

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA INDEX
OCTOBER 13, 2008
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:00 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, 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. **Business Administrator's Report**

Business Administrator Nick Markarian reported on Finance and Facilities.

- Finance
 - review 5-Year Capital Projects' list
 - the district will seek state grant money for HVAC control replacement
 - update of 2007-08 audit
 - 2009-10 budget process

- Facilities
 - status of high school punchlist
 - 11-month walkthrough at Mount Prospect, William Annin and Oak Street Schools (Mount Prospect and William Annin complete; 2 small issues at Oak Street)
 - inspection of Oak Street boiler October 14 remaining boilers in district are operational

Questions regarding the HVAC replacement work were asked with Mr. Markarian stating that he is looking into total replacement of units as well as only the controls. Even with assistance from the state, the district would be responsible for 60% of the cost. One boiler will be replaced at Oak Street School now with another boiler scheduled for replacement in the spring. The high school track area is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Mr. Markarian stated the next step in the energy conservation process is the county's energy audit.

VI. Committee Reports

POLICY COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following policy on second reading and adopt said policy:

- a) Policy File Code: 0143 Board Member Election and Appointment

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

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

VII. 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:

- 1) Al LiCata
- 2) Monique Loh
- 3) Marie Taylor for Don Taylor
- 4) Beverly Darvin Cwerner
- 5) Girish Kumthekar

VIII. Second Executive Session – 8:00 p.m. – William Annin Conference Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss qualifications of Board candidates; 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. Winter, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 8:00 p.m.

On motion by Ms. McGowan, seconded by Mr. Byrne, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 8:22 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:27 p.m.

IX. Nomination/Election New Board Member

On motion by Ms. Carlsson, seconded by Ms. Winter, Ms. Beverly Darvin Cwerner was nominated to fill the vacancy on the Board. No other nominations were made. The nomination of Ms. Darvin Cwerner was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Board Secretary Nick Markarian administered the Oath of Allegiance to newly appointed Board member **Beverly Darvin Cwerner**.

X. Committee Assignments Continued

Finance Committee

Personnel Committee

No report.

Curriculum Committee

Chairperson Lisa Winter reviewed the recent Curriculum Committee topics which included incorporation of state mandated suicide prevention education in the health curriculum, an update of K-5 art, three new high school courses animation, dance & theater, a review of science & technology and K-5 math.

Community Relations

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the committee recently attended one of its quarterly meetings with the PTO Advisory Committee reviewing the school calendar, conflict with the vacation & the school election in April 2009 (there will be an aggressive absentee ballot push by the PTOs), the new regulation A-5 covering expenditure of school funds for such items as retirement dinners, refreshments at meetings and gifts.

An 'Open House' will be held on Friday, October 17, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the high school. The dance/choral suite, auditorium, gymnasium, and new classroom wing will be open to tour.

Liaison Reports

Susan Carlsson stated there is a meeting on Wednesday, October 15, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with Somerset County Educational Services Commission in Bridgewater.

Dr. Goger, Ms. Rudolph, Mr. Markarian, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Koch and Ms. Winter will attend the New Jersey School Boards convention in October.

Somerset County School Boards Association is having County Executive Superintendent Trudy Doyle speak at its November 11 meeting.

Lisa Winter spoke on the YMCA's Senior Outreach Committee and the new district policy of making 50 free tickets available to each theatrical program and allowing seniors entrance into all athletic events free of charge.

XI. Public Forum

Comments were made regarding the school calendar for 2009-10.

XII. Board Forum

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Winter, seconded by Ms. Carlsson and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary