

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 6, 2020  
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:03 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:16 P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

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REORGANIZATION OF BOARD INDEX 7:03 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION 7:xx P.M.  
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

- I. **Salute to the Flag - 7:03 p.m. - William Annin Middle School Auditorium**
  
- 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. 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, when 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 matter of public concern related to the schools.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) 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 portion 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.

**III. Reorganization of Board - 7:03 p.m. - William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

**IV. Oath of Office**

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

Lauren Beckman, Karen Gray and Suzanne Schafer

**V. Roll Call of New Board**

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

ABSENT: Ms. McKeon

**VI. Election of Board President**

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

Ms. White nominated Ms. Gray.

Ms. Korn seconded the nomination of Ms. Gray.

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

“Ayes” - Ms. Beckman, Ms. Gray, Ms. Korn, Ms. Richman, Mr. Salmon, Ms. Schafer, Ms. White, Ms. Wooldridge

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

**VII. Election of Board Vice President**

Board President Karen Gray requested nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. Richman nominated Ms. McKeon.

Ms. Schafer seconded the nomination of Ms. McKeon.

Ms. McKeon was elected Vice President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

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

**VIII. Regular Session Agenda - 7:15 p.m. - William Annin Middle School Auditorium**

**IX. Approval of 2020 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

**2020 SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

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

| <u>Meeting Date:</u> | <u>Location:</u>  |
|----------------------|---|
| January 6, 2020*     | William Annin Middle School<br><i>Reorganization Meeting</i>  |
| January 13, 2020***  | BT Connect Meeting: Ridge High School PAC<br><i>Later School Start Time, 7:00PM</i>                           |
| January 27, 2020     | Ridge High School PAC   |
| February 10, 2020    | William Annin Middle School   |
| February 24, 2020    | William Annin Middle School   |
| March 5, 2020***     | BT Connect Meeting: Ridge High School Cafeteria<br><i>Later School Start Time, 2:30PM</i>                     |
| March 9, 2020        | Ridge High School PAC   |
| March 23, 2020       | Ridge High School PAC   |
| March 31, 2020***    | BT Connect Meeting: Ridge High School Cafeteria<br><i>RHS Master Schedule Change, 2:30PM</i>                  |
| April 6, 2020***     | BT Connect Meeting: Ridge High School Cafeteria<br><i>Health Curriculum Review/Additional 15 Days, 2:30PM</i> |
| April 13, 2020       | Ridge High School PAC   |
| April 27, 2020       | Ridge High School PAC   |
| May 4, 2020*         | William Annin Middle School<br><i>Public Hearing on 2020-21 Budget</i>  |
| May 18, 2020**       | Ridge High School PAC   |
| June 1, 2020*        | Ridge High School PAC   |
| June 15, 2020**      | Ridge High School PAC   |
| July 20, 2020**      | Board of Education Office   |
| August 24, 2020      | Board of Education Office   |
| September 14, 2020   | Ridge High School PAC   |

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| September 21, 2020** | Ridge High School PAC       |
| October 5, 2020*     | Ridge High School PAC       |
| October 19, 2020**   | Ridge High School PAC       |
| November 2, 2020*    | William Annin Middle School |
| November 23, 2020    | Ridge High School PAC       |
| December 21, 2020**  | Ridge High School PAC       |
| January 4, 2021*     | Ridge High School PAC       |

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

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

\*\*\*Community Discussion of Strategic Plan Goals / No Action Items

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Korn, the 2020 schedule of Board of Education meeting dates was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Board Secretary Rod McLaughlin distributed and collected signed acknowledgements of the code of ethics from each Board of Education member.

**XI. Student Representative - Jimmy Gao**

No report.

**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 6, 2020.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following Winter and Spring 2020 overnight trips for the **Ridge High School Forensic Team**:

| <u>Dates:</u>         | <u>Tournament:</u>         | <u>City:</u>       |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1/31/2020 – 2/1/2020  | Pennsbury High School      | Fairless Hills, PA |
| 2/7/2020 – 2/9/2020   | University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA   |
| 2/14/2020 – 2/17/2020 | Harvard University         | Cambridge, MA      |
| 2/28/2020 – 3/1/2020  | Lakeland High School       | Shrub Oak, NY      |
| 2/28/2020 – 3/1/2020  | Columbia University        | New York, NY       |
| 3/20/2020 – 3/21/2020 | NJSDL State Championships  | Flemington, NJ     |

|                       |   |                 |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 4/3/2020 – 4/6/2020   | Parliamentary Debate Tournament of Champions            | Oakland, CA     |
| 4/17/2020 – 4/20/2020 | Debate Tournament of Champions – University of Kentucky | Lexington, KY   |
| 5/22/2020 – 5/25/2020 | NCFL Grand Nationals                                    | Chicago, IL     |
| 6/13/2020 – 6/20/2020 | National Speech & Debate National Championship          | Albuquerque, NM |

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Mr. Salmon Items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Superintendent Markarian wished everyone Happy New Year, congratulated Ms. Beckman on her election to the Board of Education and the newly elected President Gray and Vice President McKeon, provided a review of the school calendar and impact of snow days and discussed a letter that had been sent to the district in appreciation of Mr. Shello and Ms. Dupuis for their roles and support for a program called Saturday’s in Motion.

3) **2018-2019 Audit Report** - Scott Clelland

Scott Clelland, of the Bernards Township School District’s auditing firm Wiss & Company, LLP, discussed the financial standing of the district noting that the results from the 2018-19 Audit were excellent, the district has a AAA Bond rating and no corrective actions were recommended.

Board members asked for more information in regard to reserve accounts and a further description of how the district’s bond rating is impacted by the audit results.

**XIII. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments.

**XIV. Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

- December 16, 2019 - Executive Session Minutes
- December 16, 2019 - Regular Session Minutes

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Mr. Salmon the foregoing were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

#### XV. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated January 6, 2020 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$8,749,595.40.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve professional development expenses in accordance with P.L. 2007 An Act Concerning School District Accountability and annual Board resolution for the 2019-20 school year:

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>Name of Conference:</u> | <u>Cost:</u> | <u>Date(s):</u>           |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| A. Blinder   | NJTECHSPO 2020             | \$410        | 01/30/2020 and 01/31/2020 |
| D. Schwartz  | NJTESOL Conference         | \$260        | 05/28/2020                |
| D. Bachler   | FLENJ Conference           | \$200        | 03/27/2020                |
| J. Koppes    | NJTESOL Conference         | \$325        | 05/28/2020 and 05/29/2020 |
| J. Bae       | NJTESOL Conference         | \$325        | 05/28/2020 and 05/29/2020 |
| K. Stotler   | NJTESOL Conference         | \$260        | 05/29/2020                |

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following field trip destinations for the 2019-20 school year:

| <u>Destination:</u> | <u>Group Attending:</u> | <u>Number of Students:</u> | <u>Date(s):</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Liberty State Park  | ESL Students            | 20                         | 06/01/2020      |

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve disposal of equipment/ books for the 2019-20 School Year; list maintained in the Board of Education office.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the sale of the following items which are outmoded in design, construction or in need of extensive repair on GovDeals.com:

| <u>Department:</u> | <u>Quantity:</u> | <u>Item:</u>        |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Board of Education | 500              | Dell Chromebooks    |
| Board of Education | 4                | ForiGate Appliances |



- 6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby accept a donation from the William Annin Middle School PTO in the amount of \$1,928.98 for sofas for the downstairs cafeteria.
- 7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint Rod McLaughlin as Public Agency Compliance Officer for the 2020-21 school year.
- 8) The Bernards Township Board of Education approves the withdrawal in the amount not to exceed \$54,750.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund to be transferred to the Capital Projects fund to cover the costs of the approved project for the William Annin Middle School Science Lab Renovations project.
- 9) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby amend the resolution previously approved on October 28, 2019, approving the carryover of unexpended FY 2018-2019 ESEA, Title II Part A from \$49,650 to \$53,027. The revised carryover increases the total FY 2019-2020 ESEA, Title II, Part A allocation to \$125,588.00
- 10) WHEREAS, there exists a need for the Bernards Township Board of Education (the "Board") to engage the services of an architect to develop plans, drawings, specifications and provide project implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has confirmed the terms of engagement with respect to rates and services proposed by Spiezle Architectural Group (120 Sanhican Drive, Trenton, N.J. 08618) for the Science Lab Renovation Project; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Spiezle Architectural Group to provide architectural services to the Board has been determined by the Board to be most likely to best serve the interests of the Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bernards Township Board of Education as follows:

1. The services of the following firm are hereby engaged to provide the architectural services specified for the Ridge High School Kitchen and Cafeteria Alterations for the term of the project in an amount not to exceed \$171,600:

Spiezle Architectural Group  
120 Sanhican Drive, Trenton, N.J. 08618

2. The services to be rendered by the Board's Architect are services to be performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession and whose practice is regulated by law and, therefore, comply with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1) as professional services.

- 11) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve home instruction for student #301390 from December 18, 2019 to January 7, 2020 at Professional Educational Services, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$781.36.

12) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve home instruction for student #303038 from December 19, 2019 to December 31, 2019 at Professional Educational Services, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$779.80.

13) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the stipulation of settlement for student ID #303677 and authorizes the administration to implement its terms.

On motion by Ms. Shafer seconded by Ms. Richman Items #1-13 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Salmon provided an explanation of Finance items.

#### **XVI. 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:

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Karen Hudock** Acting Principal Ridge High School at a stipended amount of \$9,500 effective January 27, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Samantha DeSanto** Instructional Aide William Annin Middle School at a salary of \$22.15 per hour 7.5 hours per day effective January 7, 2020 through June 18, 2020.

On motion by Mr. Salmon seconded by Ms. Korn Items #1-2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

#### **XVII. Policy Committee Report**

No report.

**XVIII. Curriculum Committee Report**

No report.

**XIX. Advocacy Committee Report**

No report.

**XX. Ad Hoc SEL Committee Report**

Ms. Richman provided a report from the November 21, 2019 Ad Hoc SEL Committee meeting. Topics included Character Education, communication with staff and parents, the BT Connect Meetings and an elementary staff wellness debrief.

**XXI. Liaison Committee Reports**

No report.

**XXII. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

Public comments were made in regard to the registration process for new families in the district, the process involved in district administrative changes, the Gifted and Talented program, the budget presentation and the impact of snow days on the school calendar.

**XXIII. Board Forum**

Superintendent Markarian clarified the process of personnel selection, commented on the impact of snow days on holidays and explained how some of the changes in holidays have impacted the structure of the calendar.

**XXIV. Adjournment**

On motion by Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. Korn and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin