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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
OCTOBER 11, 2010
1st EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:14 P.M.
2nd EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:04 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Mr. Koch,
Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Wilke

ABSENT: Ms. Sherwyn

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

III. Executive Session – 6:30 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: matters pertaining to specific 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 approve by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:30 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Mr. Wilke, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:09 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:14 p.m.

IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:14 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. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Nick Markarian stated administrators are currently preparing worksheets utilizing a "Zero" base budgeting approach. The company contracted to evaluate the boilers at William Annin Middle School will be submitting a proposal after its review of the boilers at Ridge High School.

VII. Public Forum on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

VIII. Board Presentations

1) Director of Curriculum Sean Siet stated this evening's presentation is posted on the district website with the full report available within two weeks. He began his presentation explaining tonight's presentation will focus on the state mandated standardized testing results. There will only be a brief mention of SAT data as it is the main focus of the spring post secondary report.

Highlights of his presentation included:

- Overview of testing and differences with comparable school districts
- State testing parameters (i.e. meeting Adequate Yearly Progress, sub groups, increase in rigor, banking of scores grades 11 & 12, opportunities to pass HSPA, restricted use of calculators in grades 3-8)
- Review of NJASK language arts and math results in grades 3-8, the HSPA results and mean scores, EOC assessment test results and the future of this test, and SAT scores by subgroups

Mr. Siet concluded his presentation looking to the future and plans to improve instruction utilizing ongoing test data analysis, staff development on the test format, and a focus on literacy with reading specialist training. The district's objectives include increasing percentage of students in the advanced proficient range and meeting AYP. He stated the goal is "To Leave No Child Behind."

Comments by the board included specific questions on the testing material, advanced proficiencies (elementary vs. middle), the language arts curriculum grades 3-5, a summary of test data to show areas of weaknesses, HSPA and EOC assessment tests.

IX. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairperson Susan McGowan reviewed the September 22 committee meeting. An insurance consultant was present for the RFP review of nine specific health brokers who submitted proposals. The four strongest agencies will participate in a 20-30 minute interview on October 27.

Personnel Committee

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated mediation with the BTEA will begin on October 13. She announced a new three-year contract with Superintendent Goger has been finalized and will be on the October 25 Board of Education agenda for approval.

Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Robin McKeon commented on the "21 For a Reason" campaign with kick-

off with Matt Bellace's presentation on October 28 at Ridge High School .

Policy Committee

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Friday, October 15.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Carlsson presented a report on Municipal Alliance activities including neighborhood coffees being held in the spring, Project Graduation activities have begun and the upcoming poinsettia sale fundraiser.

Ms. Carlson reviewed the NJSBA Legislative Committee meeting. Topics of discussion included: activity in Trenton, the concern that stimulus money will be removed from future state aid, and the governor's tool kit. Also discussed was Governor Christie's reform agenda and establishing the position of 'master' teacher, establishing alternate route for the position of principal, improving data available to parents, teacher evaluation process, tenure reform, merit pay, charter schools, school vouchers, and identifying the best teachers for the poorest performing students.

The Educational Services Commission is at impasse with its bus drivers and a new administrator has assumed the duty handling nonpublic areas.

Ms. Cwerner reviewed the Somerset County School Board's Association meeting including networking opportunities at the upcoming School Boards Convention. The highlight was a presentation by Shannon McNamara, a 12th grade student at Ridge High School, who is founder of SHARE an African reading program for girls.

Bernards Township Committee information included sidewalk snow removal, the Texas Eastern pipeline running through town, and maintaining the field connecting William Annin Middle School and the Gristmill area of town. A joint meeting between the Township Committee and the Bernards Township Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the municipal building.

X. Board Forum

1) Program Reviews

Board President Susan Carlsson began the discussion reading presentation topics submitted by board members. She received the following suggestions:

- Administrative structure
- Insurance
- Athletics
- Middle school model
- State mandates
- Media/library services

- Transportation
- Guidance
- Technology

Dr. Goger suggested selecting nine core areas, presenting three a year and thus establishing a three-year rotation of key topics. She also suggested it may be time to review the benchmark districts Bernards Township is currently using. She felt selection should be based on the original three elements used: % of enrollment growth, district factor group and K-12 districts.

A question was raised on how to get committee information to the full board and public. All committee minutes are sent to the full board.

XI. Public Forum on Other than Agenda Items

Comments included:

- Program presentation on success of reading specialists
- Random drug testing with an opt out option
- Extension of Dr. Goger's contract
- Elementary & middle school enrichment program
- Program presentation from world language dept.
- Explanation of breakdown in test report sub groups
- Gymnastics team success (now owns its equipment and is ranked 14th in state)

XII. 2nd Executive Session – 9:04 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room – page

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: negotiations; parental appeal; 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 Mr. Wilke, and approve by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 9:04 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Mr. Koch, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned, directly from Executive Session, at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary