BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 6, 2014
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD MINUTES 7:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:15 P.M.
REGULAR BOARD AGENDA 7:55 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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JANUARY 6, 2014
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD MINUTES 7:00 P.M.
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REGULAR BOARD AGENDA 7:55 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Secretary Rod McLaughlin.

I. **Salute to Flag – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

II. **Statement of Public Meeting Notice**

This was 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 – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

IV. **Statement of Election Results**

November 5, 2013 School Election Results:

For 3 Three Year Terms

Christopher Viereck	**2,973**
John Groot	**1,945**
Elaine Kusel	**2,934**
Michael J. Byrne	**2,910**

Board Secretary Rod McLaughlin stated the above election results were certified by the Somerset County Clerk's Office.

V. **Oath of Office**

Michael J. Byrne, Elaine Kusel, Christopher Viereck

Board Secretary Rod McLaughlin administered the Oath of Office to Elaine Kusel and Christopher Viereck as the newly elected Board members.

Mr. Byrne was not present at the meeting and will be given the Oath of Office at the January 27, 2015 Board meeting.

VI. **Roll Call of New Board**

PRESENT: Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet, Mr. McLaughlin

ABSENT: Mr. Byrne

VII. **Election of Board President**

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

Ms. McGowan nominated Ms. McKeon.
Ms. Cwerner seconded the nomination of Ms. McKeon.

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

"Ayes" - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge
"Noes" - None
"Abstain" - None

VIII. **Election of Board Vice President**

Board President Robin McKeon requested nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Sherwyn nominated Ms. Kusel.
Ms. Wooldridge seconded the nomination of Ms. Kusel.

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

"Ayes" - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
"Noes" - None
"Abstain" - None

IX. **Executive Session – 7:15 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: individual under consideration for employment; 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. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. McGowan, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 7:15 p.m.

On motion by Ms Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Shah, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:52 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:55 p.m.

X. **Regular Session Agenda – 7:55 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

XI. **Approval of 2014 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
101 Peachtree Road
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
(908) 204-2600

2014 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

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

Meeting Date:	**Location:**
January 27, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
February 10, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
February 24, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
March 10, 2014	Ridge High School PAC
March 24, 2014	Ridge High School PAC - Public Hearing on Budget
April 14, 2014	*William Annin Middle School Auditorium (date removed from schedule prior to adoption)*
April 28, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
May 19, 2014*	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
June 9, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
June 23, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
July 28, 2014	Board of Education Conference Room
August 25, 2014	Board of Education Conference Room
September 8, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
September 22, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
October 13, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
October 27, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
November 10, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
November 24, 2014	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
December 15, 2014*	William Annin Middle School Auditorium
January 12, 2015	William Annin Middle School Auditorium

*3rd Monday of month

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, the 2014 Schedule of Board meetings was brought forward for adoption.

On motion by Ms. Sherwyn, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, the 2014 Schedule of Board meetings was amended to remove the April 14, 2014 meeting by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
"Noes" - None
"Abstain" - None

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Kusel, the 2014 Schedule of Board meetings was adopted, as amended, by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
"Noes" - None
"Abstain" - None

XII. **Distribute Ethics Act & Administer Code of Ethics**

Board Secretary Rod 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.

XIII. **Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Mr. Markarian thanked the two newly elected Board members for their willingness to serve on the Board. He also thanked Ms. McGowan and Ms. Sherwyn for their additional efforts as president and vice president of the Board. He wished Ms. Sherwyn the best, as this was her last Board meeting. Mr. Markarian welcomed Ms. McKeon and Ms. Kusel in their new leadership rolls and expressed appreciation on their assuming the additional work involved.

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve participation of the Ridge High School Varsity Competition Cheerleading Team in the National High School Cheerleading Competition in Orlando, Florida from February 6 – February 11, 2014.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of HIB Report January 6, 2014.

Mr. Drulis coach of the Girls Varsity Competition Cheerleading Squad responded to questions asked by the Board in regard to the national competition. He stated Mr. Shello is in the process of hiring an assistant coach to accompany the squad, there are 19 students participating, the majority of expenses are being covered via fundraising, the

student/chaperone ratio is expected to be 2:1 including parent chaperones, and stated the competition is NJSIAA sanctioned. In the event the trip needs to be canceled, he will inquire as to the refund policy. Plans regarding a parent meeting will be forwarded to Mr. Markarian.

On motion by Ms. Sherwyn, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, Items #1 & #2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
"Noes" - None
"Abstain" - None

XIV. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

A comment was made inquiring if recording Board meetings will be a practice going forward.

Superintendent Nick Markarian thanked Mr. Fackelman for his assistance recording the meeting this evening. In response to the public comment, Mr. Markarian stated that Board meetings will be recorded and shown either through a link on the district website or on the public access station, assuming that no technical difficulties precluded this from happening.

XV. **Committee Reports**

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of disbursements dated January 6, 2014 consisting of warrants in the amount of $1,120,490.69.

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

"Ayes" - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
"Noes" - None
"Abstain" - None

Mr. Markarian and Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the budget calendar and planning process. Two budget items this evening involved information on class size, and major factors impacting the budget process. Included in the elementary general education and self-contained program information were the number of sections, and number of students in

each. At the middle and high school levels the information presented was reported by subject area.

Following review by the Board, Mr. Markarian requested any questions be e-mailed to him. He will prepare a Q&A for the January 27 meeting. The goal going forward is to maintain current programs while working within the 2% tax levy.

Click here to view district class size report.
Click here to view major budget drivers.

At the February 10 Board meeting anticipated revenues for next year will be reported. March 10 will be the tentative budget adoption. March 24 will be the Public Hearing on the previously advertised budget and the formal adoption of the budget. State aid numbers will effect the budget process. Anticipated costs within the 2014-15 budget include project funding for the Wellness Center, PARCC testing costs, ability to sustain any new programs, review of stationary costs, and the behavioral disability program.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Arlene Erik** Grade 4 Teacher Liberty Corner School effective February 28, 2014, with regret, for the purpose of retirement.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept the resignation of **Nicole Paterno** Special Education Teacher Mount Prospect School effective February 6, 2014.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Brian Heineman** Director of Curriculum and Instruction at a salary of $141,528 effective on or before April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Laurie Tortorelli** Special Education Teacher Mount Prospect at a salary of Step 1 BA+30 $50,810 effective February 7, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Daniella Ventrice** Media Specialist Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 13MA $66,125 effective on or before March 3, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Francesca Reina** Italian Teacher Ridge High School at a salary of $238.00 per diem effective January 6, 2014 through end of assignment, as a medical leave replacement.

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. McGowan, Items #1 through #6 were approved by the following roll call vote:

"Ayes" - Ms. Cwerner, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Dr. Viereck, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McKeon
"Noes" - None
"Abstain" - None

Board President Robin McKeon and Superintendent Nick Markarian welcomed Dr. Heineman as the newly appointed Director of Curriculum. Mr. Siet thanked the Board for reinstating this position. He feels this is significant for the district due to the amount of state mandated programs as well as the district's desire to continue to implement new programs and long-term projects, such as STEM.

Dr. Heineman thanked the administration and Board of Education for the opportunity and challenge. He looks forward to focusing and building on all the good that has been accomplished in the district, as well as addressing the required state mandates.

POLICY
Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the committee has not met since the previous Board meeting.

CURRICULUM
Robin McKeon stated the following items were discussed at the last Curriculum Committee meeting: the Wrap Around Program, Martin Luther King Day curriculum, research and timelines for the Gifted & Talented program, potential of developing new programs based on monies available, and the quarterly exam schedule for 2014-15 school year.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn stated the committee is due to meet with the PTO Advisory Board on Monday, January 13.

LIASION REPORTS
Ms. Wooldridge stated the Municipal Alliance's next meeting is Tuesday, January 7. Updates from the Alliance included: the November 21 Great American Smoke; the RAD (Ridge Against Drinking) Group; the Somerset County Youth Services Commission presenting a high school student with a leadership award; and the showing of the film Race to Nowhere on February 6 at the high school.

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

Comments were made regarding the progress on the planning and implementation of the Gifted & Talented program, the impact the budget could have on this program, and having the program in place for the start of the 2014-15 school year.

Assistant Superintendent Sean Siet responded by stating the pilot program will be reviewed, and visitations to view other districts' programs have been planned with a report to the Board at the end of this school year. The district's current goal is to develop a program that will be the best fit for the district and sustainable within budgetary guidelines.

XVII. **Board Forum**

Outgoing Board member Audrey Sherwyn read a statement reviewing her involvement in the Bernards Township community since moving to the area 20 years ago. She thanked all the parent volunteers, Board members, and administrators she has had the privilege to work with. Ms. McGowan and Ms. McKeon both commented on Ms. Sherwyn's dedication to the school district and its students, her countless hours as a volunteer and Board member, and wished her well as she begins this new phase of her life.

XVIII. **Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Sherwyn, seconded by Ms. Cwerner, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary