

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MINUTES INDEX  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022  
BOARD RETREAT\* 4:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

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    - b) Sexual Harassment
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\*No action items are being voted on at this meeting.

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022  
BOARD RETREAT\* 4:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

**I. Salute to the Flag**

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Ms. Gray, Ms. Hira, Ms. Light, Mr. Khanna (via zoom), Ms. McKeon, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Singh, Ms. White, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

Absent: None

**III. Call to Order – 4:00 p.m. – Ridge High School Media Center**

On motion by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Salmon and approved by all present, the Board began public session at 4:01p.m.

**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.

Due to the pandemic, the Board of Education expects that in-person attendees to this meeting:

- 1) Have completed and passed a self-assessment of personal health (done at home using the [district's screening tool](#)).
- 2) Wear a face covering pursuant to N.J. EO-251.
- 3) Sit in a socially distanced manner from members of different households.
- 4) Maintain social distancing if waiting in line to make public comment.

Public comment is welcome at the end of the meeting. 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.

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) Sexual Harassment
- 2) Board Governance
- 3) Board Ethics

Board Attorney John Croot provided an overview of key elements of the HIB law and process as it relates to Board of Education members. Assistant Superintendent, Sean Siet, highlighted various aspects of knowledge Board of Education members need relative to sexual harassment. Gwen Thornton of New Jersey School Boards presented on the subject of Board governance focusing on the different roles of school board members. Board Counsel, John Croot and Gwen Thornton collaborated and reviewed the code of ethics for school board members.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

No comments were made.

**VII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Singh and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary