

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA MINUTES
MAY 14, 2012
REGULAR SESSION 5:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:03 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION 7:06 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

- I. **Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Cafeteria – page 283**
- II. **Salute to Flag – page 283**
- III. **Roll Call – page 283**
- IV. **Executive Session – 5:03 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Faculty Cafeteria – page 283**
- V. **Regular Session – 7:06 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium – page 283**
- VI. **Statement of Public Notice – page 284**
- VII. **Student Representative – page 284**
- VIII. **Presentations**
 - 1) **Scope of Strategic Planning – New Jersey School Boards Association Representative Gwen Thornton – page 285**
 - 2) **New Teacher Evaluation Requirements Excellent Educators for New Jersey (EE4NJ) – Director of Curriculum Sean Siet – page 285**
- IX. **Public Forum on Agenda Items – page 286**
- X. **Committee Reports**
 - FINANCE – page 286**
Report on Progress
 - PERSONNEL – page 286**
Report on Progress

AD HOC FACILITIES

- 1) Acknowledge Receipt **Construction Management Proposals & Award Contract**
– page 286

POLICY – page 287
Report on Progress

CURRICULUM – page 287
Report on Progress

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – page 287
Report on Progress

LIAISONS – page 287
Report on Progress

XI. Board Forum

- 1) Student Stressors – page 287

XII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items – page 287

XIII. Adjournment – page 288

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

I. Regular Session – Call to Order – 5:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Cafeteria

II. Salute to Flag

III. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: None

IV. Executive Session – 5:03 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Faculty Cafeteria

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernards Township Board of Education met in closed session to discuss: matters pertaining to specific personnel; 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. Sherwyn, seconded by Mr. Koch, and approved by all present, the Board recessed into closed executive session at 5:03 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Wooldridge, and approved by all present, the Board returned to public session at 7:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting in the William Annin Middle School Auditorium at 7:06 p.m.

V. Regular Session – 7:06 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

VI. **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.

VII. **Student Representative**

Student Representative Maggie Peterpaul stated the Mr. Ridge contest raised \$2,000, the Superhero half marathon will be held on May 27, student body elections are scheduled for mid June, the Junior Prom was held on May 11 and the Senior Prom is scheduled for May 18.

VIII. Presentations

Business Administrator Nick Markarian began this portion of the meeting by stating he is speaking with various consulting groups in regarding to strategic planning. NJSBA is the first of the groups that will present their approach to development of this project.

1) Scope of Strategic Planning – New Jersey School Boards Association Representative Gwen Thornton

Ms. Thornton reviewed the basis and purpose of a strategic plan. She outlined how NJSBA works with the district by establishing two committees, evaluating the current state of the district, and finally establishing goals that will be the framework for all decision making over the course of the strategic plan. The average span of a plan is three to five years with three becoming the current norm given the changes that are occurring in public education and the outlook that change will be the constant moving forward. Each spring, over the lifetime of the plan, a review takes place to determine if any changes need to be made to the plan.

Ms. Thornton stressed the formulation of a strategic plan begins with the broad-range involvement of individuals from both the school district and all branches of the community. She stated an internal coordinator is chosen to assist in the selection of community members. There is an organized program of activities including a Friday night/Saturday session to establish goals. After that meeting another group writes the action plan for each goal. Ms. Thornton believes the process is best begun in late September with the weekend activity in October or early November.

Board member comments or questions were made regarding the presence of a facilitator at all meetings, the impact on the process due to the change of Board reorganization from April to January, the number of goals and if each requires an action plan, and solicitation of volunteers.

2) New Teacher Evaluation Requirements Excellent Educators for New Jersey (EE4NJ) – Director of Curriculum Sean Siet

Mr. Siet updated the Board on the new teacher evaluation system, EE4NJ (Excellent Educators for New Jersey) and the impact on Bernards Township. He presented the background of EE4NJ and the framework for the new system. While the current system is subjective, the new system is based 50% on student achievement and 50% on teacher practice. Mr. Siet updated the Board on the pilot programs currently running in 11 districts with an additional 10 districts piloting next year and receiving grant monies. Bernards Township has submitted a grant application to be included as a pilot district in the 2011-12 school year. If awarded the district would move ahead one year earlier in the process. The district has already established a District Evaluation Advisory Committee (DEAC) using the Professional Development Committee (PDC) as its core. The district should hear within the next two to three weeks if it has been selected as one of the pilot districts for 2012-13. Mr. Siet stated developing a training schedule and cost of the training are the two largest hurdles in the process. A comparison of tenured and non-tenured staff in regard to the evaluation process was shown.

Questions and comments from Board included the need for additional staff to perform the required number of evaluations (Mr. Siet stated no additional staff will be hired), training of staff with the least amount of disruption to instruction, and where this evaluation change is leading.

click [here](#) to view presentation

IX. Public Forum on Agenda Items

A comment was made regarding compensation and merit pay in regard to the new evaluation system.

X. Committee Reports

FINANCE

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 16.

PERSONNEL

No report.

AD HOC FACILITIES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1) The Bernards Township Board of Education received proposals for construction management for summer/fall 2012 projects as follows:

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
EPIC Management, Inc.	\$69,210
Jay Shapiro & Associates Inc.	\$79,400
Foreman Program & Construction Managers Inc.	\$110,790

The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby authorize the business administrator to execute a contract with **EPIC Management, Inc.** pending development of mutually agreeable terms and attorney review. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as an "extraordinary unspecifiable service".

Chairperson Bill Koch updated the Board of the Long Range Facility Plan, and a committee discussion of an adult education pilot program.

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

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

POLICY

No report.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Robin McKeon stated the minutes from the previous meeting will be distributed this week.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn updated the Board on the committee’s recent meeting with the PTO Advisory Committee where she recapped the process to fill the upcoming Board member vacancy, the deadline of June 5 for filing for the November election, and an updating of future PTO meetings.

LIAISONS

Susan Carlsson stated the bus advertising reform is in place. Audrey Sherwyn updated Municipal Alliance information including Charter Day, stickers for It’s 21 for a Reason, the distribution of the student stressors survey at the end of May (permission slips were sent in the May 11 FridayFolder), and the June 3 Twilight Challenge.

XI. Board Forum

1) Student Stressors

XII. Public Forum on Other Than Agenda Items

A comment was made regarding the district’s plan to establish an adult school.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary