernards Township & Ridge High School World Language Month – Supervisor of World Languages Kathy Stotler & Foreign Language Teacher Chiara Kupiec

Supervisor of World Languages Kathy Stotler reviewed the start to finish process for an incoming student who becomes part of the district's ESL program. The goal of ESL is not for students to learn phrases in English but to assist them to understand and comprehend language specific to courses they are enrolled in. Ms. Stotler reviewed the

number of English Language Learners in the district, the WIDA (World Class Instructional Design and Assignment) standards, the timeline for an entering ESL student, the ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English) Proficiency Assessment, and the average length of time for oral and academic proficiency to develop. Ms. Stotler explained the grading system specific to ESL students.

Ms. Stotler updated the Board on the success of the Latin program in the district beginning in grade 4. This summer she plans a Latin program evaluation followed by a community survey.

Click [here](#) to view presentation.

Ms. Stotler introduced Foreign Language Teacher Chiara Kupiec. She noted that Ms. Kupiec was the recipient of one of only ten scholarships The Observatory of Italian Language and the College Board's Advanced Placement Program offered to the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages at its Fall 2012 conference.

Ms. Kupiec presented an overview of the 2013 World Language Month. She explained the purpose of the activity for both the participants and the student body is to promote the importance of educating individuals on the similarities and differences among cultures. Three days are set aside for each language to be recognized through activities, food preparation, contests, and performances. Ms. Kupiec spoke on the student participation, and the positive student and faculty reaction to the event.

Click [here](#) to view presentation.

Questions from the Board included the length of time students in grades 4 and 5 have Latin instruction, if the current increase in student participation in Latin is seen as a trend, the rigor of the middle school program, and the grading system for ESL students.

## VIII. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated April 8, 2013.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Kusel, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah,  
Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

Superintendent Nick Markarian updated the Board on the Joint Task Force and reviewed Option 9. The Township and the Joint Task Force determined Option 9 to be the most viable solution. If the Board is in agreement, the Somerset County engineer will be contacted to solicit his opinion. Comments were made regarding the current Health Department driveway serving its parking lot and the proposed new egress from the high school.

By a show of hands the Board agreed to support further exploration of Option 9 and having a dialogue with the Township and the county engineer. The Joint Task Force will consider closing the existing right turn driveway from the oval. Cars will make a right turn from the traffic light lane. A test run of this new exiting procedure was conducted with a positive outcome.

#### IX. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the Joint Task Force and budgeting for the option selected, the impact of Option 9 on South Finley Avenue congestion, what the secondary plan is if the county engineer rejects Option 9, and the ultimate goal of the Joint Task Force.

#### X. Committee Reports

#### FINANCE

#### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of [disbursements](#) dated April 8, 2013 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$2,725,207.82.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the schedule of **municipal tax levy** for the 2013-14 school year:

#### BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION 2013-2014 TAX LEVY SCHEDULE

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>July</b>	\$6,447,786.83	\$ 1,808,938.63	
<b>August</b>	\$6,447,786.83	\$ 56,034.36	\$6,503,821.19
<b>September</b>	\$6,447,786.83		\$6,447,786.83
<b>October</b>	\$6,447,786.83		\$6,447,786.83
<b>November</b>	\$6,447,786.83		\$6,447,786.83
<b>December</b>	\$6,447,786.83		\$6,447,786.83
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$38,686,721.00</b>	<b>\$1,864,972.99</b>	<b>\$40,551,693.99</b>
<b>January</b>	\$6,447,786.83	\$ 1,676,510.63	\$8,124,297.46
<b>February</b>	\$6,447,786.83	\$ 1,963,882.38	\$8,411,669.21

<b>March</b>	\$6,447,786.83		\$6,447,786.83
<b>April</b>	\$6,447,786.83		\$6,447,786.83
<b>May</b>	\$6,447,786.83		\$6,447,786.83
<b>June</b>	\$6,447,786.83		<u>\$6,447,786.83</u>
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$38,686,721.00</b>	<b>\$3,640,393.01</b>	<b>\$42,327,114.01</b>
<b>2013-2014 Levy:</b>	<b><u>\$77,373,442.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,505,366.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$82,878,808.00</u></b>

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the **subscription busing** rate of \$704.00 for the 2013-14 school year.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, Items #1 through 3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah,  
Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

#### **PERSONNEL**

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the next negotiations’ meeting with the BTEA is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17.

#### **CURRICULUM**

Chairperson Robin McKeon reported on the March 14 committee meeting. Items discussed included activities held on Martin Luther King day, a presentation of the MAP program, TEACHNJ and AchieveNJ, and PARCC testing.

#### **POLICY**

Chairperson Bev Cwerner reported the committee will meet on Monday, April 15. Scheduled for discussion is the wellness survey and revised district policy manual.

#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn reviewed the April 1 PTO Advisory Board meeting. Items discussed included April PTO meetings, a PTO sponsored internet safety presentation on April 11 7:00 p.m. at Ridge PAC, the new staff evaluation system, the Ridge High School traffic study, the 2013-14 budget, and the State Performance Report (replacing the NJ School Report Cards). Next year Supervisor presentations will be combined instead of being held at each school.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Sherwyn updated the Board on the BT Municipal Alliance. Upcoming events include the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Twilight Challenge, Charter Day, and a booth the Alliance plans to setup at Ridge High prior to prom concerning the issue of drinking and driving.

Ms. Wooldridge noted the Board of Somerset County Educational Services Commission meets every other month and the Executive Board meets on the opposite months. The next meeting of the Board is Thursday, April 11.

**XI. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

**XII. Board Forum**

Comments were made regarding writing letters to Governor Christie and an upcoming Governor's Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 11.

**XIII. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary