

Posted on BT Website 2/17/11

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
FEBRUARY 14, 2011
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:35 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:01 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- I. **Salute to Flag** – page 191
- II. **Roll Call** – page 191
- III. **Executive Session – 6:35 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room** – page 191
- IV. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:01 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium** – page 191
- V. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 192
- VI. **Student Representative’s Report** – page 193
- VII. **Business Administrator’s Report** – page 193
- VIII. **Board Presentations**
 - 1) Special Education – Director of Special Services Jean O’Connell – page 193
 - 2) Accept Donation **Parents for Exceptional Children (PEC)** – page 194
 - 3) Facility Needs Assessment – Business Administrator Nick Markarian & District Architect Anthony Catana – page 194
- IX. **Public Forum on Agenda Items** – page 195
- X. **Committee Reports**
 - Finance Committee** – page 195
Report on Progress
 - Personnel Committee** – page 195
Report on Progress

Curriculum Committee – page 195
Report on Progress

Policy Committee – page 195
Report on Progress

Ad Hoc Facilities Committee – page 195
Report on Progress

Community Relations Committee – page 195
Report on Progress

Liaison Reports – page 195
Report on Progress

- XI. **Board Forum – Items for Future Discussion** – page 195
- XII. **Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items** – page 195
- XIII. **Adjournment** – page 196

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2011
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:35 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:01 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Carlsson.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Mr. Wilke

III. Executive Session – 6:35 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: matters pertaining to specific personnel; 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. Sherwyn, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:35 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Byrne, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 6:53 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:01 p.m.

IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:01 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

V. 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.

Board President Susan Carlsson stated the Board rescheduled the February 28 meeting for March 7. The Governor's address is scheduled for February 22 with state aid figures being released on February 24 enabling detailed budget work being completed prior to the March 7 Board meeting.

Ms. Carlsson also stated that the District's three representatives in Trenton were invited to attend this evening's Board meeting. Only Assembly Woman Denise Coyle responded stating that she would attend a future meeting, presumably after the Governor's address.

VI. Student Representative's Report

Student Representative Kathleen Kirk reported on the status of current service projects at the high school including the success of the silly band sales and the collection of over 360 jeans for Teens for Jeans. Mr. Ridge contestants have been selected. The dates of the Senior and Junior proms are May 20 and April 16.

VII. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Nick Markarian reported budget preparation is on hold until after the Governor's address and release of state aid figures. Mr. Markarian stated district architects' Scott Spiegle and Anthony Cantana will report this evening on the results of the recent feasibility study highlighting areas found to be in need of repair and updating.

VIII. Board Presentations

1) Special Education – Director of Special Services Jean O'Connell

Director of Special Services Jean O'Connell introduced the following individuals stating the areas each would be speaking on:

Supervisor Special Education K-8 Lisa Vitale-Stanzione – AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress)

Supervisor Special Education 9-12 Allyson Read – ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis)

Special Education Teacher Katie Vasto – RAZ-Kids

Special Education Teacher Mark Mautone – ABA Technology

Special Education Teacher Ken Cherry – RHS Vocation Program

Ms. Vitale-Stanzione explained the purpose and definition of AYP with the goal of every subgroup reaching 100% performance of the state's proficient range by 2014. She reviewed AYP's connection to No Child Left Behind, its impact on Special Education, classification and assessment, strategies used to address AYP and target or benchmark scoring.

Ms. Read reviewed the ABA (autistic) program, the transition for students, integration in general education and future development. She acknowledged the dedication of the ABA teachers and support of the administration.

Ms. Vasto demonstrated a sample RAZ-Kids lesson expressing the enthusiasm of her students for the program. Students are able to listen to books, read aloud, and read with or without vocabulary and pronunciation support. Teachers are able to limit students to appropriate levels and specific books tracking their progress. At the end of the book,

students take a quiz and receive ‘points’ based on their answers. They are able to retake the quiz and continue to accumulate additional points. New books are being continually added to the site.

Mr. Mautone reviewed technology usage in the ABA classroom including timers, leisure skills, collection of data, communication, turn taking skills, classroom tool dictation, available applications, use of Smart Boards, cost analysis, staff training, and follow up through department workshops.

Mr. Cherry reviewed the SLE (Structure Learning Experience) program which includes exposure to job training and job sampling, school-based training, community-based instruction, the 16 to 21 year old program, the ‘Café’ at RHS as a working experience, the RHS post graduate program, post 21 program and program efficiency, and ‘why it all works.’

Questions were asked regarding the realistic goal of reaching 100% AYP performance by 2014, students receiving a salary while still in school, and the RAZ-Kids program.

The co-presidents of PEC (Parents of Exceptional Children), Monique McHenry and Lisa McNey, presented the district with a check in the amount of \$25,660 realized from the group’s fundraising activities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$25,660 from the **Parents for Exceptional Children (PEC)** organization to fund the Lexia Reading Program. The funds donated by the PEC will cover the cost of the program and instructor training at the four elementary schools as well as instructor training at William Annin Middle School.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Mr. Koch, Item #2 was approved by all present.

3) Facility Needs Assessment – Business Administrator Nick Markarian & District Architects Scott Spiezle and Anthony Catana

The results of a recent needs assessment of all buildings in the district were presented including enrollment capacity, educational space and condition of school facilities. The most serious concerns were building roofs, with Oak Street’s cited as the most in need of repair/replacement. Upgrades of certain education spaces are needed including science and food labs at William Annin, music classrooms at Cedar Hill, and security needs in all buildings. All interiors and exteriors of existing school buildings were examined. In general, the buildings are in good condition with some areas of concern and in need of repair.

There are three funding options available to the district to make the necessary repairs. A referendum, Power Purchase Agreement and Energy Savings Implementation Plan. An explanation of each was given.

It was agreed the best time for further discussion would be after the energy audit is finalized.

IX. Public Forum on Agenda Items

X. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on March 2 to review the budget in preparation for the March 7 Board of Education meeting.

Personnel Committee

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated PERC has assigned a fact finder for the negotiations between the Board of Education and the BTEA.

Curriculum Committee

No report.

Policy Committee

No report.

Ad Hoc Facilities Committee

In Chairperson Ken Wilke's absence, Bev Cwerner stated a brief report will be compiled by Mr. Wilke regarding solar panels.

Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Robin McKeon reported the letter writing campaign to legislators is underway.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Sherwyn stated the importance and power of the film, Race to Nowhere thanking the PTO organizations for bringing it to the district. Comments were made regarding the continuation of graduation at William Annin Middle School, and an upcoming fundraising project at Cedar Hill School to refurbish the library.

XI. Board Forum – Items for Future Discussion

Board member Mike Byrne distributed a spreadsheet on SAT results comparing RHS with 27 other districts and national scores.

XII. Public Forum on Other than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the honors courses at the high school.

A comment was made regarding flying of the flag at one of the school buildings and the

book, *Call to Freedom*.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Mr. Koch, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary