

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
JANUARY 23, 2023
BOARD RETREAT* 5:00 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

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*No action items are being voted on at this meeting.

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 23, 2023
BOARD RETREAT* 5:00 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

I. Salute to the Flag

II. Roll Call

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

Absent: Ms. Hira

III. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m. – Ridge High School Media Center

IV. 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.

We very much welcome input from the public. At the end of the meeting, there is an opportunity for the public to comment on agenda or non agenda items.

When you are recognized to make public comment, 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 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.

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 may or may not respond to public comments. 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.

V. Board Retreat – Board of Education Training

- 1) Mandated Training:
 - a) HIB
 - b) Board Member Ethics

Ms. Gwen Thornton presented training to the Board of Education on the subject of the Code of Ethics for school board members. Ms. Thornton explained various aspects of the code of ethics, its history, the function of the School Ethics Commission, each specific element of the code of ethics and related examples for how the code applies.

Board Counsel John Croot provided an overview of the role of the Board of Education within the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying policies the district employs.

Ms. Thornton and Mr. Croot both answered questions of Board of Education members during their respective discussions with the Board.

VI. Public Comment

No comments were made.

VII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Light and seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Brooks
Acting Board Secretary