

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

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
January 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 Tuesday January 24, 2023 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, N.J. The public meeting was called to order at 5:43 p.m. by Mr. William Connelly, President of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:

Mr. William Connelly, *President*
Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*
Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

Absent at roll call:

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

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 Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Mr. Kim, to approve the following minutes:

Public Work Session Meeting:
Regular Public Meeting:

December 13, 2022
December 13, 2022

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

Mr. Connelly	Yes
Mr. DeLisio	Absent
Mr. Kim	Yes
Dr. Meyerson	Yes

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

- **SY 2021-2022 District Audit**
 - Once again, the State of New Jersey has extended the filing deadline for the District's audit to March 17. This is due to the state's failure to provide school districts with necessary data to complete their audits. Once available, our auditors will finalize the district audit and present to the board.
- **School Ethics Commission Filing of Personal and Financial Disclosure Statements**
 - The School Ethics Commission requires all board members and administrative staff members that make personnel and purchasing decisions to complete *Personal and Financial Disclosure Forms*. In the coming weeks, you will receive an email with instructions on how to complete your disclosure statements. Although you have until April 30th to complete the forms, your submission must be reviewed and certified by Mr. Susino and the county office. As such, Mr. Susino kindly asked that forms be completed well in advance of the deadline.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

❖ **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING REPORT**

The District is required to report specific incidents of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying to the Board of Education. There were seven (7) HIB incidents reported since last month which, after thorough investigation, two were determined to be HIB incidents and five were non-HIB incidents.

- **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #4 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023**
- **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #5 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023**
- **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #6 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023**
- **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #7 – Teterboro - School Year 2022-2023**
- **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #8 – ATHS - School Year 2022-2023**
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #5 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023**
 - Incident—insulting or demeaning verbal comment that created a hostile educational environment.
 - Intervention—parent contact, individual counseling, and behavioral management plan.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #6 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023**
 - Incident—insulting or demeaning verbal comment, offensive gesture, and physical tripping resulting in the victims being in fear of physical or emotional harm and creating a hostile educational environment, while the offender knew these actions would cause harm.
 - Intervention—parent contact, individual counseling, group counseling, consultation with behaviorist, and behavioral management plan

❖ **UPDATE ON SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS**

▪ **Communication Goal**

- In effort to expand public awareness of Bergen County Technical Schools' district mission, achievements, and partnership opportunities we have been working on a **comprehensive promotional video**. To date, five on camera interviews have been recorded and each professional outlined the district mission, achievements, and partnerships of their respective campuses and have approved filming of student demonstrations at their campuses in the coming weeks. This video is on pace to be completed on or before April 28, 2023

▪ **Student/Staff Wellnes**

- In the spring, **Navigating Success Through Wellness** will be provided to all seniors in the Bergen County Technical Schools focused specifically on the ensuing transition from high school to college, work or other opportunities. We are calling these services *Stepping Stones* and all seniors will participate in a one-part psycho-educationally based group presentation highlighting common concerns and experiences associated with the transition from high school into the world. Following this one part presentation, NSTW will be facilitating two 4-session Senior Transition *Stepping Stones* groups on each campus for more detailed follow up and support. Topics included in Stepping Stones will be: apprehension about leaving their high school "home" of four years, common fears about leaving and making friends, concerns about transitioning away from supports that have been available throughout high school, indecision about future goals, leaving home and family, concerns about academic stressors, etc.

▪ **Anonymous Reporting Tool Pilot**

- After several months of research into various applications, the district is ready to run a pilot using the STOPit Anonymous reporting tool. This tool, which is grant funded, is supported by 350 plus Master Social Workers and local and county law enforcement. In the event of a life-threatening crisis, the app will automatically alert a school's administration and district administration, as well as county and local law enforcement. This communication chain provides for a rapid response to any situation when needed. This App will allow students to anonymously report serious issues to the district without identifying themselves. The district has the ability to communicate back to the student anonymously as well providing a safe, non-stressful communication chain for the student. The pilot will begin on Tuesday January 31st with school assemblies on each campus to introduce the App to the students.

❖ **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**

- Completed ARISE/ Restorative services for Paramus and BCA including group and individual support for students involved in recent HIB incidents.

▪ **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**

- ATHS Cybersecurity students participated in a panel discussion with professionals from Ernst and Young. The event, which featured executives from their Information Security department, provided an opportunity for students to learn about the range of exciting opportunities that exist in the field. The seminar generated a lot of excitement from students, and provided opportunity for future collaboration.

▪ **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**

- We are very pleased to announce that 72 BCA students recently qualified for the NJ DECA State Conference. Twenty-nine of our students placed in the Top 3 regionally and swept 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Restaurant and Food Service event. Please join me in congratulating these exceptional students as well as our outstanding faculty and staff.
- **PARAMUS CAMPUS**
 - A Junior Environmental Design student was named “runner up” at a recent FFA Turf Career Day event and received a merit scholarship from Rutgers University.
- **TETERBORO CAMPUS**
 - Congratulations to a 10th grade Aerospace student who achieved one of the highest scores of all students who participated in the American Mathematics Competition.
- **INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN CAMPUSES**
 - **UX/UI Design**
 - Demarest and Old Tappan 10th graders had a professional 3D Animator come in person for a presentation and Q & A.
 - **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
 - Students in sports medicine combined healthcare and technology to identify the phases of gait (walking), the best submissions were posted on the bctssportsmedicine Instagram social media page.
- **ADULT EDUCATION**
 - Our electrical program hosted its biannual advisory board last month where five companies (Tore Electric, R+J Brothers, J+J Electric, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, and NJ Transit) were in attendance.
- **EMS**
 - We are currently conducting an American Heart Association CPR Instructor training program. The class has two staff members from the Technical School, 3 staff members from the County Public Safety Dispatch Operation Center in Mahwah, and the remaining staff from the EMS training Center.
- **ATHLETICS**
 - Girls Bowling finished in 2nd and the boys finished 3rd at the Tom Irwin Memorial Classic. Both teams finished 1st in Bergen County.
- **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**
 - The Bergen County Job Center brought our services out to the Meadowland Family Success Center in Little Ferry on December 19th. As a result, eleven individuals have registered with our services for training.
- **BELA**
 - BELA's Pre-K class had a great time at their annual Winter Concert.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

On the motion of Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Mr. Kim, the following resolutions were presented for action.

Administration	23-A-73T	Through	23-A-82T
Personnel	23-P-55T	Through	23-P-67T
Finance	23-F-113T	Through	23-F-127T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

There were no comments from the Board.

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
Mr. Kim	X			
Dr. Meyerson	X			

OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

There were no off-consent resolutions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ANY ISSUE

There was no public discussion on any issue.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Mr. Kim. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:53 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 2/28/23