

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
AGENDA INDEX
JUNE 10, 2013
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:32 P.M.
MEETING RHS STUDENT GOVERNMENT 6:40 P.M.
REGULAR AGENDA 7:10 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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JUNE 10, 2013
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:32 P.M.
MEETING RHS STUDENT GOVERNMENT 6:40 P.M.
REGULAR MINUTES 7:10 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order by President McGowan at 7:10 p.m.

- 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 (arrived at 5:33 p.m.), Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin

- IV. **Executive Session – 5:32 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; litigation; 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. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:32 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 6:35 p.m.

The Board met with the Ridge High School Student Government at 6:40 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:10 p.m.

- V. **Meeting with Ridge High School Student Government – 6:40 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**
- VI. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:10 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**
- VII. **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.

VIII. Student Report

Student Representative Joe Timko updated on the Board on student government election and the close of year for students. The 2013-14 student representative to the Board is Ellexa Thomas.

IX. Student Recognition

Mr. Markarian stated the Board of Education met with the Ridge High School Student Government prior to the public session of the meeting. The next segment of the meeting acknowledges several academic and extracurricular achievements of district students.

Mr. Gebhardt spoke on the successes of the following middle and high school Latin students.

1) Acknowledge **2013 New Jersey Junior Classical League State Champions & First Place Academic Test Winners** – Josh Gebhardt

8th Grade Certamen (Latin Jeopardy Quiz Bowl) Team & First Place Academic Contests

**Amy Che
Raveesh Koul
Thomas Mazumder
Rahul Mirchandani**

**Pierce Douglis
Shakar Krishnan
Ellie Martinson**

Upper Level Certamen (Latin Quiz Bowl) Team & First Place Academic Contests

**Jeffrey Cai
Nidhi Mahagaokar
David Mazumder
Emily York**

**Shawn Kant
Srinivas Mandyam
Jeremy Mazumder
Rachel Velasquez**

2) Acknowledge **2012-13 Ridge Forensics State Champions** – David Yastremski

**Vaikunth Balaji
Nicole Castillo
Ben Choi
Gia Farooqi
Sam Hoffman
Jonathan Jen
Nancy Lee
Vicki Liu
Nidhi Mahagaokar
Arianna Montero Colbert
Tim O'Shea
Farsha Rizwan
Aditya Sheth
Saloni Singhvi
Timothy Tang
Joey Walter
Kevin Yang**

**Giancarlo Carnevale
Michael Cervino
AJ D'Ambrosio
Davis George
Darius Hunt
Katherine Kleinle
Tracy Li
Michelle Lu
Atreya Misra
Connor Murphy
Sabina Razak
Gabby Schnell
Deeptanshu Singhvi
Ashley Son
Ankit Wadhwa
Jack Wilson
Willa Yu**

Athletic Director Rich Shello thanked the Board of Education, administration, and community for its ongoing support of the district's student athletes. He introduced the following coaches to speak on behalf of their teams.

- 3) Acknowledge **2013 Ridge High School Boys' Lacrosse Somerset County Champions, NJSIAA North Jersey Group IV Champions, NJSIAA Group IV State Champions** – Ken Marsh

Ray Abbiatici	Alec Burckley
Mitchell Gray	TJ Jones
Brian Mangion	Chris Modugno
Chris Palladino	Nick Schmidt
Eric Scott	Matt Zarabara
Liam Derkasch	Eric Dour
Chris Gaydos	Alex Gaydos
Charlie Hill	Connor Lalley
Owen Molloy	Sean O'Brien
JT Palladino	Trisston Conway
Daniel DeMarco	Gavin Kirkwood
Michael Pellegrino	Sean Sweeney
Matt Mullan	Brendan Quigley
Kevin Quigley	Jack Becker
Angel Alvarez	Ryan Barry
Tim Knightly	Ethan Ngai
Michael O'Brien	Lenny Rocci
Drew Taveroni	Michael Tufariello
Ryan Walsh	Rich McKenna

- 4) Acknowledge **2013 Ridge High School Girls' Golf NJSIAA State Section 1 Champions, NJSIAA State Tournament of Champions** – Siobhan Devlin

Carly Cappola	Katie Cappola
Brianca Chun	Yunhee Kang
Hana Ku	Nicole McCreesh
Monica Schumacher	Maggie Walsh
Christine Wang	

- 5) Acknowledge **2013 Ridge High School Boys' Golf Somerset County Champion** – Greg Zande

Joseph Gordon

- 6) Acknowledge **2013 Ridge High School Boys' Tennis Somerset County Champions** – Chad Griffiths

Mason Keel	Michael Liu
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7) Acknowledge **2013 Ridge High School Girls' Lacrosse Somerset County Champions** – Stephanie Garland for Laurie Anthony

Lucy Aaron
Mackenzie Bori
Samantha Brown
Brooke Burnett
Tara Cuddihy
Caroline DeWitt
Erica Geary
Katelyn Neillands
Hannah Quigley
Andrea Rijo
Ellexa Thomas

Elizabeth Behrins
Devon Brown
Amanda Bosland
Erin Conway
Kylie Curtin
Jamisen DeWitt
Kathryn Matzen
Annie Pearson
Meagan Quigley
Melissa Sommer

X. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Nick Markarian congratulated the 2013 district retirees and wished them well in their retirement.

1) Acknowledge **2013-13 Retirees**

Helayne Bilenker (unable to attend)
Carol Leiwant (Karen Hudock)
Elaine Matteo (Karen Hudock)
Marian Palumbo (Sean Siet)
Debbie Resvick (unable to attend)
Connie Semler (unable to attend)
Toby Sperber (Joanne Hozeny)
Rosemary Testa (unable to attend)

Debbie Black (unable to attend)
Janet Marino (unable to attend)
Kathleen McNanna (Frank Howlett)
Lorraine Polakowski (unable to attend)
Connie Rose (unable to attend)
Judy Slutzky (unable to attend)
Joanne Suriano (Nick Markarian)
Louise Winget (Karen Hudock)

XI. **Board Presentation**

1) **“What's New in Social Studies...”** – Supervisor of Social Studies Kristin Fox and the following Ridge High School students.

Ms. Fox reviewed the mission statement of the Social Studies program which centers on “knowledge (meaningful; purposeful), skills (meaning of knowledge; literary skills), and habits of the mind (attributes needed to become successful).” Students spoke on the following clubs/programs at the high school.

- **Community Service** - The 25 hour community service requirement through American History has been expanded to all sophomores. After completion of the their project, students reflect on the selected service, and write letters to the freshmen class sharing the pros and cons of the project.

- Academic Integrity – Within the social studies department there is discussion on this topic with the three-pronged approach of instructional, response to violations, & cultural. Members of the Ethics Club stated in a highly competitive environment, such as Ridge, cheating and plagiarism is on the rise and at times seen as a way to succeed.
- Ridge Empowerment for Political Participation – Members spoke on the club’s goal to raise political awareness of national, state, and local issues. The club has become involved in local politics, through Meet the Candidates Night, by holding a mock presidential election, and conducting student surveys on issues.
- Project Citizen – A citizenship program working to improve what is seen as an issue affecting the general population. A current project is trying to change the “rising costs of higher education” and finding a solution through compromise.

Ethics Club

Alina Razak
Emily Woo
Jeff Zhao

Ridge Empowerment for Political Participation

Nicole Castillo
Susan Kritzmacher
Oksana Ryjouk
Joey Walter
Kevin Yang

Project Citizen Topics: Rising Costs of Higher Education

Sabrina Bachert
John Barrasso
Gaby Baum
Eddie Campbell
Nikki Grabowski

A comment from the Board included expanding the Ethics Club to the middle school.

Click [here](#) to view presentation.

XII. Superintendent’s Report continued

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated June 10, 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

XII. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

XIII. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated June 10, 2013 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$2,360,658.90.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following field trip destinations for the 2012-13 & 2013-14 school years:

<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Group Attending:</u>	<u>Number of Students:</u>
Harry Dunham Park Basking Ridge, NJ	Liberty Corner Fifth Grade Students	102
Alstede Farms Chester, NJ	ABA Pre-K & Elementary Students	52

- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve professional development expenses in accordance with P.L. 2007 An Act Concerning School District Accountability and annual Board resolution for the 2012-13 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
K. Pecoraro	Strong SGO Symposium	\$190	6/24/2013
J. Oliver	Strong SGO Symposium	\$190	6/24/2013

- 4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a Community Service Award donated by the **Bernards Township Education Foundation** in the amount of \$1,500 awarded to Ridge High School students. These funds will be distributed to a program, club, or organization, of their choice, within the school district.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Kusel, Items #1 through 4 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

Ms. Wooldridge noted Item #4 related to students whose community service project involved collecting items for residents in the town of Highlands, NJ who were devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **extracurricular assignments** for the 2012-13 school year:

<u>School:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Stipend:</u>	<u>Longevity:</u>
WA	Nick Beykirch	Assistant Musical	\$3,433	5 years/1 point\$198
RH	Nicole Gihuley	Assistant Indoor Winter Track	\$4,895	n/a
RH	Nicol Traynor	Assistant Indoor Winter Track	\$4,895	n/a
RH	Stephanie Garland	Assistant Girls’ Lacrosse	\$5,756	0 years/0 points/\$0

On motion by Ms. Sherwyn, seconded by Mr. McKeon, 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

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated the next meeting is Friday, June 14.

POLICY

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the review of the revised district policy manual is complete. All changes and modifications will be sent to Strauss Esmay with approval by the Board anticipated in July or August.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn stated the final meeting with the PTO Advisory Board was June 10 and included both the current and incoming presidents. She thanked the Vocational Skills’ students at the high school who prepared a breakfast for the meeting. Ms. Sherwyn noted the success of the PEC 5K run held on June 9.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Sherwyn mentioned the success of the 25th Annual Twilight Challenge held on June 2, the Girls on Track program, and a presentation on October 24 by Michael Bradley "yes, your teen is crazy" sponsored by Municipal Alliance by the Ridge High and William Annin PTOs at the high school PAC.

XIV. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items

In anticipation of public comments, Assistant Superintendent Sean Siet presented a background of the Gifted & Talented program over the last 12 years. The district initially had a G&T teacher in each of the elementary schools. Due to budget constraints in 2005-06, the enrichment staff was reduced to two teachers shared between the four elementary schools. Four years ago the SEM program was cut. The Math League remained but was moved from within the school day to an after school program. Accelerated math continues at the middle school.

Public comments centered on the lack of an identification process for gifted & talented students in the lower elementary grades, and the current process of utilizing differentiated instruction to meet the needs of students who require a more challenging curriculum.

XV. Board Forum

Comments were made regarding the gifted & talented identification process as well as the financial constraints of the district while trying to meet the needs of all its students. It was decided the parental concerns would be brought to the Board Curriculum Committee for discussion, then to the administration, followed by a recommendation to the Board. Parents were encouraged to e-mail the Board and the administration with their concerns and suggestions.

The following two bills have been passed by the State Assembly and Senate and are currently on Governor Christie's desk for signature. Bills 1191 and 3627 focus on subcontracting which will eliminate the school districts ability to save money through outsourcing. Bills 2163 and 3696 would bring non-instructional positions under the umbrella of tenure.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby oppose passage of the following Senate Bill 1191 and Assembly Bill 3627:

WHEREAS, New Jersey's boards of education represent the community's interests in the governance and budget oversight of school districts that collectively serve the health and educational needs of nearly 1.4 million children; and

WHEREAS, school boards continually strive to provide cost-effective ways to deliver services, which will free up additional funds to be used in the classroom or for property-tax relief; and

WHEREAS, many New Jersey school boards have found subcontracting of services such as transportation, cafeteria and maintenance is an option that has saved millions of tax dollars every year; and

WHEREAS, 40 percent of school districts responded to a 2009 survey conducted by the New Jersey School Boards Association, which found the responding districts saved more than \$34 million annually through subcontracting services; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1191 and Assembly Bill 3627 of the 2012-2013 Legislative Session is a union-backed bill that would place severe obstacles in the way of a school board's ability to subcontract services and save tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the sole purpose of Senate Bill 1191 and Assembly Bill 3627 is to undermine a board's ability to subcontract services, thereby increasing school employees and increasing the rolls of union membership, which generates more dues for union coffers; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1191 and Assembly Bill 3627 would remove a school board's option to subcontract services, thereby diverting funds from the classroom and burdening property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education, in its continued effort to provide cost-effective school operations to the community, opposes Senate Bill 1191 and Assembly Bill 3627; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education calls on the New Jersey Legislature to reject any such measures that will have the effect of depleting limited resources from our classroom; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to members of the 21st legislative district delegation, legislative leadership and to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby oppose passage of the following Senate Bill 2163 and Assembly Bill 3696:

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local boards of education represent the community's interests in the governance and financial oversight of school districts that serve the educational needs of nearly 1.4 million children; and

WHEREAS, Proposed legislation, Senate Bill 2163 and Assembly Bill 3696, would give non-teaching employees, such as teacher assistants, bus drivers and cafeteria aides,

tenure-like protection by forcing school districts to enter into binding arbitration over non-renewal of employment, as well as virtually any “disciplinary” action, ranging from reprimands to withholding increments; and

WHEREAS, S-2163 and A-3696 would undermine the authority of local boards of education, the public’s elected and appointed representatives, by preventing them from negotiating disciplinary procedures to effectively and efficiently manage employee conduct and performance; and

WHEREAS, mandated binding arbitration would require the expenditure of valuable time and resources, while placing critical decisions in the hands of arbitrators, who are not accountable to the taxpayers of the community; and

WHEREAS, S-2163 and A-3696 would subject economic decisions, such as a reduction of non-teaching staff due to a budgetary shortfall or enrollment decline, to binding arbitration; and

WHEREAS, S-2163 and A-3696 define “disciplinary action” so broadly that the term would include non-renewals of employment contracts, thereby bypassing court rulings that have consistently held that the decision not to renew fixed-term contracts of such staff does not constitute discipline; and

WHEREAS, extending binding arbitration to such “disciplinary” matters involving non-teaching staff employees will have an adverse economic impact on local school budgets at a time when school districts must make the best possible use of limited financial resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education, in fulfilling its responsibility to provide effective governance and financial oversight to our community’s public schools, opposes Senate Bill 2163 and Assembly Bill 3696; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education calls on the Governor and the New Jersey Legislature to reject any and all measures that would require binding arbitration over disciplinary matters and non-renewal of employment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, state Senator Thomas Kean, Jr., and Assembly Representatives Jon Bramnick and Nancy Munoz; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

On motion by Mr. Byrne, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, Items #1 and 2 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

XVI. Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary