

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING INDEX
OCTOBER 2, 2023
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:08 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.**
- II. **Salute to the Flag**
- III. **Roll Call**
- IV. **Executive Session – 6:08 p.m.**
- V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:02 p.m.**
- VI. **Statement of Public Notice**
- VII. **Student Representative – Natalie Ramirez**
- VIII. **Board President Comments**
- IX. **Showcase: Oak Street Elementary School Blue Ribbon Award – Holly Foley,
Oak Street School Principal**
- X. **Superintendent’s Report**
 - 1) Affirm Receipt of **HIB Report** Dated October 2, 2023
- XI. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
- XII. **Approval of Minutes**
- XIII. **Finance Committee Report**
 - 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated October 2, 2023
 - 2) Approve **Professional Development Expenses** 2023-24 School Year
 - 3) Approve Partial Funding Reallocation **General Fund to ARP ESSER III**
- XIV. **Personnel Committee Report**
Report: Committee meeting September 15, 2023
- XV. **Policy Committee Report**

Report: Committee meeting September 11, 2023

XVI. Curriculum Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting September 13, 2023

XVII. Wellness Committee Report

Report on Progress

XVIII. Facilities & Operations Committee Report

Report on Progress

XIX. Liaison Committee Reports

Report on Progress

XX. Public Comment

XXI. Board Forum

- 1) [District Goals](#)
- 2) Board Self-Evaluation

XXII. Adjournment

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING AGENDA
OCTOBER 2, 2023
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.
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RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Light, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. Csipak, Mr. Molinari, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Amin, Mr. Markarian, Ms. Fox, Mr. Rollo, Board Counsel Matthew Giacobbe

Absent: Ms. Hira, Mr. Siet

IV. Executive Session – 6:08 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, b, 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. Salmon seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the Board recessed into executive session at 6:08 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. White seconded by Mr. Rascio and approved by all present, the Board closed executive session at 6:51 p.m.

V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order –7:02 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 cannot attend our meeting in person, a livestream link to the meeting is posted on the district website, 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; the first public comment session will be limited to 30 minutes and the second will be unlimited. 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 the 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. No public comments will be accepted before 7:00PM 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 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 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 – Natalie Ramirez

Student Representative Natalie Ramirez gave an update on Ridge High school student activities and sports.

VIII. Board President Comments

No comments

IX. Showcase: Oak Street Elementary School Blue Ribbon Award – Holly Foley, Oak Street School Principal

Superintendent Markarian congratulated Oak Street school for the Blue Ribbon award and introduced Mrs. Foley, Oak Street school Principal.

Mrs. Foley gave insight on the timeline and the process that was involved in receiving the Blue Ribbon award for Oak Street School.

Mr. Molinari also congratulated Oak Street School on receiving the Blue Ribbon award.

X. Superintendent's Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated October 2, 2023.

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

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

XI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comments were made

XII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

September 18, 2023 – Executive Minutes
 September 18, 2023 – Regular Session Minutes

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Light, Mr. Rascio, Mr. Salmon, Ms. White, Ms. Csipak, Mr. Molinari,
 Ms. McKeon, Mr. Amin
 “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 October 2, 2023 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$6,587,323.40.

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 2023-24 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date:</u>
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Vivekanand Baliya	2023 NJ Science Convention	\$217.90	10/18/23
Nicholas Beykirch	NJ Technology and Engineering Educators Association Conference	\$175.00	10/27/23
Taylor Boehmer	NJ Technology and Engineering Educators Association Conference	\$247.00	10/27/23
Mark Dotta	NJ Technology and Engineering Educators Association Conference	\$247.00	10/27/23
Richard Hartman	2023 NJ Science Convention	\$232.90	10/18/23
Steven Richards	NJ Technology and Engineering Educators Association Conference	\$246.00	10/27/23

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a partial funding reallocation from the general fund to ARP ESSER III federal grant for the previously approved 2023 Extended School Year Summer Staff, list maintained on file in the Board Office.

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

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

XIV. Personnel Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting September 15, 2023

Mr. Amin provided a report from the September 15, 2023 Personnel Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included Sick Leave Act, Merit goals for the Business administrator, Targeted tutoring before/after school, Ridge Tea Time stipends, follow up on 2nd K-5 counselor, stipends for Student Government Advisors, and a review of vacant positions.

XV. Policy Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting September 11, 2023

Ms. McKeon provided a report from the September 11, 2023 Policy Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included School year calendar, New sick leave act, Public records, Board Member use of Electronic Communications/Email/Social Media, Board member

Qualifications, Prohibited Acts and Code of Ethics, Board Member Authority, Board Committees and first reading.

Mr. Rascio asked a question about the process to handle the rotations. Ms. Mckeon answered the question by mentioning that if someone cannot attend the meeting, the committee chairman will reach out for alternatives based on the list of people who have expressed interest in attending the meeting.

Mr. Markarian and Ms. McKeon talked about how the Board of education related emails should go through the official board of education email addresses. Board Counsel Matthew Giacobbe emphasized the role of the Board and the role of the Superintendent and that communications need to be directed to the Superintendent for appropriate processing.

XVI. Curriculum Committee Report

Report: Committee meeting September 13, 2023

Mr. Salmon provided a report from the September 13, 2023 Curriculum Committee meeting. Topics at the meeting included AP Physics C books, textbook recommended for the study of well being, summer curriculum project updates by Ms. Fox and supervisors, update on health and physical education curriculum projects, standard based report card project, October In-service for staff, parent academy scheduled on December 7, 2023, math standard based report card update, science standard based report card updates, curriculum mandate project, health curriculum Year 2 revision project, RHS wellness initiatives, WAMS discipline initiatives and a question about revisiting Washington DC as a possible field trip for WAMS.

Ms. Fox commented on the state mandate vs guidance requirements in regards to curriculum writing. Board Counsel Matthew Giacobbe affirmed mandate vs guidance and policy.

XVII. Wellness Committee Report

No report

XVIII. Facilities & Operations Committee Report

No report

XIX. Liaison Committee Reports

No report

Ms. Light thanked the Township and DPW for paving the road to connect the Ridge High School and Municipal parking lots.

XX. Public Comment

Comments from the public included curriculum writing, rental rights, board election, board campaign, board self evaluation, student ID enforcement, and traffic signs.

Mr. Markarian addressed the question on curriculum writing and traffic signs.

Board members talked about the upcoming board election and board campaign.

XXI. Board Forum

1) [District Goals](#)

Mr. Markarian explained all four goals and associated objectives and he indicated that they will be published on the district website.

Mr. Salmon commented on the objectives of the academic goal.

Ms. Csipak asked questions on Wellness goals about looking for results and better trends. Mr. Molinari commented on Wellness goal data and mentioned his support on all four goals.

Ms. Light commented on the fourth goal.

All board members were in favor of the goals by a show of hands.

2) Board Self-Evaluation

Board members discussed the board self evaluation. Topics in the discussion included Board norms, committee reports, last year's goals, chain of command and emails, student government regulations, policy violations, board collaboration, board of education learning curve, committee functioning, committee minutes, information sharing, ad hoc committees and relational trust.

Mr. Rascio made a motion to to have the policy committee draft board norms for the full board's consideration, Ms. Light seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

XXII. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Light and seconded by Mr. Rascio and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Rollo
Board Secretary