

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
JUNE 11, 2012
REGULAR SESSION 7:02 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:16 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President McGowan.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon,
Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge

ABSENT: None

III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:02 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

IV. Statement of Public 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. 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.

V. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger stated tonight's Board meeting is very special because of the acknowledgement of so many student achievements and faculty milestones. Dr. Goger and Board President Susan McGowan introduced and congratulated team coaches who spoke on the achievement of their students.

1) Acknowledge 2012 New Jersey Junior Classical League State Convention

7th Grade First Place Academic Written Contests – John Rathgeb & Debbie Resvick

Catherine Giuseffi
Thomas Mazumder
Val Post

Tommy Martinson
Devon McKeon
Rohin Verma

Certamen Quiz Bowl Teams & State-Wide Academic Contests – Josh Gebhardt

Kristina Cheung
Mitchell Feldman
Bridget Lee
Nidhi Mahagaokar
Jeremy Mazumder
Connor McKeon
Amy Tong
Lisa Wooldridge

Eileen Cho
Yunhee Kang
Avni Mahagaokar
David Mazumder
Andrew McKeon
Alison Shim
Rachel Velasquez

- 2) Acknowledge 2011-12 New Jersey Science League Chemistry I First Place Honors – Margaret Mitchell

Jeffrey Chai
Karn Dalal

Catherine Chen
Ian Peczak

- 3) Acknowledge 2012 Destination ImagiNation Global Qualifiers William Annin Middle School 7th Grade – Irene McDonnell & Kristina Folkart

Elizabeth Dennis
Shankar Krishnan
Lucas Miller
Paul Vu

Emma Folkart
Catherine McDonnell
Sarah Moran

- 4) Acknowledge 2011-12 NJSIAA State Individual Champion Boys Swimming 200 Yard Freestyle & 500 Yard Freestyle – Melanie Dupuis

Bradley Wachenfeld

- 5) Acknowledge 2011-12 NJSIAA State Squad Championship – EPEE Girls Fencing – Anastasia Ferdman

Amanda Choy
Sara Jones
Amy Tong

- 6) Acknowledge Tournament of Champions Girls' Golf State Champions – Siobhan Devlin

Kathie Cappola
Alexandra Hershberger
Nicole McCreesh
Maggie Walsh

Amber Evans
Hana Ku
Kathleen Pallotta
Rachel Walsh

- 7) Acknowledge 2011-12 Retirees

Charles Bene
Carol Marin
Beth Bierbower

Teacher of Math Ridge High School
Teacher of Social Studies Ridge High School
Reading Teacher Liberty Corner School
(not in attendance)
Secretary William Annin Middle School
(not in attendance)

Cheryl White

8) Acknowledge 2012 Teachers of the Year

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Krissy Uhler | Cedar Hill School |
| Heather Ray | Liberty Corner School |
| Betsy Wallace | Oak Street School |
| Sloane Castleman | Mount Prospect School |
| Wendell Jeffrey | Ridge High School (not in attendance) |
| Chris Swanson | William Annin Middle School |

VI. Interview Candidates for Board Vacancy

Beverly Darvin Cwerner
Louis J. D'Autorio

Each candidate made a statement including their reason for applying for the position, background information, philosophy on public education, role of a school board member and strengths they would bring to the Board.

VII. Executive Session – 8:16 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Conference Room

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education shall meet in closed session to discuss: review of Board of Education candidate qualifications; 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 Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. McKeon, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 8:16 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Kusel, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 8:22 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 8:25 p.m.

VIII. Appointment and Swearing in of New Board Member

Board member Audrey Sherwyn nominated **Beverly Darvin Cwerner** for the vacancy on the Board of Education.

There were no other nominations for the position.

Beverly Darvin Cwerner was elected to the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms Wooldridge,
Ms. McGowan
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Shah

Board Secretary Nick Markarian administered the Oath of Office to **Beverly Darvin Cwerner**.

IX. Nomination and Election of Board Vice President

Mr. Koch nominated **Audrey Sherwyn** to the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Ms. McKeon seconded the nomination of **Audrey Sherwyn** to the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Audrey Sherwyn was elected to the position of Vice President of the Board of Education by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn,
Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan
“Noes” - None
“Abstain” - Mr. Byrne

Board President Susan McGowan introduced and welcomed Roderick McLaughlin to the district. Mr. McLaughlin was appointed Business Administrator in March of this year and began his duties on June 1, 2012.

X. Public Forum on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

XI. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) In response to the Excellent Education for New Jersey (EE4NJ) initiative, the Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the school business administrator to use competitive contracting (NJ statute 18A:18A-4.1 to 4.5) to seek proposals for teacher evaluation software and hardware inclusive of all requisite staff training.

On motion by Ms. Sherwyn, seconded by Mr. Koch, Item #1 was approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. Kusel, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah,
Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan

“Noes” - None

“Abstain” - None

Ms. McGowan reviewed information discussed at the previous Finance Committee meeting including the increase in medical and dental premiums, the progress of the medical audit, and site improvements at various buildings.

Mr. Markarian requested that members of the Board e-mail him their availability on June 25 or 26 for a brief Board meeting regarding a maintenance bid for summer capital projects. The meeting will be held in the Board of Education conference room.

AD HOC FACILITIES

Chairperson Bill Koch stated the committee is scheduled to meet on June 12 at William Annin Middle School for a tour of the building.

PERSONNEL

No report.

POLICY

Chairperson Elaine Kusel stated the committee met on May 30 and will bring two policies to the Board on June 18 for approval. A first reading of Policy File Code: M2361 Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources and 2330 Student Homework for second reading.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated the committee discussed textbook adoptions, the K-5 science program evaluation, the high school summer reading selections and assignments, an update on EE4NJ, the high school schedule and class size, and the preliminary 2012 college acceptances.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn stated the committee had its final meeting with the PTO Advisory Board. Current and newly elected PTO presidents attended. Items discussed included the new teacher evaluation system, the 2012-13 PTO meeting schedule and elementary schedule for tours of buildings.

LIAISONS

Ms. Sherwyn stated the Twilight Challenge sponsored by the Municipal Alliance was held on June 3.

Ms. Wooldridge reported on the June Somerset County Educational Services Commission.

XII. Board Forum

1) Student Stressors

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger stated results of the student stressors survey will be available in mid to late July.

XIII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items

No comments were made.

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Cwerner, seconded by Ms. Kusel, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary