

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 12, 2007  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 8:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m. by President Carlucci.

**I. Salute to Flag**

**II. Roll Call**

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Mr. Carlucci, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Koch, Ms. McGowan,  
Ms. Smith, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Winter, Ms. Woolford, Dr. Goger,  
Ms. Rudolph, Mr. Smith

ABSENT: None

**III. 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.

**IV. Executive Session – 6:37 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Faculty Dining Room**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss the following: litigation; matters pertaining to specific personnel; negotiations; 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. Koch, seconded by Ms. Carlsson, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:37 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Winter, seconded by Ms. Carlsson, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:59p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 8:08 p.m.

**V. Regular Session – Call to Order – 8:08 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

**VI. Student Representative’s Report**

Student Representative Phil Moroni reported on the success of the Career Fair which was attended by over 150 students, a service project entitled “Project Any Soldier,” the implementation of a new color coordinated tag system for the senior parking lot, a set of stairs added to the roadway to the lower senior lot enabling safe egress, painting ceiling tiles as a memory from the senior class, update on the junior prom being held in April and attendance at the junior class fashion show.

**VII. Business Administrator’s Report**

Interim Business Administrator Ron Smith stated there was no updated information from Trenton.

**VIII. Legislative Update**

Board Member Susan Carlsson updated the Board on a town hall meeting she and Board member Lisa Winter attended in Union County where Governor Corzine spoke. She came away feeling that the governor wants to enact the executive superintendent position. Senate approved the 4% Cap on property taxes. In regard to second questions at the school board election, they would have to pass by a 60% majority. If that portion of the bill is approved, it would become very difficult to get a second question passed.

**IX. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Goger announced that 7<sup>th</sup> grade William Annin Middle School math teachers are working on a project with APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation). She also stated that Liberty Corner Elementary School was selected as a 2007 NJ School of Character receiving a banner for the school. Their application will now be considered for the national award. The school nationally selected will receive a \$20,000 grant.

Board President Lou Carlucci stated the Finance Committee Report would be moved to

#2 under the Superintendent's Report to enable the public to comment during the first public forum.

1) 2007-08 Budget Presentations

**Elementary Guidance Program**

Liberty Corner Principal Kathy Pecoraro presented an overview of the elementary guidance program at the four schools. She explained the financial benefit of eliminating these positions and the impact of having tenured employees in these positions to the remainder of the district. She outlined guidance counselors responsibilities to children and families in need of support and their additional duties such as teaching assignments, testing, 5<sup>th</sup> graders transition to WAMS, I&RS, and various "extra" programs (Lunch Buddies, New Comer's Club, Stress Busters) that are an integral part of their position.

**Elementary Assistant Principals**

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger explained the evolution of the elementary position of assistant principal beginning in 1996 when the district had only three elementary schools and no assistant elementary principals. In 1997 there were three elementary schools with 1.5 individuals serving each building for half a day. In 1999 the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum was abolished, the assistant principals became full time spending half the day with school duties and half with district-wide duties. Full time assistant principals in each building began in 2001. Elementary principals and assistant principals share many of the same duties – observations, interviews, staff development, evaluation of district programs, and supervise implementation of curriculum in the classrooms. Savings to the district, as a result of eliminating the position of elementary assistant principal, would be approximately \$400,000. The negative includes impact on completion of observations (statutory compliance), scheduling of building (impact on facilities), monitoring curriculum (community value).

2) Finance Committee Chairperson William Koch initiated a review of topics previously presented to the public that may be impacted by the 2007-08 school budget along with comments and suggestions.

- a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Elementary Strings Program - \$25,600 savings, possibility of parent pay, number of students lost to 4<sup>th</sup> grade band, rental rate of instruments, what students need to meet core curriculum standards
- b. Elementary P.E. - \$200,000 savings, classroom teachers would teach one period of PE each week
- c. Half day v. full day kindergarten - \$400,000 savings, subscription for second half of the day (waiting for answer from Trenton & would not be a kindergarten program), impact on children with special needs

- d. Administrative structure – loss last year of third assistant principal at middle school & position of Director of Pupil Personnel Services, establish 2 guidance counselor positions (10 month counselors/summer scheduling WAMS & RHS) enable reassigning scheduling duties from assistant principals.
- e. Class size - \$200,000 savings, to work effectively world language needs to be brought back to full time status.

**X. Public Forum on Agenda Items**

Comments were made regarding legislative bill S2455 proposed by a township resident, health insurance, extracurricular, the Board's response to public comments/suggestions, class size, pay-to-play, half-day kindergarten, elementary guidance programs, and BTEA negotiations (confidential matter may not be discussed).

**XI. Committee Reports**

**Personnel Committee**

No report.

**Policy Committee**

Chairperson Susan McGowan updated the Board on the recent meeting stating that the committee discussed the concept of an activity fee supporting this change to offset other costs, if necessary. They also discussed the district's full compliance with Title IX and its relationship to girls' sports within the district.

**Curriculum Committee**

Chairperson Lisa Winter noted Sean Siet's recent oral history project with to Fellowship Village residents by the Honors American Studies classes.

**Community Relations**

Susan Carlsson read the response from Assistant Commissioner MacInnes to questions posed last month in Trenton by the committee.

**Facility Committee**

Chairperson Lou Carlucci commented on viewing of construction sites and Ms. Smith on solar energy.

**Liaison Reports**

No report.

**XII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items**

Comments were made regarding extracurricular fees and the perception that, if cuts are necessary, the Board should distribute the reductions across all grade levels.

**XIII. Board Forum**

Comments were made regarding the NJ School Report Cards, the Career Fair, and the Board forum not becoming a dialogue but rather an opportunity to respond to misinformation, sharing of counselors and information from the Comparative Spending Guide

**XIV. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Woolford, seconded by Ms. Stevens, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Ronald Smith  
Interim Board Secretary