

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
JANUARY 14, 2008
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:03 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:10 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2008
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:03 P.M.
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BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDING**

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

ABSENT: None

III. Executive Session – 6:03 p.m. – William Annin Faculty Dining Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss matters pertaining to safety; 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 – 7:10 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 William Koch stated the Verizon cell tower proposal lacked sufficient support from within the Board of Education and public to warrant pursuing the project.

VI. Student Representative's Report

Student Representative Mark Schroeder commented on the upcoming Student Council meeting, midterm exams, Spirit Week, the participation of students in club activities and attendance at school events.

VII. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Ron Smith updated the Board and public on the high school project stating the classroom wing should be completed by February 1, the roof is on the auditorium and roof work will begin on the gymnasium next week.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Valerie Goger compiled a Mag 7 comparison on actual budget vs. state adequacy calculation and actual taxes vs. state fair share calculation. She explained the state's new formula for computing aid. Dr. Goger stated under the new legislation Bernards Township is eligible for \$800,000 over last year's funding amount. New regulations will be available on Tuesday, January 22. A 2008-09 budget will be available

to the Finance Committee at its meeting on January 22. The Board will adopt a tentative budget at its February 11 meeting to submit to the county prior to the February 15 deadline. The primary budget adoption is for the purpose of advertisement only.

IX. Presentations

1) Supervisor of Language Arts Janet Ankiel reviewed the Language Arts K-5 Program Evaluation recently completed. Dr. Ankiel explained the process beginning with summer curriculum writing through a 16-point recommendation. She reviewed several of the pertinent recommendations being made and responded to questions from the public regarding instruction in handwriting and grammar.

X. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairperson Janet Smith stated the next meeting of the Finance Committee is Tuesday, January 22. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. with discussion centering on the 2008-09 preliminary budget.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Curriculum Committee

Chairperson Leslie Stevens stated the next meeting of the Curriculum Committee is Friday, January 25. The meeting will begin at 9:15 a.m. with discussion of the district testing report.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the next meeting of the Policy Committee is Thursday, January 17.

Community Relations

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the next meeting of the Community Relations Committee is Wednesday, January 23.

Facilities Committee

Chairperson Lou Carlucci reported there are minor issues remaining on the punch list for Mount Prospect, Oak Street and William Annin Schools. He reviewed the high school work schedule including paving of the upper parking lot, locker room work and a solar panel presentation scheduled for the January 28 Board meeting.

Liaison Reports

No report.

XI. Public Forum

No comments.

XII. Board Forum

No comments.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Winter, seconded by Ms. Woolford, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Ronald Smith
Interim Board Secretary