

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING INDEX  
APRIL 10, 2023  
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
REGULAR SESSION 7:05 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.** – page 339
- II. **Salute to the Flag** – page 339
- III. **Roll Call** – page 339
- IV. **Executive Session – 5:31 p.m.** – page 339
- V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:05 p.m.** – page 340
- VI. **Statement of Public Notice** – page 340
- VII. **Student Representative** – Petra Deffenbaugh – page 341
- VIII. **Board President Comments** – page 341
- IX. **Board Presentation**
  - 1) Elementary Showcases – Cedar Hill STEM Fair, Liberty Corner Multicultural Arts Festival, Mount Prospect International Day Dance and Oak Street NESTS – page 341
- X. **Superintendent’s Report**
  - 1) Affirm Receipt of **HIB Report** Dated April 10, 2023 – page 342
- XI. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – page 342
- XII. **Approval of Minutes** – page 342
- XIII. **Finance Committee Report**
  - 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated April 10, 2023 – page 343
  - 2) Approve **Field Trip Destination** 2022-23 School Year – page 343
  - 3) Accept **June 30, 2022 Annual Audit** PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP – page 343

**XIV. Personnel Committee Report**

- 1) Accept Retirement **Teal Barth** School Secretary Liberty Corner School 2022-23 School Year – page 343
- 2) Accept Retirement **William Stanzel** English Language Arts Teacher William Annin Middle School 2022-23 School Year – page 343
- 3) Accept Resignation **Greg Petrewski** District IT Technician 2022-23 School Year – page 343
- 4) Accept Resignation **Amanda Statkevich** Health & Physical Education Teacher Ridge High School 2022-23 School Year – page 343

**XV. Policy Committee Report – page 344**

Report: Committee meeting of April 3, 2023

**XVI. Curriculum Committee Report – page 344**

Report on Progress

**XVII. Wellness Committee Report – page 344**

Report: Committee meeting of March 22, 2023

**XVIII. Facilities & Operations Committee Report – page 345**

Report on Progress

**XIX. Liaison Committee Reports – page 345**

Report on Progress

**XX. Public Comment – page 345**

**XXI. Board Forum – page 345**

**XXII. Adjournment – page 345**

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING AGENDA  
APRIL 10, 2023  
REGULAR SESSION 5:30 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
REGULAR SESSION 7:05 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m.**

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Mr. Rollo, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox. Board Counsel John Croot

Absent: Ms. Hira

**IV. Executive Session – 5:31 p.m.**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, e, f, g and h below which falls within an exception of our open meeting policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule:

- a. Individual privacy
- b. Collective bargaining agreements
- c. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- d. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- f. Pending or anticipated litigation
- g. Attorney – client privilege
- h. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

On motion by Mr. Molinari seconded by Ms. Csipak and approved by all present, the Board recessed into executive session at 5:31 p.m.

Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Ms. Csipak and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:56 p.m.

V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:05 p.m.**

VI. **Statement of Public Notice**

This is 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.

For those members of the public who are unable to attend our meeting in-person, a livestream link of the meeting is posted on the district website, [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com).

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, when 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 matter of public concern related to the schools.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration. No participant may speak more than once during a given public comment session. In order to run efficient meetings and to allow maximum opportunity for members of the public to speak, the Board reserves the right to set a different time limit for individual comments and/or to set an overall time limit for the public comment portions of the agenda. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer, no participant may address or question Board members individually.

As a courtesy to those individuals unable to attend our meetings in person, public comment may be made remotely through Zoom. Interested individuals should navigate to the district webpage, [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com), and select "Board of Education" followed by "Public Comment" to review specific instructions, or click [here](#).

Public comments made in-person will be processed first, then comments via Zoom. No public comments will be accepted before 7PM or after item XX. Public Comment of the agenda ends.

Please understand that public comment portions of our agendas are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. The Board/Administration will respond to public comments to the extent possible. Any Board responses to public comments will generally be addressed during Board Forum, or during committee reports. However, all comments are considered and will be investigated and addressed as appropriate.

Please be courteous and mindful of the rights of others when speaking. Comments may not be abusive, obscene, threatening or irrelevant. Please understand that students and employees have specific legal and privacy protections. The Board is not permitted to respond in public to comments about students and employees. Please also understand that the Board will not be responsible for the content of comments made by members of the public. Members of the public are cautioned that they are speaking at their own risk and any personally directed statements they make may subject them to legal liability to the effected individual.

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.

**VII. Student Representative – Petra Deffenbaugh**

Ms. Deffenbaugh discussed the beginning of the fourth marking period at Ridge High School including upcoming events such as the Ridge Culture Day and Ridge Gives Back, discussed the success of Ridge Speech and Debate, the upcoming fundraisers for various clubs and upcoming Arts events. Ms. Deffenbaugh noted the recent successes of the Ridge High School Athletics teams and noted that April is Autism Awareness Month.

**VIII. Board President Comments**

**IX. Board Presentation**

1) Elementary Showcases – Cedar Hill STEM Fair, Liberty Corner Multicultural Arts Festival, Mount Prospect International Day Dance and Oak Street NESTS

Presenters from the four elementary schools discussed activities at their respective schools designed to bring students and staff together.

At Liberty Corner School the Multicultural Arts Festival incorporates different cultures as presented by parents, students and staff at not only the building level including activities, crafts, performances and books.

Cedar Hill School holds an annual STEM fair that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math. Events for the STEM fair are inspired by the students interest in areas of STEM and include a fair ceremony and incorporation of the engineering design process.

Oak Street School uses mentoring groups of students (known as “nests”) to help create a positive school community focused on social awareness, self awareness and strategies for making friends and understanding feelings at the school through various programs.

Mount Prospect School International Day and Evening incorporates each classroom as a country and students and families visit throughout the building. The event includes a dance from the native country of the presenting country, foods, pictures and other presentations to celebrate cultural diversity.

To view the presentation please click [here](#).

#### X. **Superintendent’s Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated April 10, 2023.

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

Superintendent Markarian thanked the elementary teachers and administrators for sharing their presentations.

#### XI. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

#### XII. **Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following minutes:

March 27, 2023 – Executive Minutes

March 27, 2023 – Regular Session Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes April 10, 2023

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. Light the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

### XIII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated April 10, 2023 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,466,071.98.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following field trip destination for the 2022-23 school year:
 

<u>Destination:</u>	<u>Group Attending:</u>	<u>Number of Students:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
Statue of Liberty	ESL Students	41	05/16/2023
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the year ended June 30, 2022 Annual Audit based on the draft financials and recommendation of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP the district's audit firm and the Corrective Action Plan.

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Ms. McKeon Items #1-3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White  
 “Noes” - None  
 “Abstain” - None

### XIV. Personnel Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following personnel items upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the retirement of **Teal Barth** School Secretary Liberty Corner School effective June 30, 2023.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the retirement of **William Stanzel** English Language Arts Teacher William Annin Middle School effective June 30, 2023.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Gregory Petrewski** District IT Technician effective March 31, 2023.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of **Amanda Statkevich** Health & Physical Education Teacher Ridge High School effective June 30, 2023.

On motion by Ms. White seconded by Ms. Light Items #1-4 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

#### **XV. Policy Committee Report**

Report: Committee meeting of April 3, 2023

Ms. McKeon provided a report from the April 3, 2023 Policy Committee Report. Topics at the meeting were the nepotism policy, public participation in board meetings, upcoming first readings of board committee policies and board use members of electronic communication and an upcoming second reading of adoption of textbooks. Policies and Regulations to be voted on at the April 24, 2023 Board meeting.

Board members discussed employment of board member relatives. A show of hands was made in favor of having Board counsel request an advisory opinion on the subject.

Board members discussed the timing of public comments and shared various views.

By a show of hands the majority of board members agreed that the first public comment would be limited to 30 minutes. The change will be reflected in the statement of public notice going forward.

#### **XVI. Curriculum Committee Report**

No report.

#### **XVII. Wellness Committee Report**

Report: Committee meeting of March 22, 2023

Ms. White provided a report from the March 22, 2023 Wellness Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included the post secondary report, home instruction, support for marginalized groups and the upcoming Ridge Gives Back event.



### **XVIII. Facilities & Operations Committee Report**

Mr. Rascio provided an update for the Girls Softball Field and a status for the open work orders.

### **XIX. Liaison Committee Reports**

Ms. Csipak provided an update from the Municipal Alliance Meeting that included a presentation for the Comfort Zone Camp for families in mourning, the upcoming annual Twilight Challenge, suicide prevention training, youth mental health first aid and adult mental health support.

### **XX. Public Comment**

Comments from the public included a response to the budget and ways to decrease costs in the district, concerns with relations between the PTO and district residents, the length of public comment and the Assistant Principal position.

### **XXI. Board Forum**

Ms. White thanked the administrators and staff that presented at the meeting and noted the importance of parent participation in the schools. Mr. Salmon echoed the sentiment and thanked everyone who helped to make the Ridge High School Girls Varsity Softball Field look so good.

President Molinari stressed the importance of all viewpoints at Board of Education meetings.

### **XXII. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

James Rollo  
Board Secretary