

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES INDEX
JUNE 1, 2020
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EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:31 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:08 P.M.
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IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE POSTED BY 6:00PM
ON JUNE 1, 2020 AT WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
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MEETING MINUTES
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VIRTUAL MEETING - INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE
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I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 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 – 5:31 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss item(s) e, 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 Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. Beckman and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:31p.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 6:53p.m.

V. **Reconvene Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:08 p.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 XX. 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 reported about the recent meeting with Ridge High School Principal Karen Hudock. The meeting focused on senior activities and events that had been affected by the public health emergency and the challenges of managing the ever evolving official guidance associated with the pandemic.

VIII. Acknowledge 2019-20 Teachers of the Year

Linda Nollkamper	Cedar Hill School
Trisha Bubnowski	Liberty Corner School
Laura Tonzetich	Mount Prospect School
Melanie Sackie	Oak Street School
Lori Thompson	William Annin Middle School

Ray Schnell Ridge High School

Administrators introduced the Teachers of the Year from their buildings. They noted the contributions made by each staff member and their impact on students and other members of the staff.

IX. Acknowledge 2019-20 Retirees

Adria DeGregorio	Cedar Hill School
Valerie Bohren	Liberty Corner School
Debbie Len*	Liberty Corner School
Mary Ann Guggenheim	Mount Prospect School
Judy Ray*	Mount Prospect School
Siobhan Devlin	Ridge High School
Barbara Erickson	Ridge High School
Susan Kennedy	Ridge High School
Katherine Van Der Stad	Ridge High School
Tim Mooney*	Ridge High School
Mary Centore*	Ridge High School
Debra Bove	William Annin Middle School
Linda McNally*	William Annin Middle School
Sarah deMarrais*	William Annin Middle School
Aldamarie Ciavola*	William Annin Middle School
Renee Bickar*	William Annin Middle School
Mark Fabio*	William Annin Middle School
Frank Biraghi*	District

**Unable to attend the Board meeting.*

Administrators introduced the retirees from their buildings and discussed the contributions made by each staff member and their impact on students and other staff members.

Superintendent Markarian acknowledged the teachers of the year and retirees both present and not present at the virtual meeting and congratulated them.

Board President Gray congratulated the teachers of the year and the retirees on behalf of the Board of Education.

X. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Markarian noted the end of the year events and the process that the Board of Education is using. Mr. Markarian stated that plans are being made and communicated as the official guidance is changing rapidly during the public health emergency. Mr. Markarian also communicated that the Board of Education is consulting with the Department of Education and considering procedures in the safest manner possible.

XI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

A public comment was made congratulating teachers of the year and retirees.

XII. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

May 18, 2020 - Executive Session Minutes

May 18, 2020 - Regular Session Minutes

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

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

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - Ms. Richman

XIII. Finance Committee Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated June 1, 2020 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$4,777,498.30.

2) Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.2(c), the Board hereby authorizes and approves the specifications and advertisement seeking bids for 2020-21 District Wide Transportation Services.

3) BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bernards Township Board of Education to approve the submission of the Alterations of Science Labs at William Annin Middle School to the New Jersey Department of Education, DOE State Project #0350-055-20-1000, for review and Department approval of an “other capital project” with no state funding and amendment of the long range facilities plan to be consistent with the project. Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

4) BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bernards Township Board of Education to approve the submission of the Kitchen Renovations at Ridge High School to the New Jersey Department of Education, DOE State Project #0350-050-20-1000, for review and Department approval of an “other capital project” with no state funding and amendment of the long range facilities plan to be consistent with the project. Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve services by BASS, Behavior Analysis & Support Services, for student ID #307421 in the amount not to exceed \$6,300.00.

6) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve early intervention services by Children’s Specialized Hospital for student ID #3400535 in the amount not to exceed \$6,556.20.

7) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby rescind motion Finance #6 of its March 16, 2020 meeting, which appointed U.S. OMNI as its 403 (b) third party administrator.

8) 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>
V. Daglian	The Essentials of Art of Coaching	\$298	06/05/2020

On motion by Mr. Salmon, seconded by Ms. White Items #1-8 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 also provided a summary of the finance agenda items.

XIV. 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 approve a paid Child Care Leave for **Jennifer O'Neill** Special Education Teacher Cedar Hill School effective September 8, 2020 through November 3, 2020 utilizing 40 personal illness days then an unpaid New Jersey Family Leave effective November 4, 2020 through February 3, 2021 running concurrently with an unpaid Federal Family Leave effective November 5, 2020 through February 3, 2021, returning February 4, 2021.
- 2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **Changes in Assignments, Leaves, Locations and/or Salaries** for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>Staff Member:</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Heather Eckel	Secretary RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$65,605	Secretary RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$63,605
Jennifer Fiorini	Secretary RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$65,605	Secretary RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$63,605
Mary Knell	Secretary WAMS Step 9+7 Tests \$65,605	Secretary WAMS Step 9+7 Tests \$63,605
Mary Russoniello	Secretary-Curriculum RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$65,605	Secretary-Curriculum RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$63,605
Kathy Slack	Secretary OS Step 9+7 Tests \$65,605 until 9/30/20	Secretary OS Step 9+7 Tests \$63,605 until 9/30/20
Ann Sobine	Secretary RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$65,605	Secretary RHS Step 9+7 Tests \$63,605
Jennifer Kaltenbach	Science Extra Section RHS \$40.00 per day effective May 14, 2020 through June 11, 2020 and then \$51.00	Science Extra Section RHS \$80.00 per day effective May 14, 2020 through June 11, 2020 and then \$102.00

	per day effective June 12, 2020 through June 18, 2020	per day effective June 12, 2020 through June 18, 2020
Margaret Vezza	Science League Advisor Chem 1 & 2 Physics A & B \$6,408 13 years/2 points/\$398	Science League Advisor Chem 1 & 2 Physics A & B \$6,408 13 years/2 points/\$399

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Angela DiPetta** Grade 4 Teacher Liberty Corner School at a salary Step 5 BA \$53,622 effective September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 as a maternity leave replacement for M. Licata.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Donna Keefe** Grade TBD Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 19 MA \$83,210 effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Heather Leichtman** Special Education ABA Teacher Mount Prospect School at a salary of Step 18 BA \$78,619 effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

On motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge Items #1-5 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

XV. Policy Committee Report

No report.

XVI. Curriculum Committee Report

Ms. Gray reported on the May 1, 2020 Curriculum Committee Meeting. Topics included a course called “Tomorrow’s Teachers”, summer reading, the scheduling timeline and distance learning challenges in placements for the next school year, a distance learning update and comprehensive coordinated early intervening services.

XVII. Wellness Committee Report

Ms. White reported from the May 21, 2020 Wellness Committee Meeting. Topics included counseling support for students during facility closures, facetime with staff during distance learning, youth mental health and first aid at Ridge High School and character education at William Annin Middle School.

XVIII. Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. Korn reported that the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance had shared information regarding upcoming programs via webinar being held by the Somerset County Family Support Organization and further information could be found at www.fso-hsw.org.

XIX. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Public comments were made in regard to the potential impact that the public health emergency could have on district facilities and upcoming construction and renovations within the district, a thank you to the teachers and staff and plans for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Superintendent Markarian highlighted that two of the agenda items listed are procedural and that contracts for construction and/ or renovation have not been awarded at this time and assured that the Board of Education will be thoughtful and deliberate in decision making as these projects move forward. Mr. Markarian also discussed tentative plans and projects for the facilities resulting from the public health emergency for the 2020-2021 School Year.

XX. Board Forum

Ms. Korn acknowledged the frustration that parents and staff alike have with regard to the many open-ended questions surrounding planning end of the year school activities and planning for the next school year during the current public health emergency.

Mr. Gao added to his previous report noting current events and the impact on students.

XXI. Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Salmon and seconded by Ms. White and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary