

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
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RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MEETING MINUTES  
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RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
REGULAR SESSION 7:10 P.M.  
RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:30 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00p.m. by President Cwerner.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

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

ABSENT: None

**IV. Executive Session – 5:31 p.m. – Ridge High School Principal’s Conference Room**

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge and seconded by Ms. Shah, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:20p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: confidential personnel and contract items; 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. Shah seconded by Dr. Dunten and approved by all present, the Board closed the Executive Session at 6:58p.m.

**V. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:10 p.m. – Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**

## 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 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. 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 - Lucas Miller**

Lucas Miller, Student Representative, reported that the Homecoming weekend was a huge success with the Homecoming Dance held on October 1, 2016 and the tailgate the following day. The Homecoming Dance had 330 participants and Rohan Somar and Addie Schmitt were crowned Homecoming King and Queen, respectively.

## VIII. **Superintendent's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Title I Update - Jean O'Connell and Lisa Vitale-Stanzione

Lisa Vitale-Stanzione, Supervisor of Special Education, discussed her work with the Superintendent, Nick Markarian, Principals and Assistant Principals of the District to determine what the district is doing well, what it can improve on, strategies, to improve diagnostic testing and intervention strategies. She also provided an update to the status of the Title I funds that the district is set to receive that will be used for Professional Development, Materials and Manipulatives for the Special Services Department.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Kayla D'Ambrosio** to conduct a research project in conjunction with graduate work at Montclair State University for the 2016-17 school year.

Kayla D'Ambrosio, a 2010 Ridge High Graduate that is working on her Graduate Degree in Industrial Psychology, presented a research project to the Board of Education in which she would be surveying the parents and staff of the District to determine how leadership styles impact organizational citizenship. Questions from Board members included what measurement tools would be used, the sample size, the method in which Ms. D'Ambrosio would be reaching out to parents and staff and the scope of the evaluations.

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a research project on school refusal with **Dr. Brian Chu** of Rutgers University, Department of Clinical Psychology for the 2016-17 school year.

Dr. Brian Chu proposed a research project to the Board Members that the District would participate in called The Rutgers School Avoidance Early Detection Program. The program is an ongoing collaboration that through research hopes to determine what children are at risk for school avoidance and provide the tools for early intervention. Board members discussed the dynamics of school refusal and asked questions regarding the determination of participants and privacy matters.

4) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby affirm receipt of the **HIB Report** dated October 10, 2016.

5) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve **Somerset County Tourism**, a Division of the Somerset County Business Partnership, to film Ridge High School for use in a promotional video.

On motion by Ms. McKeon seconded by Ms. Gray items #1 through #5 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Absent- Ms. Shah was not present for the vote.

Superintendent Nick Markarian noted that item #4 is a standing item and that item #5 is a request from another member of the Somerset County Business Partnership to use Ridge

High School as a location for a film that describes why Somerset County is a great place to live, work and play.

Mr. Markarian thanked everyone for their presentations to the Board.

**IX. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

A question to the Board was presented asking if parents may opt out of Dr. Chu’s research and early intervention project.

**X. Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

- September 26, 2016 – Executive Session Minutes
- September 26, 2016 – Regular Session Minutes

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

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, and Ms. Wooldridge
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

**XI. Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a [list of disbursements](#) dated October 10, 2016 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$6,003,912.61.
- 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 2016-17 school year:

| <b><u>Name:</u></b> | <b><u>Name of Conference:</u></b>          | <b><u>Cost:</u></b> | <b><u>Date(s):</u></b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| K. Donahue          | MAP Foundation Series:<br>Applying Reports | \$265               | 11/17/2016             |
| M. Mensinger        | MAP Foundation Series:<br>Applying Reports | \$344               | 11/17/2016             |
| S. Corcoran         | MAP Foundation Series:<br>Applying Reports | \$250               | 11/17/2016             |
| S. Graber           | MAP Foundation Series:                     | \$327               | 11/17/2016             |

|               |                                            |       |            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| M. Pepitone   | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$250 | 11/17/2016 |
| J. Hawkswell  | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$374 | 11/17/2016 |
| D. Len        | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$300 | 11/17/2016 |
| K. Uhler      | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$322 | 11/17/2016 |
| J. Stedronsky | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$314 | 11/17/2016 |
| M. Henry      | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$295 | 11/17/2016 |
| K. Linstra    | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$250 | 11/17/2016 |
| E. Davis      | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$344 | 11/17/2016 |
| J. Lacaillade | Applying Reports<br>MAP Foundation Series: | \$294 | 11/17/2016 |

3) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve the following **field trip destination** for the 2016-17 school year:

| <u>Destination:</u>                                | <u>Group Attending:</u>            | <u>Number of Students:</u> | <u>Date(s):</u>     |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ | Ridge High School<br>Wind Ensemble | 54                         | 4/6/2017 (Thursday) |

On motion by Ms. Wooldridge seconded by Ms. Shah items #1 through #3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Dr. Dunten, Mr. Fry, Ms. Gray, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Richman, Ms. Shah, and Ms. Wooldridge
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

**PERSONNEL**

No report.

**POLICY**

No report.

**CURRICULUM**

No report.

**ADVOCACY**

No report.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Wooldridge reported that the Municipal Alliance met on October 4, 2016 and topics included Knock Out Opiates Day and that Kevin Wanzer will be doing a presentation for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class regarding Empowerment.

### **XII. Public Comment**

Comments were made regarding a request for an update for Curriculum and grading consistency among teachers.

Superintendent Nick Markarian addressed public comments stating that there is an upcoming Staff College session to discuss the Grading from the Inside Out text that staff members are currently reading.

### **XIII. Board Forum**

#### **1) Triple Tier Busing**

The Board Members discussed their progress in looking at the transportation situation and further researching how to keep transportation costs down for the district. One of the ideas being explored is Triple Tier Busing where buses would go from one route to the next. A triple tier bus schedule would require less drivers and potentially decrease costs while helping to mitigate the issues caused by the current bus driver shortage.

### **XIV. Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Gray, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the public meeting was adjourned and moved into an executive session at 8:26p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin  
Board Secretary