

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

**MINUTES**

**Regular Public Meeting  
June 27, 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 June 27, 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 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present at roll call:**

Mr. William Connelly, *President*  
Mr. Louis DeLisio, *Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools*  
Ms. Jacqueline Gadaleta  
Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*

**Absent at roll call:**

Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

**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*  
Bradley Wilson, Esq., *Board Attorney*

**Not in attendance:**

Sloane Kaplan, *Student Board Representative*

**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 Mrs. Gadaleta, seconded by Mr. Kim, to approve the following minutes:

Public Work Session Meeting:	May 23, 2023
Regular Public Meeting:	May 23, 2023
Executive Session Meeting:	May 23, 2023

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

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

### **BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

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

- **Board of Education Special Meeting**
  - Mr. Susino, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, informed the Board and members of the public that the Board of Education scheduled a special meeting for 5:00 p.m. on August 8, 2023.

### **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 four (4) HIB investigations. After thorough investigations, it was determined that all four were confirmed HIB incidents.

- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #13 – Teterboro - School Year 2022-2023**

*Incident*—Insulting or demeaning electronic comments that the offender knew would cause the victims harm. This created a hostile educational environment.

*Intervention*—Offender is receiving individual counseling. The two victims are receiving periodic follow-up from counselor. Parent contact made.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #14 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023**

*Incident*—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments that the offender knew would cause the victim harm. This placed the victim in fear of physical or emotional harm, and interfered with the victim's education.

*Intervention*—Offender received counseling and other disciplinary measures. Victim is from another school. Parent contact made.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #15 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023**

*Incident*—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments that the offender knew would cause the victim harm. This placed the victim in fear of physical or emotional harm, and interfered with the victim's education.

*Intervention*—Offender from another school. Victim receiving individual counseling. Parent contact made.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #16 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023**

*Incident*—Insulting or demeaning verbal and electronic comments that the offenders knew would cause the victim harm. This placed the victim in fear of physical or emotional harm, interfered with the victim's education, and created a hostile educational environment.

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*Intervention*—Two offenders were offered restorative group counseling. Victim receiving periodic follow-up. Parent contact made.

❖ **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**
  - Facilitated Freshmen Resilience and Mental Health Awareness Day with "Rock Yoga" at Paramus campus
  - Began Junior "Self-Expression Through Art" seminar
  - Provided crisis / support group at Adult Education.
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
  - On Thursday, June 8th, ATHS held the 6th annual Young Women in Leadership Conference. The speaking panel included six guest speakers – an immigration attorney, a pediatric dentist, a nurse practitioner, mental health clinicians and law enforcement. The focus is centered on each person's respective journey to their career path. Students also had an opportunity to ask questions and network with professionals during the event.
- **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
  - Twenty-two students in various research programs at BCA recently presented their work at the New Jersey Academy of Science. This in person competition gave students the opportunity to present their scientific presentation at the national "American Academy of Science" competition in California. Congratulations to everyone involved.
  - BCA's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* won big at the first ever Bergen PAC High School Theatre Awards. BCA won awards for *Outstanding Ensemble Role* and *Outstanding Choreography of a Musical*. Congratulations to our students and staff.
- **PARAMUS CAMPUS**
  - Congratulations to a Junior Healthcare student who achieved an outstanding 1st Place victory at the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Dallas, TX.
  - The Brian Meeney Memorial Garden officially opened on Tuesday, June 13th. The dedication ceremony included recognition of the Environmental Design and Green Building Trades students responsible for constructing and designing the garden, unveiling of a memorial bench and sign, and remarks by the Meeney family. We encourage all of you to visit the garden, in the rear of the Paramus campus, near the silo.
- **TETERBORO CAMPUS**
  - An 11th grade Law & Justice student was selected for the 2023 Achievement Award in Writing given by the National Council of Teachers of English. Bergen Tech's ACS Chem club team won the first prize in the "Chemagination" contest conducted this year by the American Chemical Society. Their project was in the Environment category. They will represent the North Jersey ACS team in the Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting on June 9th at St

- McLaren Engineering Co. sat in on project presentations with 11th graders to critique their presenting skills and product presentations from a professional perspective.
- **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
  - Sports Medicine students at Northern Valley Demarest and Old Tappan were able to come together for the first time to participate and compete in the first Sports Medicine Field Day. In teams, students competed in events such as Blindfolded Ankle tape relay race, Crutch fitting and wrapping obstacle course, Pin the Band-Aid on the skeleton, and other Sports Medicine related skill events.
- **ADULT EDUCATION**
  - On May 25, 2023, our plumbing program and our electrical program hosted their occupational advisory boards. Multiple employers attended each program and provided valuable feedback for the course as well as an opportunity to connect with our students.
  - With our partnership with Reiner, five of our currently enrolled HVAC students were accepted to become interns through the WBA program.
- **EMS**
  - Our career fire class completed on Tuesday June 13, 2023. We had fire fighters from Englewood, Teaneck and Hackensack.
  - We provided a virtual lecture and demonstration pertaining to medical emergencies to students at Saint George University / Medical School in Grenada
- **ATHLETICS**
  - Boys Tennis won the NJSIAA North 1 Group 4 sectional title.
- **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**
  - We had the opportunity to present to the FSTF during a lunch & learn hour.
  - Participated in the Food Pantry Summit at BCC.
  - Presented to the Housing Advocacy & Homeless Prevention Monthly Meeting.
- **BELA**
  - BELA had a wonderful time at our first ever *Donuts with Dad!*

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:**

On the motion by Mrs. Gadaleta, seconded by Mr. Kim, the following resolutions were presented for action.

Administration	23-A-127T	Through	23-A-141T
Personnel	23-P-129T	Through	23-P-158T
Finance	23-F-207T	Through	23-F-248T

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY**

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

23-P-144T, 23-P-145T, 23-P-146T, 23-P-147T, 23-P-148T, 23-F-207T, 23-F-209T

#### **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-P-144T, 23-P-145T, 23-P-146T, 23-P-147T, 23-P-148T, 23-F-207T, 23-F-209T	
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. Kim, seconded by Mr. DeLisio, the Board moved to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:41 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 \_\_\_\_\_