

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
APRIL 4, 2016
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EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:31 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR SESSION 7:10 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

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MEETING MINTUES
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WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
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WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 6:30 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

II. Salute to the Flag

III. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Mr. Fry

IV. Executive Session – 6:31 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room

On motion by Ms. Gray seconded by Ms. Shah, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 6:31p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: personnel and contract negotiations; matters of litigation; confidential student matters; and further

BE IT RESOLVED that the matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public as soon as and to the extent that such disclosure can be made without adversely affecting the public interest or without violation of the confidentiality of personnel.

On motion by Ms. McKeon seconded by Ms. Richman and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 7:00p.m.

V. Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:10 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

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.

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, and 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 topic whatsoever.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. 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 time limit for individual comments and/or public comment portions of the agenda. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. Any Board responses to public comment will be addressed during Board Forum, or during committee reports.

There are times when a member of the public makes a comment or asks a question about an employee. New Jersey statute does not permit us to discuss personnel issues in public. Also as a matter of law, a Board of Education may only vote for or against the hiring of an employee upon the recommendation of the superintendent. If the superintendent does not recommend a person, that person's name is not listed on the agenda and there is no vote on that action.

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

Ridge High School Senior and Class President, Andrew Kleinert, updated the Board on recent activities at the High School. The junior class just performed in a fundraiser called Ridge Has Talent and raised almost \$1,500. The senior class has been working on Pennies for Patients and on April 21st there will be a fundraiser called Mr. Ridge that will raise money for Project Graduation.

On a sad note, Mr. Kleinert said that students recently wore light blue and black to memorialize a student who passed recently, Martha Moye.

VIII. Board Presentation

1) EVVRS/HIB Reporting Period 1 2015-16 School Year Presentation

Sean Siet- Assistant Superintendent and ABC

Jim Buist- ABS/William Annin

Eric Rauschenberger- ABS/Liberty Corner

Amy Kamenir- ABS/William Annin

Molly Wilcox- ABS/Cedar Hill

Cara Miscia- ABS/William Annin

Mary Kunzman- ABS/Oak Street

Andy West- ABS/William Annin

Agnese Cuccaro- ABS/Mount Prospect

Chad Gillikin- ABS/Ridge High

Barbara Bush- ABS/William Annin

Megan Hoffman- ABS/Ridge High

Lori Thompson- ABS/William Annin

Assistant Superintendent and the District's Anti Bullying Coordinator (ABC) Sean Siet provided information on the Electronic Violence and Vandalism (EVVRS) reporting for the period of September through December 31, 2015. Incidents were broken down by specific location within each school building and by category (violence, vandalism, weapons & substance abuse). Confirmed district EVVRS incidents have decreased for the second consecutive year.

Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) district incidents were compared for the same period in prior years. Mr. Siet reviewed incidents by location, the incident category by school, nature and examples of incidents, and a breakdown by category of offenders and victims. Confirmed district HIB incidents also have decreased for the second consecutive year. Mr. Siet attributed this decrease to the training and programs that staff and students had taken part in at each school.

Anti-Bullying Specialists (ABS) from each school presented information regarding anti-bullying staff training and programs, programs provided to the students that were not only anti-bullying but also designed to create unity among the students and future programs and goals that each school plans on implementing.

Questions from the Board included wanting to know how HIB incidents are brought to the administration's attention and a description of what are considered bullying "hot spots" at the schools.

Mr. Siet explained that the reports come from any source as the schools promote an environment of communication for the students and that hot spots are generally the hallways and areas exterior to the classroom.

For the complete presentation click [here](#).

2) Superintendent's 2015-2016 Class Size Report and Preliminary 2016-2017 Budget Presentation

Superintendent Nick Markarian reviewed the enrollment numbers and class sizes at each of the six schools and provided a breakdown of grades 6-12 by class size and type. He then went into the budget discussion which was designed to provide more detail to the March 28, 2016 Board of Education budget presentation.

Mr. Markarian started off the budget portion of the presentation by highlighting the philosophy behind how the budget is determined noting that the students are the number one priority. He described the budget drivers and assumptions in determining the three year operating budget. Mr. Markarian also described the budget deficits that are anticipated for the next three years and expenses that are creating the shortfalls.

Mr. Markarian went on to address how Extraordinary Aid, decreasing enrollment, and busing costs impact the budget. He then broke down the enrollment trends and provided a comparison of the General and Special Education enrollment from numbers in October 2015 to enrollment numbers in April 2016 and their impact noting that Special Education costs are unique as an IEP is a legal document that encompasses certain costs such as busing, at-home services, speech and other extraordinary services, and that Special Education costs also include Child Study Team costs, class size limitations and out of district placements.

Mr. Markarian went on to address new STEAM courses and cost factors and William Annin Middle School and Ridge High School staffing requests inclusive of STEM, STEAM and other potential courses being offered by the district. He then provided a list of the next steps regarding the ongoing review of budget cost factors and then the presentation of the final budget at the April 25, 2016 Board of Education meeting.

For the complete presentation click [here](#).

Board members questions and concerns focused on the impact of STEAM, maintaining educational standards for the regular, general education students, requirements and electives for the science program provided at the high school and noting the importance American Sign Language.

Dr. Brian Heineman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Matt Hall, the Supervisor of Science and Technology, assisted the discussion by answering questions for the Board Members.

IX. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Nick Markarian discussed the sadness of the recent passing of Ridge High School student, Martha Moye. He provided details for the services that will be held on April 7th at the Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, NJ.

X. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public comments on agenda items were with regard to STEAM, transportation, Special Education, new electives and comments stating appreciation for the HIB program and presentation and for the additional detail provided regarding the budget.

XI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

March 28, 2016 – Executive Session Minutes

March 28, 2016 – Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Cwerner seconded by Ms. Gray the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah (abstain from Regular Session only), Ms. Richman, and Ms. Wooldridge

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - Ms. Shah (Regular Session Only)

XII. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve ongoing district consultation from March 30, 2016 to June 30, 2016 with **Above and Beyond Learning Group** in the amount of \$185.00 per hour not to exceed \$4,000.00.

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

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Richman, and Ms. Wooldridge

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

PERSONNEL

No report.

CURRICULUM

No report.

POLICY

No report.

ADVOCACY

No report.

LIAISON REPORTS

No report.

XIII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Public comments surrounded the Special Education Budget, the upcoming PARCC testing, transportation costs and fuel costs, the importance of American Sign Language and Common Core.

XIV. Board Forum

Superintendent Nick Markarian and Board Secretary, Rod McLaughlin, addressed the public’s questions regarding the Special Education budget. Mr. Markarian also provided responses to public comment regarding the audit of transportation costs and stated that it would include factoring in fuel costs, the continuum for elective courses, the STEAM Academy and student preparation for the ACT testing.

A board member thanked the public for their comments and exchange of ideas.

XV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Shah, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary