

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

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
March 28, 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 March 28, 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 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:

Mr. William Connelly, *President*

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

Ms. 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*

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

Public Work Session Meeting:
Regular Public Meeting:

February 28, 2023
February 28, 2023

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

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

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

- **2021-2022 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**
 - John Susino, School Business Administrator and Board Secretary, requested that the auditor's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for school year 2021-2022 serve as his report for the month.

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 we had four HIB investigations. After a thorough investigation, it was deemed that three were non-HIB incidents and one was a confirmed HIB incident.

- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #9 – BCA - School Year 2022-2023**
 - *Incident*—Insulting or demeaning verbal and electronic comments, and intentionally bumping into and poking the victim which the offender knew would cause the victim harm. This created a hostile educational environment, placed the victim in fear of physical and emotional harm, and interfered with the victim's education.
 - *Intervention*—Parent contact and conferences, individual counseling, and frequent follow-up with the victim.
- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #18 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023
- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #19 – AHS - School Year 2022-2023
- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #20 – AHS - 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**
 - Have implemented and are facilitating individual and group Dialectical Behavior Therapy on all four campuses; collaborating with guidance counselors and SACs to identify students in need.

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- Adult Education: provided an in service on Stress Management and Self-Care to entire student body; also providing weekly individual counseling to a student who has returned to school after mental health leave
 - Provided ongoing restorative services to Paramus and AHS regarding recent HIB cases.
 - **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
 - On Friday March 10th, Applied Technology High School's Wellness Day consisted of over 20 workshops and a motivational speaker. The students participated in events throughout the day which focused on art, wellness, and selfcare.
 - **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
 - Our talented students lit up the stage during the recent performances of BCA's production of Fiddler on the Roof. It is always amazing to see the hard work and dedication that goes into our productions; from the acting, singing, choreography, costumes, sound, lighting, set design, and much more - everything was superb.
 - On Sunday, March 5th, nearly 200 BCA students participated in the 6th annual BCA Research Expo. Students developed original research projects and presented their work to a panel of judges consisting of industry professionals, including several BCA alumni. Three winners from the BCA Expo will compete at the International Science & Engineering Fair ISEF in Dallas, Texas.
 - **PARAMUS CAMPUS**
 - This month, students on the Paramus campus participated in a Read Across America Kickoff event at Blesman School. Students did hair and makeup, performed, cooked, videotaped, and read Dr. Seuss's books to students.
 - **TETERBORO CAMPUS**
 - An incredible 264 people attended Bergen Tech's Sixth Annual student exhibit at The Belskie Museum of Art, breaking the record for opening day admissions! Students from the Fashion Design, Digital Media, Art, and Commercial Art majors have worked extremely hard to exhibit an array of spectacular Art, Media, and Fashion masterpieces.
 - On Friday, February 10th, a group of upperclassmen, joined with students from other BCTS campuses attended the United Nations Conference "8th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly" at the UN headquarters in NYC. Students listened to distinguished presenters on a variety of topics related to sustainable development, technology, and educational access for women and girls around the world.
 - **INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN CAMPUSES**
 - **UX/UI Design**
 - IIDT students in Old Tappan and Demarest showed their personalities and skills by creating their personal logos.
 - **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
 - Sports Medicine students closed out their taping, wrapping, and splinting unit by demonstrating their skills on their family members. Students were assigned scenarios and had to demonstrate their skills by recording their skills in action.
 - **ADULT EDUCATION**
 - For CTE month we launched "expert series" which involved having guest speakers in all four of our programs. These presentations have been highlighted on our social media page to promote CTE month.
 - Interest in our full-time day program is steady. Many small groups from high schools in the area have come in to tour our facility and learn about our programs.

▪ **EMS**

- The EMS Training Center Rescue/Hazmat Coordinator and his team are working with Bergen County OEM to update and develop our Hazmat training for the Emergency Responders in Bergen County. We are working on the three different levels of Hazmat training: Awareness, Operations, and Technicians. Additionally, we are working on a Hazmat online continuing education program.
- Our Spring 2023 Career Fire Department class, consisting of firefighters from Nutley and Clifton Fire Departments, has started.

▪ **ATHLETICS**

- The Girls Bowling team are the Liberty Division Champions, for the eighth year in a row.
- The Boys Bowling team are the Liberty Division Champions, for the second year in a row.
- The Competition Cheerleading Team won 1st Place and Grand Champions at the Fun Cheer National Competition in San Antonio, TX.

▪ **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**

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

▪ **BELA**

- On behalf of all the staff and students at BELA, we would like to thank the administration team for participating in Read Across America.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

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

Administration	23-A-93T	Through	23-A-101T
Personnel	23-P-86T	Through	23-P-97T
Finance	23-F-143T	Through	23-F-157T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

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

23-A-94T, 23-A-96T, 23-F-143T, 23-F-144T, 23-F-147T, 23-F-148T

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-94T, 23-A-96T, 23-F-143T, 23-F-144T, 23-F-147T, 23-F-148T	
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 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 6:46 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 4/24/23