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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REORGANIZATION & REGULAR BOARD MINUTES INDEX  
MAY 9, 2011  
OATH OF OFFICE/ELECTION OF OFFICERS 7:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REORGANIZATION & REGULAR MINUTES AGENDA  
MAY 9, 2011  
OATH OF OFFICE/ELECTION OF OFFICERS 7:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order by Board Secretary Nick Markarian at 7:00 p.m.

- I. **Salute to Flag – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**
- II. **Statement of Public Meeting 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.

**III. Regular Session – Oath of Office/Election of Officers – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

Mr. Markarian thanked the voters and was pleased to report that the 2011-12 school budget passed. He thanked the nine individuals who ran for the school board and their willingness to serve the community. Mr. Markarian congratulated Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan, and Ms. Shah on their election.

**IV. Statement of Election Results**

April 27, 2011 School Election Results:

For 3 Three Year Terms

<b>Bev Darvin Cwerner</b>	<b>1,191</b>
<b>Linda Wooldridge</b>	<b>1,419</b>
<b>Renee Marchetti</b>	<b>886</b>
<b>Susan McGowan</b>	<b>1,712</b>
<b>Robert A. Rofman</b>	<b>671</b>
<b>Priti Shah</b>	<b>1,193</b>
<b>William R. Stuart</b>	<b>693</b>
<b>Teresa Morgan</b>	<b>773</b>
<b>Timothy B. Ingling</b>	<b>763</b>

<u>General Fund Tax Levy</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
<b>\$74,368,937</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>1,840</b>

Accordingly, the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent and Business Administrator to implement the 2011-12 budget, once authorized and finalized, pursuant to local and state policies and regulations.

**V. Oath of Office**

Mr. Markarian administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Board members:

**Linda Wooldridge, Susan McGowan, Priti Shah,**

Newly elected Board members commented on the community support for the budget and thanked members of the public for their interest and support during the campaign. Each individual mentioned looking forward to serving the community and encouraged its input.

Board President Susan Carlsson acknowledged and welcomed the attendance of staff members in the audience. Ms. Carlsson stated the Board considers the district teachers to be full partners and that it is their dedication that make the district the success it is.

**VI. Roll Call of New Board**

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

Absent: None

**VII. Election of Board President**

Mr. Byrne nominated Susan Carlsson for the position of President of the Board of Education.

By a 9-0 show of hands, Ms. Carlsson was elected President of the Board of Education.

**VIII. Election of Board Vice President**

Mr. Byrne nominated Susan McGowan for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

By a 9-0 show of hands, Ms. McGowan was elected Vice President of the Board of Education.

**IX. Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics**

**X. Reorganization of the Board**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the bylaws, policies and job descriptions on file in the office of the Bernards Township Board of Education for the 2011-12 school year.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the previously approved curriculum guides, textbooks for grades K-12 on file in the Curriculum Office, Substance Abuse Prevention Program, Long Range Maintenance Plan and Emergency and Crisis Management Plans for the 2011-12 school year.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the following meeting schedule for the 2011-12 school year:

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*101 Peachtree Road  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920  
(908) 204-2600*

**2011-12 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (as necessary)  
PUBLIC SESSION 7:00 P.M.**

<b><u>Meeting Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Location:</u></b>
May 9, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium (Reorganization & Regular Board Meeting)
May 23, 2011	Board of Education Building
June 13, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
June 20, 2011+*	Board of Education Building
July 25, 2011	Board of Education Building
August 29, 2011**	Board of Education Building
September 12, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
September 26, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
October 10, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
October 24, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
November 14, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
November 28, 2011	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
December 19, 2010*	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
January 9, 2012	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
January 23, 2012	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
February 13, 2012	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
February 27, 2012	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
March 2012 (to be announced)	William Annin Middle School Cafeteria
March 2012 (to be announced)	William Annin Middle School Cafeteria
April 23, 2012	William Annin Middle School Auditorium (Reorganization & Regular Board Meeting)

\*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month

\*\*5<sup>th</sup> Monday of month

+Employment agreements for the assistant superintendent & business administrator will be acted upon following a public hearing on these contracts.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the designation of the **Bernardsville News** and **Courier News** as official district newspapers for the 2011-12 school year.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Nick Markarian** as Board Secretary for the 2011-12 school year.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the law firm of **Adams, Stern, Guttierrez, Lattiboudere LLC** as board attorneys for the 2011-12 school year, and authorizes the execution of a contract. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized profession, licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique character of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measured.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the **Spieze Architectural Group** as the architectural firm of record for the 2011-12 school year, and authorizes the execution of a contract. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized profession, licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique character of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measured.

8) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby authorize **Business Administrator Nick Markarian** to award contracts up to the state prescribed bid limit and to advertise for public bid all projects above the bid threshold for the 2011-12 school year.

9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the following **brokers-of-record** for the 2011-12 school year, and authorizes the execution of contracts:

**G. R. Murray** – Property and Casualty Insurance  
**Wells Fargo** – Health Insurance

This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized profession, licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique character of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measured.

10) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Michael Petrizzo** as Treasurer of School Monies for the 2011-12 school year at a fee of \$10,200.

11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Jean O’Connell** as Appointment of Liaison for the Education of Homeless Children, Public Law 504



Coordinator, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and Substance Awareness Officer; appoint **Regina Rudolph** as Affirmative Action Officer and Title IX Coordinator; and appoint **Nick Markarian** as New Jersey State Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Attendance Officer, Public Agency Compliance Officer, Open Public Records Act Officer, Public Employees Occupational Safety, Health Act Coordinator, Purchasing Agent, and Indoor Air Quality Coordinator; **Brian Heineman** as Asbestos Management Officer, and Right-To-Know Coordinator for the 2011-12 school year.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the business administrator to open accounts, transfer, invest and maintain funds in the best interest of the Board of Education in the following approved public depositories for the 2011-12 school year:

**New Jersey Cash Management**  
**MBIA Municipal Investors Service Corp.**  
**Wachovia Bank**  
**Millington Savings Bank**

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a contract with **Capital Financial Advisors, Inc. (CFA)** for annual financial advisory services for the 2011-12 school year and authorize the execution of a contract. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized profession licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique character of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measured.

14) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint the firm of **Wiss & Company** as school district auditors for the 2011-12 school year and authorize the execution of a contract in the amount of \$42,750. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized professional, licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique charger of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measures.

15) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **PMK Group**, a division of Birdsall Services Group, as environmental consultants for the 2011-12 school year and authorize the execution of a contract. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized professional, licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique charger of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measures.

16) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Strauss Esmay Associates** as policy services providers for the 2011-12 school year and authorize the execution of a contract. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a

“professional service” under the provisions of the local public contracts law as a recognized professional, licensed and regulated by law, and due to the technical and unique character of this field of endeavor wherein experience and knowledge cannot be practically measured.

17) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following statements which are reflective of the policy of the Board of Education and will be published at least annually in newsletters or related information publications of the Bernards Township Board of Education along with the names, addresses and phone numbers of the Affirmative Action Officer, the Public Law 504 Coordinator and the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act Coordinator (PEOSHA) for the 2011-12 school year:

“The Bernards Township School District offers all students and staff equal educational and employment opportunities regardless of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation.

The Bernards Township School District offers a free and appropriate public education and related services to handicapped students in an unrestricted environment in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Subsections 104.31 through 104.38.

The Board of Education believes that harassing, bullying and hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and the board prohibits all such harassing, bullying and/or hazing behavior at any time on school premises, at any school-sponsored function, or on any school bus. Any person who believes that he or she has been the victim of harassment, bullying or hazing, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment, bullying or hazing, shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of harassment, bullying or hazing at the building level. Any person may report harassment, bullying or hazing directly to the Affirmative Action Officer or the Superintendent. To review the complete policy and procedures of the Board of Education, please visit the district website at [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com).

Students and staff members in Bernards Township Public Schools are expected to treat one another with respect regardless of gender, color, race, religion, national origin or sexual orientation. Inappropriate behaviors such as: touching of a sexual nature, gender based or sexual comments, jokes or name calling of any kind by students or staff are not permitted. For students, this also

includes traveling on the way to or from school or on school property.”

18) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby designate the stated **personnel to sign checks** on the following accounts for the 2011-12 school year:

General Account	Board President, Board Secretary, Treasurer
Payroll Account	Treasurer
Agency Account	Treasurer
Unemployment Account	Board Secretary, Assistant Board Secretary
Cedar Hill Student Activities	Principal or Assistant Principal
Liberty Corner Student Activities	Principal or Assistant Principal
Mount Prospect Student Activities	Principal or Assistant Principal
Oak Street Student Activities	Principal or Assistant Principal
Ridge High Student Activities	Principal or Assistant Principal
Ridge High Athletic Account	Principal or Director of Athletics
William Annin Student Activities	Principal or Assistant Principal
Board of Education Petty Cash	Business Administrator
Superintendent Petty Cash	Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent Petty Cash	Assistant Superintendent
Cedar Hill School Petty Cash	Principal or Assistant Principal
Curriculum Petty Cash	Director of Curriculum
Liberty Corner Petty Cash	Principal or Assistant Principal
Oak Street Petty Cash	Principal or Assistant Principal
Ridge High School Athletic Petty Cash	Principal or Director of Athletics
Ridge High School Petty Cash	Principal or Assistant Principal
Special Education Petty Cash	Director of Special Services
William Annin Middle School Petty Cash	Principal or Assistant Principal
Autistic Petty Cash	Supervisor of Special Services
Peach Petty Cash	Supervisor of Special Services
PALS Petty Cash	Supervisor of Special Services
Performing Arts	Business Administrator, Principal or Supervisor of Fine & Practical Arts

19) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby acknowledge the following **parent groups/organizations** for the 2011-12 school year which are using district schools:

<b><u>School:</u></b>	<b><u>Group:</u></b>
Ridge High	Ridge Booster Club
Ridge High	Ridge Drama Club
Ridge High	Ridge PTO
Ridge High	Ridge Runners
Ridge High	Touchdown Club
Ridge High	Ski Club
Ridge High	AFS Parent Group

Ridge High	Ridge Ice Hockey Association
Ridge High	Lady Devil Basketball Association
Ridge High	Lady Devil Softball Association
Ridge High	Ridge Marching Band Association
Ridge High	Ridge Diamond Club
Ridge High	Winners Circle
Ridge High	Rebound Club – Boys Basketball
Ridge High	Ridge Wrestling Parent Group
Ridge High	Ski Team Parent Group
Ridge High	Swim Team Parent Group
Ridge High	Ridge Cheerleading Parent Group
Ridge High	Ridge High Fencing Association
Ridge High	Ridge Boys’ Volleyball
Ridge High	Ridge Girls’ Volleyball
Ridge High	Ridge Gymnastics Association
Ridge High	Ridge Boys’ Lacrosse
Ridge High	Ridge Girls’ Lacrosse
Ridge High	Ridge Goal Club – Boys’ Soccer
Ridge High	The Association for Ridge Sports – Girls’ Soccer
Ridge High	Ridge Sports Foundation
Ridge High	Foundation for Choral Excellence
William Annin	Ski Club
William Annin	William Annin Middle School Athletic Organization
William Annin	Annin PTO
Cedar Hill	Cedar Hill PTO
Oak Street	Oak Street PTO
Mount Prospect	Mount Prospect PTO
Liberty Corner	Liberty Corner PTO
District	Destination Imagination
District	Bernards Township Special Services Parents Group
District	Bernards Township Education Foundation

20) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the use of the following **state contracts** for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Service:</u>	<u>State Contract #:</u>
Apple Computer Inc.	Computer hardware & equipment	70259
Atlantic Business	Copiers & related services	54164
Cascade	School supplies	65589
Central Poly Corp.	Custodial supplies	73584
Cisoco Systems Inc.	Data communications equipment	73979
Dell Computer	Computer hardware & equipment	70256
Eplus Technology Inc.	Processing system services	71204
Eric Armin Inc.	School supplies	65608
Flemington Buick Chevrolet	Vehicles	73806
Fords National Auto Mart	Vehicles	73789

HP	Computer hardware & equipment	70262
IBM	Computer hardware & equipment	70265
Lenovo	Computer hardware & equipment	76263
School Specialty	Library & school supplies	65606
Soyka Smith Design Studio	Furniture, office & lounge	69945
Soyka Smith Design Studio	Library furniture, excluding shelving	66903
Staples	Office supplies & equipment	74337
Sun	Computer hardware & equipment	70258
Supplies Supplies, Inc.	School supplies	59760
Supplies Supplies, Inc.	Stationary & office supplies	59760
Tele Measurements Inc.	Video conferencing	50954
Warnock Automotive Inc.	Vehicles, trucks	73976
Warnock Automotive Inc.	Vehicles, cargo vans	73961

21) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve membership in Somerset County School Boards Association, Successful Practices Network, Somerset County Business Education Partnership, New Jersey School Development Council, Garden State Coalition of Suburban Schools, New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for the 2011-12 school year.

22) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby resolve to maintain membership for the 2011-12 school year in the following purchasing cooperatives: Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, the County of Somerset New Jersey and Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council.

23) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following tax shelter annuity companies for the 2011-12 school year:

**The Legend Group**  
**AXA Equitable Insurance Company**  
**MetLife Resources**  
**Lincoln Investments**  
**VALIC**

24) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the **Facility Use Fees** for the 2011-12 school year; schedule on file in the Board office.

25) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **disposal of equipment/books** for the 2011-12 school year; list maintained in the Board of Education office.

26) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the **subscription busing** rate of \$690 for the 2011-12 school year.

27) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **field trip destinations** for the 2011-12 school year:

Adult Day Care Center VNA, Basking Ridge, NJ  
Al Hirschfeld Theatre, New York City, NY  
Bishop Janes Church, Basking Ridge, NJ  
Broadway district, New York City, NY  
Brick Academy, Basking Ridge, NJ  
Bridgewater Commons, Bridgewater, NJ  
Bronx Zoo, Bronx, NY  
Brooklyn Art Museum, Brooklyn, NY  
Camden Aquarium, Camden, NJ  
Chelsea Art District, NYC, NY  
Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft, NJ  
Classics Day, Montclair State Univ., Montclair, NJ  
Clinton Red Mill Museum Village, Clinton, NJ  
College of Staten Island & Broadway, NY  
Community Theatre Mayo Center, Morristown, NJ  
Coney Island, NY  
DIA Museum, Beacon, NY  
Doyle's Farm, Hillsborough, NJ  
Ellis Island, New York, NY  
Federal Reserve Bank, NYC  
Fosterfield's Living Historical Farm, Morristown, NJ  
Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA  
Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin, NJ  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, East Hanover, NJ  
Garden State Scholastic Press, New Brunswick, NJ  
Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ  
Great Swamp Environmental Center, Basking Ridge, NJ  
Guggenheim Museum, New York City, NY  
Hershey Park, Hershey, PA  
Hunter College, NYC, NY  
Insectropolis, Toms River, NJ  
Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ  
Madam Tussauds Wax Museum, NYC  
Majestic Theatre, NYC, NY  
McCarter Theatre, Princeton, NJ  
Meadowlands/Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ  
Medieval Times, Lyndhurst, NJ  
Melick's Town Farm, Oldwick, NJ  
Mercer Co. Comm. College, Lawrenceville, NJ  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, NY  
Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center, NYC, NY  
Minskoff Theatre, New York City, NY

Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ  
Morristown Community Theater, Morristown, NJ  
Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY  
National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA  
Natirar, Bedminster, NJ  
New Jersey International Thespian Festival, Kean Univ., NJ  
NJASC Convention College of New Jersey, NJ  
NJPAC, Newark, NJ  
Papermill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ  
Philadelphia Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA  
Pleasant Valley Park, Basking Ridge, NJ  
Powerhouse Studios, East Hanover, NJ  
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ  
Prudential Center, Newark, NJ  
Raritan Valley Community College, Raritan, NJ  
Red Mill Museum Village, Clinton, NJ  
Ridge Oak Sr. Center, Basking Ridge, NJ  
Roosevelt Park, Edison, NJ  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Sandy Hook Ocean Institute, Sandy Hook, NJ  
Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, Bernardsville, NJ  
Somerset Co. Environmental Center  
South Street, Philadelphia, PA  
Southard Park, Basking Ridge, NJ  
St. James School, Basking Ridge, NJ  
State Police Museum, West Trenton, NJ  
Statue of Liberty, New York, NY  
Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, NJ  
Storm King Outdoor Sculpture Park, Mountainville, NY  
Taylor Publishing Co, Edison, NJ  
TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, NJ  
The Crane Arts Building, Philadelphia, PA  
The Seeing Eye, Morristown, NJ  
Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ  
Trenton Barracks, Trenton, NJ  
United Methodist Church Basking Ridge, NJ  
United Nations, New York City, NY  
VA Medical Center, Lyons, NJ  
Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY  
Village Forarts & Humanity, Philadelphia, PA  
Washington's Crossing, Titusville, NJ  
Whitney Museum, New York City, NY  
William Patterson University, Wayne, NJ

28) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **meal prices** with **ARAMARK Food Service** for the 2011-12 school year as follows:

<u>Program:</u>	<u>Price:</u>
Elementary lunch	\$2.15
Middle school lunch	\$2.30
High school lunch	A la Carte
Elementary milk	\$.50
High school milk	\$.50

29) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **tuition rates** for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Program:</u>	<u>Tuition:</u>	<u>ESY:</u>
Kindergarten	\$9,926	
Grades 1 – 5	\$11,274	
Grades 6 – 8	\$12,075	
Grades 9 – 12	\$11,984	
LLD	\$36,087	\$3,747
Moderate Cognitively Impaired	\$32,378	\$3,362
PT Preschool Disabled	\$21,910	\$2,275
FT Preschool Autistic	\$64,271	\$6,673
Autistic KG – 12	\$64,271	\$6,673

30) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby adopt the following resolution for **out-of-district and intra-district travel** 2011-12:

Whereas, the State of New Jersey has enacted P.L. 2007 An Act Concerning School District Accountability requiring boards of education to annually approve the total amount of funds budgeted for travel and conferences for all faculty, staff, administration and board members, and

Whereas the ACT became effective on March 15, 2007, and requires prior approval of all travel and conference costs before they are incurred, and

Whereas there are three categories of travel and conferences that faculty, staff, administrators, and board members generally attend, including routine meetings held on annually scheduled dates, meetings of an emergent nature with little prior notice, and meetings/conferences that can be scheduled with at least several weeks' notice, and

Whereas it is practical to anticipate as many activities as possible, and receive annual approval for those and monthly approvals for unanticipated activities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget amounts are acknowledged and costs of travel and conferences are approved for the 2011-12 school year:



Total amount budgeted for travel and conferences 2011-12: \$52,975

Intra-district business mileage for administrators, and where required, for members of the faculty and staff, including but not limited to faculty who teach in more than one school, child study team members, secretaries, etc. at the rate authorized by the Annual State Appropriations Act in effect at the time of travel at a cost not to exceed \$1,500 per person annually

Out-of-district business travel for administrators to attend professional meetings/conferences affiliated with, but not limited to, the NJ Department of Education, the County Superintendent of Schools, the Morris-Union Jointure Commission, professional organizations, etc. at the rate authorized by the Annual State Appropriations Act in effect at the time of travel at a cost not to exceed \$1,500 per person annually, and an individual conference expense not to exceed \$150

Out-of-district business travel for faculty and staff to attend conferences and professional development opportunities as approved by the superintendent at the rate authorized by the Annual State Appropriations Act in effect at the time of travel and an individual conference expense not to exceed \$150

Out-of-district business travel for members of the Board of Education to attend professional meetings/conferences affiliated with, but not limited to, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the Somerset County School Boards Association, etc. at the rate authorized by the Annual State Appropriations Act in effect at the time of travel and at a conference cost not to exceed \$1,500 per person annually.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. McKeon, Items #1-30 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon,  
Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. Carlsson  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

## **XI. Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger updated the Board on behalf of the Student Representative Kathleen Kirk. Dr. Goger mentioned the huge success of the ‘Senior to Senior’ picnic, the recent Senior Class Student Government meeting, AP testing, the Cedar Hill School Walk-A-Thon with a donation being made to the relief efforts in Japan, the April 29 Junior Prom held for the first time off campus at the Bridgewater Marriott, the Senior Prom on May 20 will be held at the Birchwood Manor, the May 15 marathon including 50 RHS students with a donation planned to the Fern Wilson Memorial Fund, and an upcoming meeting between the Board and RHS Student Government on May 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Office conference room.

Dr. Goger, Ms. Slutzky and the Board of Education accepted a grant for Mount Prospect School in the amount of \$7,500 from the NJ Dept. of Agriculture Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Dept. of Family Health Community Health Sciences. Mount Prospect School was selected from five schools in Somerset County for its health initiatives. A portion of the grant will fund an edible garden at Mount Prospect School.

## XII. Board Presentations

- 1) Drug & Alcohol Survey Results/Random Drug Testing –  
**Ridge High School Principal Frank Howlett, Ridge High School S.A.C. Chad Gillikin**

Prior to the beginning of the presentation it was noted that this matter will be referred to the Board of Education's Policy Committee prior to a decision being made.

Mr. Gillikin updated the Board on the American Drug and Alcohol Survey (ADAS) survey results including:

- ADAS 1990-2011 (anonymous survey, provides longitudinal data, internal reliability, nationally recognized survey, statistical significance, representative sample)
- The percentage of student participants (survey now required parental consent which lower participation level in spite of reaching out to parents)
- Statistics for 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have used drugs/alcohol in last month and comparison with national average
- Availability of substances, locations where use occurred, and age of first use
- Community values and school goals
- Suspicion based testing vs. random testing
- Why an opt out program and what the district is hoping to gain
- Opt out procedure
- Positives of random drug testing and what program would involve
- Percentage of students impacted and direct costs to district
- Procedure for random drug testing
- Repercussions of first & second confirmed positive results

Board members' questions included the availability of data from other schools, alcohol testing, difference in numbers from previous survey results, number of schools in Somerset County and in state who utilize random drug testing, availability of data from similar DFG groups, and if testing will only be done at the high school.

Mr. Gillikin noted there is difficulty in obtaining specific information from other school districts. He stated the goal is to give students another reason to be able to say 'no' and to postpone the onset of drug/alcohol experimentation.

**XIII. Sexual Harassment Training** – Assistant Superintendent Regina Rudolph

Assistant Superintendent Regina Rudolph and the Board of Education participated in the annual Sexual Harassment training including:

- Definition, types of harassment, and objectives
- Examples of student-to-student harassment
- District & building actions to reduce harassment
- Equity (determining the 12 protected classes & groups who get harassed most often)

**XIV. Public Forum on Agenda Items**

Comments were made regarding the awarding of professional service contracts and a statement was read from the co-presidents of the BTEA Action Committee.

**XV. Board Response**

Comments were made regarding district professional service contracts.

**XVI. Approval of Minutes**

April 25, 2011 – Executive Session Minutes

April 25, 2011 – Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, the foregoing was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon,  
Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Carlsson
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge

**XVII. Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee**

No report.

**Personnel Committee**

A Fact Finding meeting is scheduled for May 17 in the Board of Education office beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**Ad Hoc Facilities Committee**

Mr. Markarian stated he is meeting with the architect on May 10 and will report back to the committee at its next meeting. The PPA and roofing bids are out with a return date of May 25. A pre-conference walkthrough is scheduled for May 16.

**Curriculum Committee**

Minutes of the last Curriculum Committee meeting will be finalized prior to its next meeting.

**Policy Committee**

Ms. Sherwyn stated no meeting was held in April.

**Community Relations Committee**

Ms. McKeon stated the committee met with members of the PTO Advisory Council after the election thanking them for their support. Polling issues that arose at this year's voting sites, as well as, clarification of information made available to candidates will be addressed prior to next year's election.

**Liaisons**

Ms. Sherwyn updated the Board on the coffees held by the Municipal Alliance. Consideration is being given to having the Board view the film *21 for a Reason*. Information on the Twilight Challenge will be sent home in FridayFolder.

Discussion among the Board members included an interest in a summary report of the neighborhood coffees and having Ms. Forgione of the Health Department attend a Board meeting. Ms. Carlsson asked if a policy would be required in order to reimburse Board members if criminal history reviews are needed. She also spoke on legislation in Trenton regarding the court's decision on funding and Governor Christie's reaction. A letter she received from the Governor will be sent to all Board members in this weeks e-packet.

**XVIII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items**

Comments were made regarding professional service contracts being available on the district's website and random drug testing.

**XIX. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items**

A date for the Board Retreat (July or August) will be selected at the next Board meeting.

**XX. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Sherwyn, seconded by Ms. McGowan, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian  
Board Secretary