

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

MINUTES

**Public Work Session Meeting
March 28, 2023**

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Board Secretary John Susino swore Jacqueline Gadaleta into office. Ms. Gadaleta affirmed the Oath of Office in the public meeting room of the Board offices.

The Board of Education of the Vocational School District in the County of Bergen held its Public Work Session on Tuesday March 28, 2023 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, N.J. Mr. William Connelly, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 5:00 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, *Ed.D.*

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*

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 Record and Herald News.

PRESENTATIONS

- Introduction of Sloane Kaplan, Student Board Representative, by Assistant Superintendent Andrea Sheridan
- Director of Athletics William Muller introduced track coach Erik Buser. Coach Buser introduced student/athlete Dylan DeCambre and spoke to Dylan's many accomplishments and accolades.
- Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for SY 2021-2022 presented by Board auditor Robert Haag of Lerch, Vinci, Bliss, the district's external auditing firm.

REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

The Board reviewed the following resolutions.

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

DISCUSSION—ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA—BOARD ONLY

There was no Board discussion on agenda items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - AGENDA RESOLUTIONS ONLY

There were no public comments on agenda items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATON — ANY ISSUE

Several BCA students appeared before the Board to express their concerns over the handling of a HIB incident that occurred in October of 2022. The students (Elena Jacoby, Kailey Correa, Pooja Rayapaneni, Kayla Luga, Emily Zhang, and Eleni Brenna) provided details of the incident to the Board. They also thanked Assistant Superintendent Andrea Sheridan for her involvement in reviewing the incident.

Board Members Connelly, Kim, DeLisio and Gadaleta each expressed concern over the incident and its troubling nature. They thanked the students for their bravery in presenting to the Board. Board President William Connelly expressed confidence that Superintendent Lerner and Assistant Superintendent Sheridan are handling the matter and asked that Dr. Lerner report back to the Board upon his receipt of additional information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:06 p.m., a motion to recess the Public Work Session and move the meeting to the Private Executive Session, per the Resolution below, was made by Mr. Kim and seconded by Mr. DeLisio. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded from certain matters to be discussed by the Board; and

WHEREAS the Board intends to convene in private session from which the public shall be excluded to dismiss matters which permit the exclusion of the public, during which minutes shall be taken; and

WHEREAS the matters to be discussed fall under the exclusion of confidentiality required by Federal or State Law; impair a right to receive Federal government funds; unwarranted invasion of individual privacy; collective bargaining agreement negotiations; purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds; tactics and techniques to protect safety of property of public, or investigations of violations or potential violations of law; pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations, or matters falling within the attorney-client privilege; personnel/employment matters unless individual requests that matter be discussed in public; deliberations after public hearing that may result in imposition of penalty;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the public portion of the meeting shall now be recessed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a summary of the closed session minutes shall be made available to the public by the next public meeting of the Board of Education, or upon approval of the minutes, and once the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

A motion to resume the Public Work Session meeting was made at 6:37 p.m. by Mr. Kim, seconded by Mr. DeLisio. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed.

A motion to adjourn the Public Work Session meeting was made at 6:37 p.m. by Ms. Gadaleta, seconded by Mr. Kim. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. 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