

Posted on BT Website 11/18/11

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX  
NOVEMBER 14, 2011  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:09 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- I. **Salute to Flag** – page 105
- II. **Roll Call** – page 105
- III. **Executive Session – 5:30 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room** – page 105
- IV. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:09 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium** – page 106
- V. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 106
- VI. **Student Representative** – page 106
- VII. **Board Presentation**
  - 1) **Bernards Township Municipal Alliance** – Kathy Kelly Municipal Alliance Vice Chairperson & Bernards Township Health Officer Lucy Forgione – page 107
  - 2) **2011-12 Technology Update** – Supervisor of Science & Technology Brian Heineman & Technology Manager James Rollo – page 107
- VIII. **Public Forum on Agenda Items** – page 108
- IX. **Committee Reports**
  - FINANCE** – page 108  
Report on Progress
  - PERSONNEL** – page 108  
Report on Progress
  - AD HOC FACILITIES** – page 108

Report on Progress

**POLICY** – page 108  
Report on Progress

**CURRICULUM** – page 109  
Report on Progress

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS** – page 1089 Report on Progress

**LIAISONS** – page 109  
Report on Progress

X. **Board Forum**

1) Discussion of Student Stressors – page 109

XI. **Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items** – page 109

XII. **Adjournment** – page 109

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 14, 2011  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:09 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Carlsson.

**I. Salute to Flag**

**II. Roll Call**

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

ABSENT: Ms. Shah

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: litigation; review of qualifications of persons under consideration for employment; matters pertaining to specific personnel; negotiations; confidential student matters; 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 Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:30 p.m.

On motion by Mr. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:09 p.m.

**IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:09 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 Representation Maggie Peterpaul reported on the recent meeting with the high school student body, the sophomore canned food drive and contest, plans for the junior class fashion show with the possible addition of a school-wide talent portion, and the clean up project for homecoming having raised \$6,000 for the school.

## VII. Board Presentations

### 1) Bernards Township Municipal Alliance

Bernards Township Health Officer Lucy Forgione presented an overview of the Municipal Alliance which falls under the guidance of the Bernards Township Health Department. Its mission statement is to provide consultation, programs, training, and resources to the community with the goal of preventing and reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Municipal Alliance Vice Chairperson Kathy Kelly reviewed the results of the 2011 drug and alcohol survey. Slides showed the comparison of the use of alcohol and drugs between 2009 and 2011. Alcohol and drug usage during the past 30 days of survey date were shown. She explained the initiatives of the Municipal Alliance, the “It’s 21 for a Reason” campaign which is designed to educate adults and youth regarding the dangers and consequences of underage drinking, the objectives and outcomes of the Neighborhood Coffees, and the next step through upcoming Dialogue Nights.

Comments by the Board included random drug testing and a comparison of Bernards Township data with other districts.

### 2) 2011-12 Technology Update

The goals of the District 2010-13 Technology Plan were reviewed.

Technology Manager James Rollo discussed:

- Goal 1 (upgrade and maintenance of educational technology tools to meet current staff/student needs)
- Goal 2 (Part 1 reliable access for students). Mr. Rollo explained the necessity for upgrading the district infrastructure and increasing the bandwidth to meet increasing needs. He explained the implemented solution of packaging the district’s voice and data expenditure together and consolidating into one data center. A comparison of non-consolidated and consolidated costs showed a savings of over 50%.
- The final infrastructure challenge remaining is solving the insufficient wireless capacity at RHS and WAMS.

Supervisor of Science & Technology Brian Heineman discussed:

- Goal 2 (Part 2 students having access 24/7 regardless of location). The District Technology Committee has recommended a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology)/BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) district policy for the following reasons: majority of grade 6-12 students possess and are familiar with their personal mobile technology, and it limits technology costs to district. Issues with BYOT include equity, security, filtering and overload of network.
- Goal 3 (ensure technology is integrated into curriculum)
- Goal 4 (maintain learning environment to encourage integration of technology-based tools into classroom)
- The need for continued focus on professional development through staff college.
- In the future students will work with software authoring tools, check out ebooks, and move all workflow to web-based model.

Comments by the Board included the question of student equity, explanation of digital hygiene, what age should BYOT begin, and measuring benefits.

#### **VIII. Public Forum on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

#### **IX. Committee Reports**

##### **FINANCE**

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 16, at 4:00 p.m. Scheduled discussion will include the June 30, 2011 Audit Report and insurance brokers.

##### **PERSONNEL**

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the first round of superintendent interviews is complete.

##### **AD HOC FACILITIES**

Chairperson Bill Koch stated the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee will meet on Thursday, November 17, at 4:00 p.m. Schedule discussion will include future projects.

##### **POLICY**

Chairperson Elaine Kusel stated the Policy Committee will meet in December.

## **CURRICULUM**

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated the Curriculum Committee will meet on Friday, December 9.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn stated minutes from the last meeting were distributed today. Discussion included Dialogue Night, the homework and student stressors survey, school closing, the WAMS Turkey Trot scheduled for Sunday (November 20), Peer Leadership, Project Adventure, and the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Summit.

Robin McKeon commented on the film, "Race to Nowhere," and the discussion that followed its recent showing including comments of observing stress issues at the elementary level, what is being done to address the stress, and the importance of parents knowing their child and defining success as it pertains to their family.

## **LIAISONS**

Susan Carlsson commented on the upcoming Somerset County School Boards Association meeting. She asked for feedback regarding the current policy on criminal history review and board members. Ms. Carlsson would like to bring these comments to the Delegate Assembly.

### **X. Board Forum**

#### **1) Discussion of Student Stressors**

The results of the homework survey are being compiled. A total of 900 comments were received from the 1,900 parents and 3,300 students who responded.

### **XI. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

### **XII. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian  
Board Secretary