

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 3, 2023  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:02 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:04 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Salute to the Flag – 7:02 p.m. – page 217**
- II. **Statement of Public Meeting Notice – page 217**
- III. **Reorganization of Board – 7:04 p.m. – page 218**
- IV. **Statement of Election Results – page 218**
- V. **Oath of Office – page 218**
- VI. **Roll Call of New Board – page 219**
- VII. **Election of Board President – page 219**
- VIII. **Election of Board Vice President – page 219**
- IX. **Regular Session Agenda – 7:04 p.m. – page 220**
- X. **Approval of 2023 Board of Education Meeting Schedule – page 220**
- XI. **Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics – page 221**
- XII. **Student Representative – Kyle Swan – page 221**
- XIII. **Superintendent’s Report**
  - 1) **ARP Safe Return Plan – page 221**
  - 2) **Affirm Receipt of HIB Report Dated January 3, 2023 – page 221**
- XIV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items – page 222**
- XV. **Approval of Minutes – page 222**
- XVI. **Finance Committee Report**
  - 1) **Approve List of Disbursements Dated January 3, 2023 – page 222**

- 2) Approve **Field Trip Destination** 2022-23 School Year – page 222
  - 3) Approve Contract Summit Management Solutions LLC 2022-23 School Year – page 222
- XVII. **Personnel Committee Report** – page 223  
Report on Progress
- XVIII. **Policy Committee Report** – page 223  
Report on Progress
- XIX. **Curriculum Committee Report** – page 223  
Report on Progress
- XX. **Wellness Committee Report** – page 223  
Report on Progress
- XXI. **Liaison Committee Reports** – page 223  
Report on Progress
- XXII. **Public Comment on Non-agenda Items** – page 223
- XXIII. **Board Forum** – page 223
- XXIV. **Adjournment** – page 224

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 3, 2023  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:02 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:04 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Salute to the Flag – 7:02 p.m.**
  
- II. **Statement of Public Meeting 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 XXIII. Board Forum of the agenda begins.

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.

**III. Reorganization of Board – 7:04 p.m.**

**IV. Statement of Election Results**

November 8, 2022 School Election Results:

3. Three Year Terms

Keith Molinari	5,540
Nimish Amin	5,401
Csilla Csipak	5,085

1. One Year Term

Lawrence Rascio	5,131
-----------------	-------

**V. Oath of Office**

Ms. Brooks, Acting Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Board members.

Nimish Amin, Csilla Csipak, Keith Molinari and Lawrence Rascio

## **VI. Roll Call of New Board**

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

Absent: Ms. Fox

## **VII. Election of Board President**

Acting Board Secretary Brooks requested nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Rascio nominated Mr. Molinari.

Ms. Light seconded the nomination of Mr. Molinari.

Ms. White nominated Mr. Salmon and explained that her nomination was based on Mr. Salmon's experience in serving in various capacities on the Board.

Nominations were closed, and Mr. Molinari was elected President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio

"Noes" - Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White

"Abstain" - None

## **VIII. Election of Board Vice President**

President Molinari requested nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Light nominated Mr. Amin.

Mr. Rascio seconded the nomination of Mr. Amin.

Ms. White nominated Mr. Salmon, again citing his experience and a desire to bring old and new board members together.

Ms. Hira seconded the nomination of Mr. Salmon.

Nominations were closed, and Mr. Amin was elected Vice President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Ms. Light, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio

"Noes" - Ms. Hira, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White

"Abstain" - None

Mr. Molinari expressed his thanks for Ms. McKeon's and Mr. Salmon's service as leaders of the Board of Education and shared how he looked forward to learning from new and existing board members, the community and the administration.

**IX. Regular Session Agenda – 7:16p.m.**

President Molinari acknowledged the previous board members that served. Mr. Molinari acknowledged the election and changes made and noted that he looks forward to working with Superintendent Markarian and other Board members.

**X. Approval of 2023 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

**2023 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as necessary)

PUBLIC SESSION 7:00 P.M.

<b><u>Meeting Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Location:</u></b>
January 3, 2023 <sup>†</sup>	Ridge High School PAC
	<i>Reorganization Meeting</i>
January 23, 2023 <sup>‡</sup>	<i>Board Retreat</i>
	<i>Ridge High School Media Center - 5:00pm</i>
January 23, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
February 13, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
February 27, 2023	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
March 13, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
March 27, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
April 10, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
April 24, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
May 8, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
	<i>Public Hearing on 2022-23 Budget</i>
May 22, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
June 12, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
July 24, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
August 28, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
September 18, 2023*	Ridge High School PAC
October 2, 2023 <sup>†</sup>	Ridge High School PAC
October 16, 2023*	Ridge High School PAC
November 13, 2023	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
November 27, 2023	Ridge High School PAC
December 18, 2023*	Ridge High School PAC
January 2, 2024 <sup>†</sup>	Ridge High School PAC

<sup>†</sup>1st Monday of month

\*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month

† 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month  
 ‡Board Retreat - No Action Items

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. Light, the 2023 schedule of Board of Education meeting dates was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

#### XI. **Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics**

Acting Board Secretary Brooks distributed a copy of the Code of Ethics to the Board Members and requested that signed acknowledgements of the code of ethics from each Board of Education member be sent to her office.

#### XII. **Student Representative** – Kyle Swan

No report.

#### XIII. **Superintendent’s Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) ARP Safe Return Plan
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated January 3, 2023.

On motion by Ms. Light seconded by Ms. McKeon items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Superintendent Markarian congratulated the newly elected Board of Education members, President and Vice President and thanked all board members for their service to the community. Mr. Markarian introduced Assistant Superintendent Siet and Acting Business Administrator/ Board Secretary Brooks to the new board members.

Superintendent Markarian provided a summary of the agenda items.

**XIV. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

President Molinari expressed his appreciation to the public for their comments and reminded them to direct the comments to the Board in a respectful manner.

Comments from the public included a concern about board member interactions with the public.

**XV. Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

December 19, 2022 – Executive Session Minutes

December 19, 2022 – Regular Session Minutes

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - Mr. Amin, Ms. Csipak, Mr. Molinari, Mr. Rascio

**XVI. Finance Committee Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated January 3, 2023 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,647,201.44

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>
Our Lady of the Lake	A Cappella Choir	30	02/17/2023

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a contract with Michele A. Loree, Franklin Park, NJ 08823 for professional accounting services for the period January 4, 2023 through June 30, 2023 at the rate of \$80.00 per hour total not to exceed \$25,000.00.

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. Light items #1-3 were approved by the following roll call vote:



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

**XVII. Personnel Committee Report**

No report.

**XVIII. Policy Committee Report**

No report.

**XIX. Curriculum Committee Report**

No report.

**XX. Wellness Committee Report**

No report.

**XXI. Liaison Committee Reports**

No report.

**XXII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

Comments from the public included a concern with the timing of committee meeting reporting, a comment regarding the absence of the student representative, a congratulation to the new board members and a question about training for coach interaction with students.

Superintendent Markarian noted a follow up would be made with the student representative and discussed the timing of committee meeting reporting.

Assistant Superintendent Siet spoke to elements added into coach training.

**XXIII. Board Forum**

President Molinari noted that he is looking for a good year.

Ms. Light read a statement in the capacity of a private citizen noting the importance of her private matters being kept outside of Board of Education business as to not distract from board business.

Ms. White noted the previous election and chaotic year and encouraged the newly elected board members to reach out.

Mr. Salmon congratulated the new Board President and Vice President and noted the focus on creating a positive environment for the students and offered assistance to anyone should they need it.

**XXIV. Adjournment**

On motion by Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. Light and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Brooks  
Acting Board Secretary