

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
OCTOBER 7, 2013
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
OCTOBER 7, 2013
REGULAR MINUTES 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

II. Salute to Flag

III. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin

ABSENT: None

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. Student Report

RHS Student Government Vice President Michael Pensabene updated the Board on Spirit Week beginning on October 14. A different theme is scheduled for each day. Homecoming is Friday, October 18.

VI. Board Presentations

1) Fall Testing Report

Matt Hall Supervisor of Science & Technology presented the annual testing report highlighting:

- Guidelines & goal for student assessment
- State testing parameters
- Explanation of subgroups

Mr. Hall went on to explain the following state tests:

- NJASK (Language Arts, Math, Science) comparing results by district elementary schools, by year, and with DFG J and State mean scores
- HSPA (Language Arts, Math) comparing results with DFG J and State mean scores
- PARCC Assessments replacing HSPA testing with the Class of 2016
- NJ Biology Competency Test (4 year comparison by subgroup, and comparison with DFG J)

The presentation concluded with data analysis, areas to address, suggestions to improve instruction, and the future of testing.

Comments from the Board included Mount Prospect scores compared to other elementary buildings, the trend of Special Education scores, comparing scores utilizing districts outside of DFG J, distribution of point increase (between Language Arts & Math) of students who participated in the wraparound program, transition of students from 5th to 6th grade, and the district's transition to PARCC assessments.

Click [here](#) to view presentation.

VII. Superintendent’s Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Board of Education Affirms Receipt of **HIB Report** Dated October 7, 2013

On motion by Ms. Sherwyn, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

VIII. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding 5th & 6th grade testing results and study skills, criteria for selection in the wraparound program, the literacy support program, after school activities impact on ability of students to participate in the wraparound program, the end-of-year biology exam, PARCC assessments in middle and high schools, determining specific areas where students are falling short, and clarification of finance items on the agenda. An additional comment was made regarding back-to-school night and the enthusiasm of the staff.

IX. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated October 7, 2013 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,125,512.10.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve professional development expenses in accordance with P.L. 2007 An Act Concerning School District Accountability and annual Board resolution for the 2013-14 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
D. Romano	2013 New Jersey Science Convention	\$190	10/15/2013
T. Bowman	ANTNJ Conference	\$285	10/24/2013 – 10/25/2013
J. Shadis	SGOs for School Counselors	\$175	10/21/2013
K. Mahoney	How to Investigate Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying Claims	\$185	11/13/2013
M. Hoffman	How to Investigate Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying Claims	\$175	11/13/2013
K. Fox	NJPSA Conference	\$265	10/17/2013 – 10/18/2013

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following field trip destinations for the 2013-14 school year:

<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Group Attending:</u>	<u>Number of Students:</u>
Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	Ridge High World Language Students	20
Crane Arts, Reading Terminal, Eastern State Penitentiary Philadelphia, PA	Ridge High Studio Art & Photo Students	47

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the agreement in resolution of Docket No. EDS 08092-2010 and authorizes the administration to implement its terms.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$5,787.07 from the **Cedar Hill PTO** for the purpose of purchasing technology supplies.

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Kusel, Items #1 through #5 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon,
Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

Board President Susan McGowan acknowledged receipt of the donation made by the Cedar Hill School PTO.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby ratify the agreement between the Bernards Township Board of Education and the Bernards Township Education Association (BTEA) covering the period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - Mr. Byrne

Board President Susan McGowan reviewed the following five key points of the 2013-16 contract with the BTEA: 2.15% increase each of the three years; separating the prescription drug plan from major medical (allowing the Board more opportunity in selecting plans); staff continues to contribute in the dental plan; major medical contributions beginning 7/1/13; additional six hours of directed professional development; extracurricular stipends (frozen first & second year of the contract, 2% increase in year three, \$20K to fund new positions).

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Robin McKeon reviewed the October 4 meeting highlighting the summer curriculum writing projects, revisions to the foreign language curriculum due to changes to AP testing, changes to the math curriculum in order to meet Common Core Standards, social studies revisions in grades 8 & 9, homework at the middle school level, and an update on the identification procedure for the gifted & talented program.

POLICY

Chairperson Bev Cwerner reviewed the September 30 meeting where the homework policy, in regard to recess periods, was discussed. The committee determined the winter, mid-winter, & spring breaks would be considered recess periods. The school calendars for 2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17 along with advance notification of the quarterly exam schedule was discussed. Adoption of the school calendars will be at the December 16 Board meeting. Other modifications were discussed for the policies on plagiarism and whether state assessments should be included on student transcripts.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn distributed a revised schedule of PTO meetings. Supervisors will present at joint meetings of PTO organizations rather than going to individual meetings. Dr. Michael Bradley (through the Municipal Alliance) is presenting at RHS PAC on October 24.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge stated the next meeting with Somerset County Educational Services Commission is scheduled for October 21. Ms. Sherwyn stated the Municipal Alliance's meeting is scheduled for October 8. Ms. Shah updated the Board on an item discussed during a NJSBA meeting she, Ms. Cwerner, and Ms. Wooldridge. While personal texting is permissible during a Board meeting, texting between Board members is not.

X. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding BTEA contract negotiations and the start date of the school year and the flex day prior to Memorial Day weekend, and considering a three-day quarterly exam schedule.

XI. Board Forum

Comments were made regarding the football game with Linden, the number of students involved in the wraparound program last year, and utilizing a three-day quarterly exam schedule. Two members of the Board were invited to meet with Senator Kean on October 8. Only a small number of school districts were asked to participate in this forum. Ms. McGowan thanked Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, and Mr. McLaughlin for their contributions during the negotiation process.

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary