

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 4, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Minutes

In Attendance: Nimesh Amin, Nick Markarian, Keith Molinari, Jennifer White

I. Discussion

1. **School Start Times 2024-25** - A brief discussion took place about the BT Connect meeting scheduled for Monday December 4th. There was no new information provided other than to share the plan for the evenings format. A collection of information including slides from the Superintendent of Chatham will be presented. A few questions were asked in terms of the timeline for sending out a survey. Information will be shared from the meeting and it will be recorded. Mr. Markarian noted that he wanted to get survey information back by December 15 so that it could be shared with the BOE at the meeting December 18.

2. [P 8451 - Control of Communicable Diseases \(M\) \(Revised\)](#)

During Covid, clearance notes were required after an absence. There has been discussion to make it clear to parents now through a small language change that notes are no longer required. However in some situations the nurse MAY require them.

The policy currently states:

Any pupil retained at home or excluded from school by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease shall not be readmitted to his or her classroom until he or she presents written evidence that he or she is free of communicable disease. That evidence may be supplied by the school or another qualified physician who has examined the pupil.

The revised policy states:

Any pupil retained at home or excluded from school by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease shall not be readmitted to his or her classroom until he or she can be in compliance with the BTSD Child Sickness Guidelines and be free of communicable disease. The school nurse or principal may determine that evidence of good health must be supplied by the school district's physician or another qualified physician who has examined the pupil.

II. First Reading

3. [Revised 2024-25 School District Calendar](#)

A correction to the calendar was made in regards to Diwali. It had been listed on the 2024-25 school district calendar as school closure on Thursday, October 31st but in fact as the holiday is celebrated over a 5 day period, the official day off will be Friday November 1st. The revised calendar reflects this change.

III. Second Reading

4. [2026-27 School District Calendar](#)

No changes since first reading--will be on BOE meeting agenda for vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer White