

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

**MINUTES**

**Regular Public Meeting  
May 23, 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 May 23, 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 5:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present at roll call:**

Mr. William Connelly, *President*  
Mr. Louis DeLisio, *Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools*  
Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*  
Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

**Absent at roll call:**

Ms. Jacqueline Gadaleta

**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*

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

Public Work Session Meeting:	April 24, 2023
Regular Public Meeting:	April 24, 2023
Executive Session Meeting:	April 24, 2023

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

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

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

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

- **2023-2024 SY Budget Approval Status**
  - Mr. Susino, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, reported that the Board of School Estimate is meeting on June 9, 2023. Consequently, final passage of the District's 23-24 school year budget will be on the Board's June meeting agenda.

### **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 three (3) HIB investigations. After thorough investigations, it was deemed that the three incidents were non-HIB.

- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #26 – BCA - School Year 2022-2023
- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #27 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023
- Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #28 – Paramus - 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**
  - NSTW provided an in-service training for the counseling staff of BCA on Dialectical Behavior Therapy, which has been a successful addition to the wellness program.
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
  - 10th and 11th Grade students at ATHS began taking summer semester minicourses provided by the BCC Office of Continuing Education and the Navigating Success Through Wellness team. Topics included cooking, drama, sewing, embroidery and art.
- **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
  - The National DECA competition was a truly memorable event for our students where they competed among the best in the country. Five students placed in the top 10 in their respective

events and one ninth-grade student took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in his event. This is the first time in our school's history that a ninth-grade student placed in the top 3. Congratulations to everyone involved.

- A team of five BCA 9<sup>th</sup> graders recently won the 2023 "Biomedical Research Saves Lives" Digital Media Contest. The purpose of this contest is to recognize students who demonstrate a superior understanding of the connection between their life and biomedical research. Congratulations to these students and their teachers on this accomplishment.

▪ **PARAMUS CAMPUS**

- Two BCTS-Paramus Media Production students have achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing multiple Adobe Certified Associate assessments. These assessments serve as proof of their competence, expertise, and practical understanding of various Adobe Platforms. Additionally, two more students have passed the WorkKeys exams, which evaluate fundamental skills essential for thriving in professional environments and gauging the job-related abilities that can impact overall performance.

▪ **TETERBORO CAMPUS**

- A Law & Justice 11th grader was selected for the New Jersey Scholars Program, a highly selective, tuition-free five-week summer program for rising seniors of a high school in New Jersey.
- A Digital Media 11th grader and an Aerospace Engineering 11th grader were selected for The Governor's School of New Jersey Governor Program in the Sciences, and The Governor's School of New Jersey in Engineering & Technology, respectively.

▪ **INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN CAMPUSES**

- **UX/UI Design**
  - 11<sup>th</sup> grade IIDT students in Old Tappan and Demarest worked as a team to create a complex problem and the students are looking forward to their return for constructive critiquing! They are working with McLaren Engineering Marketing and UXUI Department Vice President.
- **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
  - Dr. James Philips DPT of Bergen PT Associates partnered with our sports medicine program to guide the students through a work-based learning research project. Students researched an injury and presented to Dr. Philips on how they would immediately treat this injury.

▪ **ADULT EDUCATION**

- Adult Ed recently finished our "Expert Series" which was a series of guest speakers funded by the Perkins Grant as part of CTE Month. In total we welcomed ten speakers across all four of our full-time programs and highlighted these presentations on our social media pages.
- We recently hosted a representative from the Council on Occupational Education (COE) for a preliminary visit. We are scheduled for our reaccreditation visit the last week of June.

▪ **EMS**

- During the month we conducted an Emergency Medical Technician Recertification program for the staff of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority Medical Unit at MetLife Stadium.

▪ **ATHLETICS**

- Baseball is off to a 12-2 start and qualified for the Bergen County Tournament.
- Softball is 12-1 and the number 2 seed in BCWCA Tournament.
- Girls Golf made the State Championship and they finished 2.

▪ **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**

- The BCJC participated in the National Bring Our Children To Work Day. The children viewed a video entitled “What Occupation am I,” participated in a team building activity, toured the Bergen County One-Stop (where they learned about each department’s contribution), enjoyed a Bergen County Job Center scavenger hunt, and partook in an exercise to discover their purpose and passions.

▪ **BELA**

- BELA had a wonderful time celebrating Mother’s Day with our first annual Muffins with Mom Event.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:**

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

Administration	23-A-113T	Through	23-A-126T
Personnel	23-P-109T	Through	23-P-128T
Finance	23-F-180T	Through	23-F-206T

**BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY**

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

23-A-114T, 23-A-120T, 23-P-117T, 23-P-124T, 23-P-125T, 23-P-126T, 23-P-127T, 23-F-180T, 23-F-181T

**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-114T, 23-A-120T, 23-P-117T, 23-P-124T, 23-P-125T, 23-P-126T, 23-P-127T, 23-F-180T, 23-F-181T	
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 Regular Public Meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:49 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 6/27/23