

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Koch.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlucci, Mr. Koch, Ms. McGowan,
Ms. Smith, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Winter, Ms. Woolford

ABSENT: None

III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:02 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

The Board of Education toured the Mount Prospect, Oak Street and William Annin Middle Schools prior to the Board meeting. Board President William Koch stated the construction projects are amazing with very few items remaining incomplete.

IV. Sexual Harassment Training – Assistant Superintendent Regina Rudolph facilitated the annual training session for the Board of Education.

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's Report

Student Representative Mark Schroeder reported preparation for freshman class elections and Homecoming (October 13) are underway. He stated that there is no significant distraction to classes from construction and some parking complaints have been brought to him. Mr. Schroeder stated that 4th period lunch is very early in the day and many students are not eating during that time.

VII. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Ron Smith thanked the ARAMARK staff for their assistance at the end of the summer and over Labor Day weekend to complete preparations for the start of school.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger stated the start of the school year was very smooth and acknowledged the support from staff that came in, many with families, prior to the start of school to prepare and setup classrooms. She also thanked the ARAMARK staff for their efforts to have the buildings ready on time. Dr. Goger further stated that elementary enrollment is flat, the middle school increasing by 40 students and the high school by 50. The numbers will be definitive after the first few weeks of school when the summer moving of parents is settled. October 15 will be the official enrollment count.

IX. Public Forum on Agenda Items

A question was asked regarding an update on the solar panel discussion. President Koch asked that questions regarding this topic be raised under the Facilities Committee report.

X. Board Response

No comments were made.

XI. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairperson Janet Smith stated the committee would meet on September 18 at 5:00 p.m. She reviewed the recent refunding of \$6.5 million in bonds at 4.27%. Ms. Smith stated that the committee will be looking at the Lee Field analysis and begin budget preparation in the next few months.

Personnel Committee

Chairperson Lisa Winter stated the committee would meet on September 17.

Curriculum Committee

Chairperson Leslie Stevens stated the committee would meet on September 28 at 9:15 a.m. As this will be their first meeting of the year, a review of summer curriculum writing is scheduled as well as the OnCourse training and second year of the 5-year Language Arts review. The college matriculation reports will be sent to the Board in the September 20 packet.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated she and Dr. Goger met with a township resident to explain the sick leave payout policy of the district as well as the recently signed bill in regard to fingerprinting in school districts. She stated the next committee meeting is scheduled for September 20 at 5:30 p.m. Topics will include a follow up from June's meeting, future plans include a review of the 1000 series of policies with consideration of legal correspondence being forwarded to the Board president, revision of the use of facilities policy/procedures to include Lee Field regulations (the new fee structure will require a revision to existing procedures), and the status of the random drug testing policy. Mr. Shello is scheduled to be present at the October 11 to discuss the philosophy of the sports' program.

Community Relations

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated that this committee met with the PTO Advisory Committee today and has committed to attend all PTO meetings. Future discussion will

include the role and responsibility of the Board of Education members and contact with legislators and including this information on the pulldown marked 'parents' on the district webpage. Ms. Carlson would also like to see presentations on the budget, technology in the schools and the oral history presentation began last year continued.

Facilities Committee

Chairperson Lou Carlucci stated the committee would meet on September 11 at 4:00 p.m. Topics to be addressed include the access road, solar panels, project schedule, and the air conditioning project at Liberty Corner School. Dan Del Mar of Epic will report to the Board at the September 24 meeting. A question was asked regarding access to the Ridge footballs games. Attendees will be escorted through the building.

Liaison Reports

Legislative updates will be resumed in November. Ms. Carlsson informed the Board of the passing of SCESC Superintendent Tom Boyle explaining that it is a major loss to be filled.

XII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made on the solar energy project.

XIII. Board Forum

A question was raised on the open item list and the next step following the recent Board retreat.

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Woolford, and approved by all present the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Ronald Smith
Interim Board Secretary