

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 4, 2016  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:01 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:10 P.M.  
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES 8:07 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL Performing Arts Center**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 4, 2016  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD AGENDA 7:01 P.M.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:10 P.M.  
REGULAR BOARD AGENDA 8:07 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL Performing Arts Center**

- I. **Salute to Flag – 7:01 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**
  
- II. **Statement of Public Meeting 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. Board of Education meetings are recorded and barring any technical difficulties the recordings of the Board of Education meetings will be made available to 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. We do not have a specific time limit, but we ask that you keep your comments brief. 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. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, a member of the Board or Administration will address it in the Board Response portion of the agenda.

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.

**III. Reorganization of Board – 7:01 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

**IV. Oath of Office**

Rod McLaughlin, Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Board members:

**Beverly Darvin Cwerner, Robin McKeon, Karen Richman**

**V. Roll Call of New Board**

Present: Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin, Board Counsel John Croot

ABSENT: Ms. Shah, Mr. Byrne

**VI. Election of Board President**

Mr. McLaughlin requested nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education.

Ms. McKeon nominated Ms. Wooldridge.

Ms. Cwerner seconded the nomination of Ms. Wooldridge.

On motion by Ms. Gray, seconded by Mr. Fry, nominations were closed, and Ms. Wooldridge was elected President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

**VII. Election of Board Vice President**

Board President Linda Wooldridge requested nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Gray nominated Ms. Cwerner.

Mr. Fry seconded the nomination of Ms. Cwerner.

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Gray, nominations were closed, and Ms. Cwerner was elected Vice President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

**VIII. Executive Session – 7:10 p.m. – Ridge High School Media Center**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: confidential student matters; contract negotiations; 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. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Gray, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 7:10 p.m.

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Gray, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 8:03 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the Ridge High School PAC at 8:07 p.m.

**IX. Regular Session Agenda – 8:07 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

**X. Approval of 2015-16 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*101 Peachtree Road  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920  
(908) 204-2600*

2016-17 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as necessary)  
PUBLIC SESSION 7:00 P.M.

**Meeting Date:**

**Location:**

January 4, 2016*	Ridge High School PAC
January 18, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
February 8, 2016	William Annin Middle School
February 22, 2016	William Annin Middle School
March 14, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
March 28, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
April 4, 2016*	William Annin Middle School
April 25, 2016	William Annin Middle School
May 9, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
May 23, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
June 13, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
June 27, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
July 25, 2016	Board of Education Building
August 22, 2016	Board of Education Building
September 12, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
September 26, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
October 10, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
October 17, 2016**	Ridge High School PAC
November 14, 2016	William Annin Middle School
November 28, 2016	Ridge High School PAC
December 19, 2016**	William Annin Middle School
January 3, 2017* (Tuesday)	Ridge High School PAC Reorganization Meeting

\*1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month

\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Mr. Fry, the 2016-17 schedule of Board of Education meeting dates was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” - None

#### **XI. Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics**

Mr. McLaughlin distributed a copy of the Ethics Act and Code of Ethics. He requested each Board member read and then sign. Signed copies were returned to Mr. McLaughlin.

#### **XII. Superintendent’s Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated January 4, 2016

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” -None

#### **XIII. Board Presentation**

- 1) District PARCC Scores- Mr. Matthew Hall, Supervisor of Science and Technology/  
District Test Coordinator

Mr. Hall’s presentation of the PARCC Results highlighted the following areas:

- In 2015 New Jersey adopted the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to replace previous assessments in elementary and middle school in Language Arts and Mathematics (Grade levels 3-11)
- New Jersey was one of 12 states that participated in PARCC testing in 2015
- PARCC scores fall within five levels; in the state of New Jersey scores placing in levels 4 and 5 are considered meeting and exceeding grade-level expectations, respectively
- In the English Language Arts/ Literacy New Jersey’s PARCC Grade-Level Outcomes for students passing ranged from 37% (Grade 10) to 52% (Grades 5, 7 & 8); in Bernards Township the PARCC Grade-Level Outcomes for students who passed the test ranged from 67% (Grade 11) to 88% (Grade 5).
- Mathematics were tested for grades 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II
- In the Mathematics New Jersey’s PARCC Grade-Level Outcomes for students passing ranged from 22% (Geometry) to 45% (Grade 3 level math); in Bernards Township the PARCC Grade-Level Outcomes for students who passed the test ranged from 25%

(Grade 8 level math) to 80% (Grades 4 & 5 level math) noting that many 8<sup>th</sup> grade level students were tested in other math areas (Algebra I, Geometry or Algebra II)

- The percent of Bernards Township PARCC scores at or above New Jersey state standards were further broken down for comparison by grade level, gender, ethnicity (as long as there was a sample size of at least 30 students available) and general/ special education.
- Changes coming to the 2016 PARCC tests include:
  - Reduced testing time
  - Fewer test units
  - Uniform unit testing times
  - One test administration window
  - Extending testing window of April 4- May 13
- Results for the NJASK Science 4, 8 and Biology Competency were also reviewed

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

Following the presentation the Board Members questioned if it is known how many states would be participating in PARCC exams in 2016, noting that expense and politics may play into participation rates, and they requested comparisons to be provided for all participating states.

#### XIV. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding the cost of the PARCC testing and concerns that information provided was no different than other state tests had provided in prior years, what curriculum changes could be made when the district already has a 98% college acceptance rate, concerns that standardized testing does not provide a valid measure of student intellect and the age of the PARCC results in relation to their validity and usability as tests were performed in March 2015 and that the results are just now being released.

#### XV. Committee Reports

##### FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby **accept a donation** from the **Cedar Hill Elementary School PTO** in the amount of \$1,500 for Android Tablets.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve an amendment to the **NCLB** monies for the FY 2015-2016 for the carryover of the unexpended FY 2014-2015 funds increasing the total FY 2015-2016 allocation to the amounts of:

Title I -	\$ 327,144
Title II Part A -	\$ 67,630



Title III - \$ 11,397  
Title III Immigrant - \$ 36,869

The Title I Allocation above includes no unexpended 2014-2015 funds.  
The Title II, Part A allocation above includes \$2,785 of unexpended 2014-2015 funds.  
The Title III allocation above includes \$1,035 of unexpended 2014-2015 funds.  
The Title III Immigrant allocation above includes \$46 of unexpended 2014-2015 funds.

On motion by Ms. McKeon, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, Item #1 and Item #2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Wooldridge  
“Noes” - None  
“Abstain” -None

**PERSONNEL**

No report.

**POLICY**

No report.

**CURRICULUM**

Ms. Wooldridge noted that the next Curriculum Committee meeting has been scheduled for January 15, 2016.

**ADVOCACY**

Ms. Richman noted that the next Advocacy Committee meeting has been scheduled for January 11, 2016.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

No report.

**XVI. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items**

No comments were made.

**XVII. Board Forum**

Ms. Gray asked Mr. Markarian, Superintendent, to clarify if the PARCC had to be administered in 2016. Mr. Markarian replied that it is a New Jersey State requirement that School Districts participate in state standardized testing and that the goals of the Bernards Township Board of

Education are to administer these tests in an efficient, non-disruptive manner. Ms. Gray went on to note that the first year the NJASK was administered there were similar challenges as the first year of the PARCC administration.

Mr. Fry asked if teacher achievements could be mentioned in Board of Education meetings moving forward. Mr. Markarian addressed the Board and asked them if they were in favor of this. All Board Members were in favor.

#### **XVIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Richman, seconded by Mr. Fry, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary