

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2020
REGULAR SESSION 6:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:02 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:17 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00PM
ON APRIL 13, 2020 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m. – page 366**
- II. **Salute to the Flag – page 366**
- III. **Roll Call – page 366**
- IV. **Executive Session – 6:02 p.m. – page 366**
- V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:17 p.m. – page 367**
- VI. **Statement of Public Notice – page 367**
- VII. **Student Representative - Jimmy Gao – page 368**
- VIII. **Board Presentation – page 369**
 - 1) **Trends in Mental Health and SEL Programming Update -**
Stephanie Smith, Karen Hudock, Cherie Howarth, Adam Torrissi, Jenna Hawkswell, Tom Thorp, Mike Pepitone and Krissy Uhler
- IX. **Superintendent’s Report – page 370**
- X. **Public Comment on Agenda Items – page 370**
- XI. **Approval of Minutes – page 370**
- XII. **Finance Committee Report**
 - 1) Approve **List of Disbursements** Dated April 13, 2020 – page 371
 - 2) Approve Withdrawal **Capital Reserve Fund** – page 371

- 3) Approve Donating to **Area Health Care Institutions and Somerset County Office of Emergency Management** – page 371

XIII. Personnel Committee Report

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- 2) Approve **Change in Assignments/Salaries and/or Locations** 2019-20 School Year – page 372
- 3) Approve **Various Assignments** 2019-20 School Year – page 372
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I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman,
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. White, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian,
Mr. Siet, Ms. Fox, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: None

IV. Executive Session – 6:02 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) a, 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 Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Korn and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:02p.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. Richman seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:17p.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 the Open Public Meetings Act.

Due to the public health emergency in the State of New Jersey, as declared in Executive Order 103, the Board will be suspending its normal meeting procedures this evening and conducting a virtual meeting. Directions for accessing the virtual public meeting were posted on the District website: www.bernardsboe.com. These same directions were posted at our intended but unavailable meeting location.

We very much welcome input from the public. Because this is a virtual meeting, public comment will be handled as follows:

Instructions for submitting a public comment starting at 7PM:

- 1) Email to BTConnect@bernardsboe.com or text to (908) 292-3047.
- 2) Use PUBLIC COMMENT as the email subject or start of a text message.
- 3) Indicate your first and last name and address. ***THIS IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT TO BE INCLUDED.***

4) Please keep your comments to a maximum of approximately 3 minutes if read aloud.

No public comments will be accepted after item XIX. 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 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 providing comments. 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 commenting 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.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education hereby approves the suspension of its normal meeting procedures pursuant to By-Law 131, and authorizes this meeting to be conducted as a virtual meeting, as described in the Statement of Public Notice, due to the public health emergency declared in Executive Order 103.

VII. Student Representative - Jimmy Gao

Mr. Gao discussed how students are managing during the current public health emergency.

VIII. Board Presentation

1) **Trends in Mental Health and SEL Programming Update** - Stephanie Smith, Karen Hudock, Cherie Howarth, Adam Torrasi, Jenna Hawkswell, Tom Thorp, Mike Pepitone and Krissy Uhler

Ms. Stephanie Smith, Supervisor of School Counseling, presented the Trends in Mental Health 2018-2019 Report. Key points of the presentation were:

- The Elementary School Counseling Program
 - Data was collected during the 2018-19 School Year
 - The following breakdowns were provided:
 - Counselor to student ratio
 - Small group counseling program
 - Average use of classroom lessons by grade level
- William Annin Middle School Counseling Program
 - Data was collected during the 2018-19 School Year
 - The following breakdowns were provided:
 - Total visits
 - Number of visits per month
 - Number of visits per student
 - Student classification, services provided and a breakdown of visits by mental health issues
 - An update for the William Annin Student Assistance Program
 - Students sent for drug testing
- Ridge High School Counseling Program
 - Data was collected for the 2018-19 School Year
 - The following breakdowns were provided:
 - Total visits
 - Number of visits per month
 - Number of visits per student
 - Student classification, services provided, number of visits and a breakdown of visits by mental health issues
 - An update for the Ridge High School Student Assistance Program
 - Students sent for drug testing
- Home Instruction including the number of students, demographics, rounds and educational service providers.
- Mandated reporting for the district including Suicide Intervention Reports, Violence Prevention Reports and Department of Child Protection and Permanency referrals.

Administrators provided updates from their schools with regard to Social- Emotional Learning.

Elementary school updates included leadership, character education, the school culture and climate initiatives and community outreach programs.

The Social Emotional Learning update from William Annin included community programs, group and individual counseling updates, peer leadership and peer mentors, character education and communication between staff and parents.

Ridge High School Social Emotional Learning included building on social and emotional development goals, character education, bullying and violence prevention, mental health awareness, integrity, safety and security and the exploration of the rotating drop schedule.

District goals included youth mental health, programs being utilized and goals being set in Professional Development days, the Board of Education Wellness Committee and currently providing mental health support to students and families during the public health emergency.

Board members thanked Ms. Smith and the Administrative Team.

Click [here](#) to view the entire presentation.

IX. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Markarian discussed the efforts being made by the Aramark custodial team and the constant monitoring of the public health emergency in relation to the school facilities being closed.

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

March 30, 2020 - First Executive Session Minutes

March 30, 2020 - Second Executive Session Minutes

Board of Education Minutes April 13, 2020

March 30, 2020 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Korn seconded by Ms. Richman the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Richman,
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. White and Ms. Wooldridge
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - None

XII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated April 13, 2020 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$1,920,392.20.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education approves the withdrawal in the amount not to exceed \$172,350.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund to be transferred to the Capital Projects for the design costs of the approved project for the Ridge High School Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovations.
- 3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve of donating rubber gloves to area health care institutions and the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management. The total value of these items will not exceed \$730.48.

On motion by Ms. Schafer, seconded by Ms. Beckman Items #1-3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Richman,
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Wooldridge and Ms. White
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - None

Mr. Salmon provided a summary of Finance items.

XIII. Personnel Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following personnel items upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

Board of Education Minutes April 13, 2020

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Vanessa Kuronya** Instructional Aide Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 4 \$28.35 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective April 14, 2020 through June 18, 2020.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Change in Assignment/Location and/or Salary** for the 2019-20 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Linda Nollkamper	Grade Level Leader Cedar Hill 10 months \$2,655	Grade Level Leader Cedar Hill 7 months \$1,858.50
Jenifer Nicholson	Secretary Special Services Step 7+1 \$54,805 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20	Secretary Special Services Step 7+2 \$55,155 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20
Ashley Dunker	Secretary District Office at a salary of \$61,627 effective July 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 then a salary of \$61,977.57 effective February 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020	Secretary District Office at a salary of \$62,327.57 effective April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020
Lisa Miano	Secretary RHS Step 4+2 \$52,905 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20	Secretary RHS Step 4+3 \$53,255 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20
Sandra Savage	Secretary Special Services Step 9+2 Tests \$59,655 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20	Secretary Special Services Step 9+3 Tests \$60,005 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20
Karen Smith	Secretary District Office \$59,953.44 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20	Secretary District Office \$60,303.44 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20
Marie Ann Maffei	Secretary District Office \$52,100 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20	Secretary District Office \$52,450 effective 4/1/20-6/30/20

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following staff members in the **Various Assignments** listed for the 2019-20 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Regina DiGiovanni	Extra Section English Language Arts WAMS	\$40.00 per day effective 5/4/20-6/3/20 then \$51.00 per day effective 6/4/20-6/18/20
Jennifer Chmura	Extra Section English Language Arts WAMS	\$40.00 per day effective 5/4/20-6/3/20 then \$51.00 per day effective 6/4/20-6/18/20
Jessica Lothrop	Extra Section English Language Arts WAMS	\$40.00 per day effective 5/4/20-6/3/20 then \$51.00 per day effective 6/4/20-6/18/20
Hanina Osborn	Extra Section English Language Arts WAMS	\$40.00 per day effective 5/4/20-6/3/20 then \$51.00 per day effective 6/4/20-6/18/20
Christopher Romash	Extra Section English Language Arts WAMS	\$40.00 per day effective 5/4/20-6/3/20 then \$51.00 per day effective 6/4/20-6/18/20

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Extra-Curricular Assignments** for the 2019-20 school year:

<u>Loc:</u>	<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>19-20 Stipend:</u>	<u>Years/Points/Longevity:</u>
CH	Megan VanPelt	Grade Level Leader Grade 3 (3 months)	\$795.50	none

On motion by Ms. Schafer, seconded by Ms. Beckman Items #1-4 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Richman,
Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. Wooldridge and Ms. White
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - None

XIV. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XV. Curriculum Committee Report

No report.

XVI. Wellness Committee Report

Ms. White provided a report from the March 26, 2020 Wellness Committee Meeting. Topics at the meeting included mechanisms for supporting students and staff wellness during Covid-19 school closure and the impact of the public health emergency on academic planning, course selection and college admissions.

XVII. Liaison Committee Reports

No report.

XVIII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

No comments were made.

XIX. Board Forum

Ms. Gray thanked everyone for their ongoing efforts during the public health emergency.

XX. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Schafer and seconded by Ms. Korn and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin

Board Secretary