

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
SEPTEMBER 8, 2008
REGULAR SESSION 7:03 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Koch.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlucci, Mr. Koch, Ms. McGowan,
Mr. Wilke, Ms. Winter, Ms. Woolford

ABSENT: None

III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:03 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

IV. 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. 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. Student Representative's Report

Ridge High School Principal Frank Howlett introduced Laura Graff and Perry Hooker the student representatives to the Board of Education for the 2008-09 school year.

Comments were made regarding the opening day of school at the high school and the "freshmen" wing.

VI. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Nick Markarian reported on Finance, Facilities, Food Service and Transportation.

- Finance
updating 5-year Capital Project list
2007-08 audit complete in early October
- Facilities
condition of school facilities
status of 11-month walk through at William Annin, Mount Prospect and Oak Street Schools (plumbing work is complete)
punchlist for Ridge High School
progress on green house project (materials have begun arriving)
- Food service
reviewed "point of service plan" (online payment method)
- Transportation
continuing requests for subscription busing

review of 2008-09 Weather Emergency Guide
Comments from the Board included first day transportation and cafeteria student accounts.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Valerie A. Goger briefed the Board on the number of new hires (65), the 4-day new teacher orientation and the district-wide welcome meeting held on Friday, September 5, attended by support staff and 554 teachers. The meeting was held in the Ridge High School auditorium followed by staff tours of the facility. Dr. Goger reviewed the categories of state maintained training and teachers having the capability of lesson planning and grading on line. Elementary teachers held 'open houses' Friday afternoon giving students an opportunity to visit the classroom and meet them. First day enrollment rose to 5,610 increasing a total of 68 students over closing in June and includes 42 students attending alternate programs. She discussed class size and sectioning in the elementary schools compared to the previous year.

Dr. Goger thanked the principals and ARAMARK for their summer work preparing the schools for opening.

Dr. Goger reviewed the Governor's Scholar School program explaining applicant procedure. Of the 35 Somerset County scholars selected, eight were from Ridge High School.

VIII. Presentation

1) Assistant William Annin Middle School Principal Paul Ciempola presented an update on the Bullying Task Force Committee. (presentation on district website) The committee has been in place for approximately 1 year and will continue through 2008-09. Mr. Ciempola touched upon the following areas:

- Goal to reduce incidents in the schools
- District definition of bullying
- Community ramifications of "bullies"
- Research into effect of bullying
- Boys & bullying; girls & bullying
- Victims of bullying
- 2005 Bernards Township survey
- Warning signs
- Cyber bullying
- Overview of committee's history
- 3-Prong approach
- Needs assessment

- Future recommendations

IX. **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the committee is scheduled to meet on September 25 and tentatively plan to meet the Thursday before the Board's monthly business meeting. The committee is scheduled to continue working on the review of capital plan projects.

Personnel Committee

Chairperson Lisa Winter stated the Personnel Committee would meet at 6:00 p.m. prior to the first Board meeting of the month.

Curriculum Committee

Chairperson Lisa Winter stated the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, September 26, from 8:30-10:30.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Lou Carlucci stated he would report to the Board at its October meeting.

Community Relations

Chairperson Susan Carlsson stated the committee would have their first meeting with the PTO Presidents Advisory Board on Monday, September 15, and plan to meet as a committee after.

Facilities Committee

Chairperson Lou Carlucci stated there would be one wrap up meeting and review of change orders.

Liaison Reports

Municipal Alliance liaison Susan Carlsson stated it is meeting on Thursday, September 11.

A brief discussion followed on the upcoming open house at the high school.

X. **Public Forum**

Comments were made regarding the NJ ASK scores, policy File Code: #0143 regarding procedure for filling vacancy on Board, bullying, date of Ridge High School graduation, preparation of college letters of recommendation, sports at the high school level and review of student reading lists.

XI. Board Forum

Discussion by the Board included Policy File Code: #0143 and sending it to the Policy Committee for review. Dr. Goger explained the difficulties involved with changing the date of the high school graduation. She spoke on the 2008-09 school calendar outlining conflicts with the February and April breaks stating it may be necessary to revise it after further consideration. Dr. Goger will be conducting a calendar survey in October giving parents, teachers and students an opportunity to review three draft calendars and comment on them. The county Dept. of Education is reviewing calendar drafts and will adopt a county calendar. The hope is that all districts will follow one calendar to make sharing of services a possibility.

XII. Adjournment

On motion Mr. Carlucci, seconded by Ms. Woolford, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary