

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS
IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN**

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
April 24, 2023**

**Board Auditorium
540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey**

The Board of Education of the Vocational School District in the County of Bergen held its Regular Public Meeting on Monday April 24, 2023 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, N.J. Mr. William Connelly, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:

Mr. William Connelly, *President*

Mr. Louis DeLisio, *Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools*

Ms. Gadaleta

Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

Absent at roll call:

Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*

Sloane Kaplan, *Student Board Representative*

Also in attendance:

Howard Lerner, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

John Susino, *Board Secretary/School Business Administrator*

Andrea Sheridan, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools*

Richard Panicucci, *Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction*

Gary Hall, *Director of Human Resources*

William Soukas, Esq., *Board Attorney*

All present pledged allegiance to the United States of America.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:

John Susino, Board Secretary, read the following statement as required by the Open Public Meetings Act:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Board of Vocational Education in the County of Bergen has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted on a bulletin board prominently displayed in lobby of the Board offices and by the The Record and Herald News.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio, seconded by Ms. Gadaleta, to approve the following minutes:

Public Work Session Meeting:	March 28, 2023
Regular Public Meeting:	March 28, 2023
Executive Session Meeting:	March 28, 2023

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes listed above:

Mr. Connelly	Yes
Mr. DeLisio	Yes
Ms. Gadaleta	Yes
Mr. Kim	Absent
Dr. Meyerson	Abstain

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

❖ Board Secretary John Susino provided the following report to the Board.

▪ **2023-2024 SY Budget Approval Status**

- John Susino, School Business Administrator and Board Secretary, reported that the County of Bergen has not provided a date for the Board of School Estimate meeting. Mr. Susino was hopeful that the meeting would occur in May and stated that he would keep the Board apprised of the situation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

❖ **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING REPORT**

The District is required to report specific incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (hereafter "HIB") to the Board of Education. This past month, the District had eight (8) HIB investigations. After thorough investigations, it was deemed that five (5) were non-HIB incidents and three (3) were confirmed HIB incidents.

▪ **HIB Incident: HIB Case #10 – Teterboro - School Year 2022-2023**

- *Incident*—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments that the two offenders knew would cause harm to the victim, which created a hostile educational environment and interfered with the victim's education.
- *Intervention*—Victim will receive frequent follow-up from counselor. One offender received a 2-day suspension and restorative counseling, and the other offender signed out of the school and returned to home district. All parents have been contacted.

▪ **HIB Incident: HIB Case #11 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023**

- *Incident*—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments which created a hostile educational environment and interfered with the victim's education.
- *Intervention*—Victim will speak to case manager or student assistance counselor as needed. Offender will participate in restorative counseling. All parents have been contacted.

▪ **HIB Incident: HIB Case #12 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023**

- *Incident*—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments that the offender knew would cause harm to the victim.
- *Intervention*—Victim and offender are receiving individual counseling. All parents have been contacted.

▪ **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #21 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023**

▪ **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #22 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023**

▪ **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #23 – Teterboro - School Year 2022-2023**

- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #24 – Teterboro - School Year 2022-2023
- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #25 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023

❖ **DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOLADES AND OTHER IMPORTANT DISTRICT INFORMATION**

Dr. Lerner shared highlights of the many accomplishments of our students and staff, including the following:

- **NAVIGATING SUCCESS THROUGH WELLNESS INITIATIVE**
 - Provided multiple workshops on wellness and mental health related topics at the Teterboro and Paramus campus' Mental Health Awareness Days. These workshops included "Music and Masculinity," Wellness themed Dream Catcher construction, and assertiveness and boundary setting.
 - Facilitated and completed Restorative/ARISE counseling services for BCA, ATHS, Teterboro and Paramus
 - Continue to provide *dialectical behavior therapy* training groups for individuals and groups on all campuses, working with a large number of individual students specially on the BCA and Paramus campuses
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
 - Students from ATHS and BCA visited NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. While at Goddard the students presented original ideas to help support a manned mission to Mars. Students also received a backstage tour of the NASA facilities.
- **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
 - Juniors and Senior students in BCA's Culinary and Hospitality Academy recently competed in the annual Chocolate Competition. Representatives of local restaurants and bakeries served as judges as well as members of the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners. The students and their mentors are to be commended for the incredible creativity and execution of their culinary masterpieces.
 - BCA students recently competed in the 2023 NJ State Leadership Conference and will now be moving on to HOSA's International Leadership Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas. Congratulations to everyone involved.
- **PARAMUS CAMPUS**
 - This month 13 students on the Paramus campus won 8 SKILLS USA Medals at a state competition. The winners included three individual Gold, four Silver and a Team Bronze Medal.
- **TETERBORO CAMPUS**
 - Bergen Tech hosted the Sixth Annual Bergen County Technical High School – Teterboro Exhibition "Themes Behind the Scenes" at the Belskie Museum during the month of March. Five students received recognition across various categories.
 - Bergen Tech competed in the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in March. Two students received 1st place and will represent New Jersey in Nationals in Denver, Colorado.
- **INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN CAMPUSES**
 - **UX/UI Design**
 - 11th grade IIDT students in Old Tappan and Demarest were introduced to the VP of Marketing at McLaren Engineering in Woodcliff Lake. The team will create a complex problem and give the students 4 weeks to solve it then will come back with their team to

see the students present and they will critique each group. This will allow them to work collaboratively. McLaren is also taking the IIDT students as interns next year.

- **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**

- Sports Medicine students are working with Kinetic PT local physical therapy centers, learning new cutting-edge techniques and learning about the multitude of careers that await them in the field.

- **ADULT EDUCATION**

- Adult Ed recently welcomed a guest speaker from NJ Small Business Development Center who spoke to our Business, Electrical and HVAC programs on how to grow your own small business in Bergen County. The speaker provided information on resources and grants available through the center and other valuable insight.
- Our plumbing program recently had a guest speaker from Maloney & Curcio. A representative came to do a lesson on their hydronic boiler system and donated one to the school for students to practice on.

- **EMS**

- We started again teaching the EMS portion of the required training for the United Nations. We spend a total 4 hours teaching them EMS skills and then 8 hours with scenarios and role-playing.
- We successfully completed the career fire class – we have 6 out of 7 students successfully complete their National Registry EMT Certification examination.

- **ATHLETICS**

- We have 409 student-athletes participating in sports this spring!
- Michael Steinhauser was the North Jersey Athlete of the Week for last week and was interviewed by The Record. The article is in front of each of you.

- **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**

- Celebrated International Women's Day at the Mahwah Women in Business Multi-Chamber Networking Event at Eastwick College.

- **BELA**

- Our students are enjoying learning about the changing seasons and spending time outdoors.

- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF BUS EVACUATION DRILLS**

- As per resolution number 23-A-112T and in accordance with NJDOE requirements I am reporting to the Board that the district has completed the second round of the required bus evacuation drills for the 2022-2023 school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

On the motion by Ms. Gadaleta, seconded by Mr. DeLisio, the following resolutions were presented for action.

Administration	23-A-102T	Through	23-A-112T
Personnel	23-P-98T	Through	23-P-108T
Finance	23-F-158T	Through	23-F-179T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

Mr. DeLisio informed the Board that he would be abstaining from the following resolutions:

23-A-105T, 23-A-112T, 23-F-158T, 23-F-159T, 23-F-160T, 23-F-170T, 23-F-171T, 23-F-172T, 23-F-175T, and 23-F-176T

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

There was no public participation on the consent agenda.

BOARD VOTE - CONSENT AGENDA

A roll call vote on the consent agenda, as identified above, was taken:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Connelly	X			
Mr. DeLisio	X		Yes except for: 23-A-105T, 23-A-112T, 23-F-158T, 23-F-159T, 23-F-160T, 23-F-170T, 23-F-171T, 23-F-172T, 23-F-175T, and 23-F-176T	
Ms. Gadaleta	X			
Mr. Kim				X
Dr. Meyerson	X			

OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

There were no off-consent resolutions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ANY ISSUE

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

By a motion from Mr. DeLisio, seconded by Dr. Meyerson, the Board moved to adjourn the Public Work Session meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

NOTE: No further action was taken by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



John Susino
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of 5/23/24