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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
JANUARY 11, 2010
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:07 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 11, 2010
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:07 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by President Koch.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: None

III. Executive Session – 5:30 p.m. – William Annin Conference Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: 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.

IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:07 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.

VI. Student Representative

Student Representative Andrew Madlinger reported on the Junior/Senior volleyball game and statewide Student Government session recently held at the College of New Jersey. The Student Government is currently seeking proposals for a community service project.

VII. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Nick Markarian stated preliminary work has begun on the 2010-11 school budget with work continuing during the January Finance Committee meeting. A 'first' round budget will be sent to the full Board. No information such as state aid figures, the cap or cap waivers has been received from the state.

Mr. Markarian also updated the Board on the Energy for America project. The company did not feel there was enough time to effectively demonstrate the potential savings the company believes is possible when following its system. They would like to return to the Board in February-March to discuss the project for district-wide use next year. The

question was raised by the Board on the possibility of having a reduced program to monitor William Annin's system for the remainder of this year without having it tied to guaranteed savings.

VIII. Board Presentation

- 1) Director of Curriculum Sean Siet presented a **Post Secondary Report** highlighting the following areas of interest:
 - ⇒ HSPA results compared with neighboring districts (last year's data from other districts)
 - ⇒ 2009 Online SAT Prep Program usage
 - ⇒ SAT Critical Reading Mean Scores & Point Change by year
 - ⇒ SAT Writing Mean Scores & Point Change by year
 - ⇒ SAT II Tests
 - ⇒ SAT Subject Tests: Literature, Math I, Math II, Biology (molecular), Chemistry, Physics, U.S. History)
 - ⇒ AP Participation & Results
 - ⇒ AP Four Year Trend: Excellence & Equity (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, Fine & Practical Arts)
 - ⇒ Advanced Placement Test correlation of grade & AP tests results
 - ⇒ College Trends (acceptances, administration policy, finance aid, instant decision, early decision, wait list, online application, matriculation data, comparison by category of institution, 2006-09 class profiles)
 - ⇒ ACT Test

- 2) Superintendent Valerie A. Goger presented preliminary information on **2010-11 Budget Report** highlighting:
 - ⇒ Budget Building Process (schools submit in fall, December-March work with Finance Committee)
 - ⇒ School Funding Reform Act of 2008
 - ⇒ State Aid (potential of a 10% reduction)
 - ⇒ Surplus monies to be used by districts
 - ⇒ March 2009 Project & Program Review
 - ⇒ Impact on Bernards Twp. of instructional reductions and administrative summer reductions as a result of cuts to the 2009-10 budget
 - ⇒ 2010-11 Assumptions
 - ⇒ Comparative Cost Per Pupil, Students Per Faculty Ratio & Administrative Costs Per Pupil (March 2009)
 - ⇒ Budget timeline from state

- ⇒ Impact of change in State Department of Education personnel due to change in governor.

Dr. Goger explained a new grant program, Race to the Top. She plans to notify the Department of Education of Bernards Township's intent to participate. It is a four-year program available to 15 states with awards totaling between \$200-\$400M. 50% of the funds are available to Title I districts (which Bernards Twp. is not) and the other half to districts for innovative programs.

The district QSAC monitoring review was held today. The organizing of data began almost a year ago. During the next three months, the county office will be compiling results and forwarding them to Commissioner of Education who will make a determination to the district in April. After her review, Somerset County Executive Superintendent of Schools Trudy Doyle classified Bernards Township as a "High Performing District."

Dr. Goger told the Board how impressed County Executive Superintendent Doyle was with the Board's section of the Governance Performance Review.

IX. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairperson Lou Carlucci stated the committee is scheduled to meet on January 20 with discussion centered on budget and energy.

Personnel Committee

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the committee is scheduled to meet on January 14 with discussion centered on the administrative contract and BTEA negotiations.

Curriculum Committee

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the committee is scheduled to meet on January 14.

Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated the committee is scheduled to meet the 1st week of February.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Bev Cwerner said the committee will discuss the 2012-13 school calendar and bring it to the Board for a vote at its January 25 meeting. They will be looking at the potential cost savings utilizing the county calendar. An alternate version of the calendar will also be available for review.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Carlsson spoke on bus drivers and staff negotiations to be held in February at Somerset County Educational Services.

Senator Kip Bateman has responded positively to the Board's invitation to the January 25 meeting. Assemblywoman Denise Coyle may also be in attendance. A notice will be sent in the January 22 FridayFolder.

The BT250 committee is scheduling several activities for the celebration.

The Municipal Alliance had its reorganization meeting. There are mini grants for which PTOs may apply.

X. Board Forum

Comments were made on facility usage fees, a film recently shown at the high school and the Board goal to better understand the drug & alcohol education programs in the district. The first Public Forum will be removed from non-business Board meetings in the future.

XI. Public Forum

Comments were made regarding lunch periods at William Annin Middle School, maintaining the February break in the district calendar and loss of enrichment program.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Carlsson, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary