

**\*\*\*\* UNOFFICIAL \*\*\*\***  
**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY**  
**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA INDEX**  
**MARCH 26, 2009**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 P.M.**  
**REGULAR SESSION 7:06 P.M.**  
**OAK STREET SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – BUDGET WORK SESSION**

- I. **Salute to Flag** – page 182
- II. **Roll Call** – page 182
- III. **Executive Session – 6:30 p.m. – Oak Street School Main Conference Room** – page 182
- IV. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:06 p.m. –Oak Street School Auditorium** – page 182
- V. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 183
- VI. **Board Presentation**
  - 1) 2009-10 School Budget Review – page 183
  - 2) Public Comment – page 184
  - 3) Board Discussion – page 184
- VII. **Adjournment** – page 184

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**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – BUDGET WORK SESSION**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Koch.

**I. Salute to Flag**

**II. Roll Call**

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlsson, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch,  
Ms. McGowan, Ms. Winter, Mr. Wilke, Ms. Woolford

ABSENT: None

**III. Executive Session – 6:30 p.m. – Oak Street School Main 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.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Carlsson, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:30 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Carlsson, seconded by Mr. Wilke, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the Oak Street School Auditorium at 7:06 p.m.

**IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:06 p.m. – Oak Street 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 is one time after the presentation is made that the public is invited to speak. 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. **Board Presentation**

Dr. Goger reviewed the state's cap waiver application process highlighting areas the district was required to supply documentation to as proof of compliance. One standard included information from the annual Comparative Spending Guide, which was released within the last week. The district received a total cap waiver in the amount of \$2.1M.

Dr. Goger also explained an upcoming feasibility study on regionalization of school districts within the state. While Bernards Township was not initially included, Dr. Goger requested the Executive County Superintendent to do so feeling that gathering this information through a grant was advantageous to the district.

1) Mr. Markarian presented the 2009-10 school budget reviewing past information and highlighting newly acquired information.

2) **Public Comment**

Comments from the public concerned the nine vs. eight period day at the high school, middle school communication arts course, the federal stimulus funds, a second ballot question, and the use of tax cap waivers. The co-presidents of the Bernards Township Education Association read a position statement regarding the budget and bargaining process.

3) **Board Discussion**

Dr. Goger replied to several questions raised by the public and offered clarification on the cap waiver, programmatic reductions and the federal stimulus funding.

Board Finance Committee Chairperson Susan McGowan reviewed the committee's priorities and its final recommendations as outlined in Mr. Markarian's presentation to retain full day kindergarten, the nine period day at the high school and critical middle school programs.

The Board of Education's discussion included comments regarding increasing the cap waiver acceptance to \$1M, put additional funds on a second question, instituting an 8-period day at the high school, concerns with a rise in class size, quality programs at what cost, and the fact that the state may not grant a cap waiver next year if money allotted this year is not utilized.

By a show of hands, 5 in favor and 4 opposed, the Board of Education decided that a cap waiver in the amount of \$800,000 would be accepted and this amount would be included in the 2009-10 school budget.

**VII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Carlsson, seconded by Mr. Wilke, and approve by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian  
Board Secretary