

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Board Office Conference Room or Conference Call

In Attendance: Nick Markarian, Nimish Amin, Janice Corrado, David Shaw, Csilla Csipak

AGENDA

I. Discussion

1. [P 7438 - Lightning Safety](#)

This policy related to lightning safety is more of a procedure than a policy. For high school sports the NJSIAA has a mandated lightning policy. We already follow this policy for high school sports which requires everyone to go inside for 30 minutes if there is thunder or lightning. The policy includes the use of a detection system which is optional. We don't currently have a detection system, however the policy covers this in the event we ever added one in the future. This policy is not mandated. The policy would apply to all outdoor activities including: PE, Field Day, Middle School sports, recess and dismissal, as a few examples. One board member asked if the policy could be more practical and if there could be more discretion. For example if there are 3 minutes left in an activity and the lightning is far away does it make sense to send everyone inside for 30 minutes rather than finish the activity. Mr. Markarian agreed that he would look at other districts and see if he could soften the language to give additional discretion.

II. Second Reading

2. [P 2419 - School Threat Assessment Teams \(New\)](#)
3. [R 2419 - School Threat Assessment Teams \(New\)](#)

There have been no changes since the first reading.

As mentioned in the first reading, the district is required to have a new policy and regulation based on a new statute from the state that specifies who has to be on the school threat assessment team. We have always assigned a level of threat so it is no different than what we have historically been doing. There are three levels of threat which were discussed during first reading.

One board member asked about parent involvement and wanted to ensure that the school was concentrating on prevention and not reporting and administering. The board member was also concerned about over regulation. Mr. Markarian said that "parent" is mentioned 25 times in the regulation and the parent is always included in the process. In addition, he mentioned that the intent of this required regulation is not about teaching kids appropriate behavior or whether a threat is made. The intent of this required regulation is to document the steps whenever there is a potential threat and that the only change to what has been practiced for many years is naming

who is on the threat assessment team. There was also a question from a board member about the link between HIB and the threat assessment policy. Mr. Markarian mentioned that there could be threats that are linked to HIB but that they definitely don't have to be and they are two separate assessments.