

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX  
NOVEMBER 10, 2008  
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Koch.

**I. Salute to Flag**

**II. Roll Call**

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

ABSENT: None

**III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

**IV. 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.

#### V. **Community Recognition**

Board President Bill Koch read and Superintendent Valerie A. Goger presented the following Board resolution to Diana and Ed Boquist noting their continued interest in and service to the youth of Bernards Township.

**A RESOLUTION OF  
THE BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HONORING**

*DIANA AND ED BOQUIST*

**WHEREAS**, Diana and Ed Boquist have resided in Bernards Township for 32 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Diana Boquist served on the Bernards Township Board of Education from 1979 through 1988 including service as Board President; and the Bernards Township Committee from 1992 through 2001 including service as Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed Boquist served on the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance and Youth Services Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Diana and Ed Boquist have provided many members of the senior citizen community access to various programs and activities through the organization of the YMCA Senior Outreach initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, Diana and Ed Boquist have given tirelessly of their time and talent to numerous other civic committees and initiatives in Bernards Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Diana and Ed Boquist conceived of, planned, and successfully implemented two teen job fairs which brought together hundreds of youth and businesses in the Somerset Hills area for the purpose of exploring future careers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENDS AND CONGRATULATES DIANA AND ED BOQUIST FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF BERNARDS TOWNSHIP.

Unanimously approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2008

**VI. Board Presentation**

1) Discussion of Random Drug Testing Policy

Board President Bill Koch outlined the format for discussion of random drug testing. He stated the following format for this evening:

- no vote to be taken
- a procedural explanation of administering this program by Hunterdon Central High School Principal Chistina Steffner
- Board discussion after presentation
- public comment

Director of Special Services, Monica Butler, Student Assistance Counselors Chad Gillikin and Barbara Bush reviewed the district's Random Drug Testing Committee structure, findings and recommendations by the committee since its inception in September 2006. The two previous Board presentations as well as tonight's are available on the district website. A key component of this program is its potential use as a deterrent for students, a tool to assist them in dealing with the peer pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol. While it would not reach 100% of the student body, a significant number of students would be involved. Currently sport teams who reach a state level of competition are randomly tested for steroids and enhancement drugs by the NJSIAA. The district's program would include not only athletes but also students involved in all extracurricular programs, students parking on campus and students who volunteer to participate.

Ridge High School Principal Frank Howlett introduced Ms. Steffner reviewing her involvement in random drug testing programs both nationally and internationally. Ms. Steffner reviewed the results she has personally seen at Hunterdon Central and at Hackettstown High School. She explained the procedure for drug testing and answered

questions from the Board. Comments and questions by Board members directed to the district committee and Ms. Steffner included:

- possibility of false positives
- hidden costs
- increased educational programs vs. random drug testing
- baseline reason for committee's recommendation
- reason for exclusion of alcohol testing
- availability of post secondary data
- validity of surveys
- change in number of students participating in extracurricular programs when random drug testing initiated
- procedure for administering program

## **VII. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Comments made by the public both against and in support of random drug testing included:

- offensive nature of testing
- validity of report of consequences of marijuana use
- selection process of groups to be tested
- false positives
- cost to district
- negative consequences to students
- intrusive to students
- alcohol testing not being included
- validity of student survey results
- develop & explore different options
- lack of community support in Municipal Alliance
- tool to say no
- 100% inclusion
- presenting students with an escape mechanism from peer pressure
- utilization of an additional method of drug awareness
- administer program and review results after a test period
- follow up on other schools who have explored random drug testing but have not initiated it
- view both sides of issue

## VIII. **Board Response**

Comments by Board members included:

- number of students involved in suspicion drug testing in 2007-08 and thus far this year (23 in 2007-08; 8 first marking period 2008-09)
- all information to be reviewed by the Policy Committee
- possibility of including alcohol usage
- NJISAA testing regulations and may students opt out
- compile a list of prevention programs by grade level including those run by the Municipal Alliance

## IX. **Business Administrator's Report**

Business Administrator Nick Markarian updated the Board on the following:

- all budget information has been submitted by administrators
- first budget draft available in December
- audit paperwork has been delivered to the county office
- meeting with Epic & Spiegle representatives on November 14
- track resurfacing project
- county energy audit grant application timeline (due in February, reviewed in March, selection in April)

## X. **Committee Reports**

### **Finance Committee**

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated that Mr. Markarian's report reviewed the previous committee meeting.

### **Personnel Committee**

No report.

### **Curriculum Committee**

Chairperson Lisa Winter stated the next meeting is November 21.

### **Community Relations Committee**

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the committee is meeting with the PTO Presidents Advisory Council on December 1.

### **Policy Committee**

Chairperson Lou Carlucci stated that the date of the next meeting has yet to be

determined.

**Liaison Reports**

Liaison Susan Carlsson gave upcoming dates for the following meetings:

- Somerset County School Boards Association – November 12 (Somerset County Executive Superintendent Trudy Doyle is guest speaker)
- Somerset County Educational Services Commission – November 13 (morning)
- Bernards Township Municipal Alliance – November 13 (evening)

**XI. Public Forum**

No comments were made.

**XII. Board Forum**

Update of New Jersey School Board Convention will be placed under Board Forum on November 24 meeting. Mr. Koch and Dr. Goger are in the process of discussion goals.

**XIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Woolford, seconded by Ms. Carlsson, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian  
Board Secretary