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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX  
OCTOBER 12, 2009  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:10 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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The meeting was called to order 7:10 p.m. by President Koch.

**I. Salute to Flag**

**II. Roll Call**

PRESENTS: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlucci, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch,  
Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Wilke

ABSENT: None

**III. Executive Session – William Annin 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. McKeon, and approve by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:35 p.m.

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

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the at 7:10 p.m.

**IV. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:10 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 Representative Andrew Madlinger stated he will be attending the first meeting of each month to update the Board on happenings at the high school. He explained the activities planned for this weekend's Homecoming and the enthusiasm of the students for the pep rally.

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

No comments were made.

## **VIII. Business Administrator Report**

Business Administrator Nick Markarian reported on the upcoming event at Ridge PAC explaining that proceeds from such events will be returned to the PAC facility for continuing upgrades. The first show is the magician Jason Bishop on October 23 & 24 with tickets available online. Mr. Markarian reviewed the Safety Grant application and the district's receipt of \$18,220 from this grant. The Finance Committee will be working on the energy education program collection of data.

## **IX. Interview of Candidates for Board Vacancy**

Board President William Koch explained the process for filling a Board vacancy. The successful candidate will fill the vacancy until the school board election in April 2009. At that time there will be three 3-year terms and one 2-year term up for public vote.

The Board has 65 days to fill a vacancy. Five applicants have expressed interest. A standard list of topics for discussion has been distributed to the Board members and the candidates. These topics are:

- 1) background as qualification for the position;
- 2) philosophy of public education, and what it can or should afford our students;
- 3) perception of the role of school board membership;
- 4) strengths you bring to the Board and areas of Board committee interest;
- 5) short and long term goals for the district. Each candidate has 15 minutes to address these topics.

After the final candidate has spoken, the Board will recess into closed executive session to discuss the qualifications of each candidate. Nominations will be held in public with each nomination requiring a second. Election of a new Board member requires a majority vote by the Board or a total of five votes.

The candidates spoke in the following order:

Audrey Cohen Sherwyn  
Joshua M. Zucker

Jennifer Last  
Bonnie Diehl  
Jennifer Lynn Asay

**X. 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Session**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss individuals who interviewed for the Board member vacancy; 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. Carlsson, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approve by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 8:02 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Carlsson, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 8:23 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the at 8:30 p.m.

**XI. Nomination/Election New Board Member**

Ms. Cwerner nominated Audrey Cohen Sherwyn for the Board vacancy.  
Mr. Byrne nominated Jennifer Lynn Asay.

By the following Board vote, Ms. Cohen Sherwyn was appointed to the Board of Education to complete a vacant term through April 2010:

Ms. Sherwyn received votes from – Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlucci, Ms. McKeon, Ms. McGowan, Mr. Koch

Ms. Asay received votes from – Mr. Byrne, Mr. Wilke

**XII. Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee**

Finance Committee Chairperson Lou Carlucci stated the committee will meet next Tuesday, October 20.

### **Personnel Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Jean O'Connell** as Acting Director of Special Services effective October 26, 2009 through June 30, 2010, at a salary to be determined, and that it does hereby approve the application to the Somerset Executive County Superintendent for approval of an acting administrator pending receipt of certification.

On motion by Ms. Carlsson, seconded by Mr. Carlucci, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlucci, Ms. Cwerner, Ms. McGowan,  
Ms. McKeon, Mr. Wilke, Mr. Koch  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

Personnel Committee Chairperson Susan Carlsson introduced Jean O'Connell highlighting her career thus far in Bernards Township.

### **Curriculum Committee**

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated due to conflicts the committee will not be meeting until November.

### **Community Relations Committee**

Chairperson Ms. McKeon stated the committee met on October 5 with the PTO Advisory Council and due to Ms. Winter's retirement the committee is restructuring at the present time.

### **Policy Committee**

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the policies distributed to the Board this evening are required QSAC policies that will be either adopted on second reading or approved on first reading the at October 26 meeting. She requested that any comments regarding these policies be referred to her prior to the meeting.

**Liaison Reports**

Susan Carlsson reported on the recent Municipal Alliance meeting and encouraged Board members to attend. She also requested a volunteer from the Board to serve as an alternate to the Somerset County Educational Services Commission. Ms. Carlsson updated the Board on the Somerset County School Boards Association meeting in regard to contract negotiations within other school districts.

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

**XIV. Board Forum**

1. Board Self Evaluation

Comments were made regarding board performance, the student suspension report, a policy under review regarding student conduct and the annual violence and vandalism report being presented at the October 26 meeting.

**V. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. McKeon, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian  
Board Secretary