

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

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
March 29, 2022**

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

The Board of Education of the Vocational Schools in the County of Bergen held its Regular Public Meeting on Tuesday March 29, 2022 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ. The public meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Mr. William Connelly, President of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:

Mr. Connelly, *President*

Ms. Enrique

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

Mr. Kim, *Vice President*

Absent at roll call:

Dr. Meyerson

Also in attendance:

Howard Lerner, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

John Susino, *Board Secretary/School Business Administrator*

Andrea Sheridan, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools*

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:	February 22, 2022
Regular/Public Meeting:	February 22, 2022
Executive Session:	February 22, 2022

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes:

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

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF HOLDING PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mr. Kim, seconded by Ms. Enrique, to suspend the regular order of business for the sole purpose of holding public comment and hearing relating to the employment contract of the Superintendent of Schools.

A roll call vote was taken to suspend the regular order of business:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Connelly	X			
Mr. DeLisio	X			
Ms. Enrique	X			
Mr. Kim	X			
Dr. Meyerson				X

STATEMENT REGARDING THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING ON THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONTRACT

John Susino, Board Secretary read the following statement on behalf of the Board of Education:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11, the Bergen County Technical Schools Board of Education has provided notice, 30 days and 10 days prior, of its intent to hold a public hearing and to take action to amend, extend, renegotiate and/or alter contract terms and conditions of the Superintendent of Schools. Notice was provided to the public via publication in the district's official newspapers on February 24, 2022. The subject contract was reviewed and subsequently approved on March 29, 2022 by the Executive County Superintendent of the New Jersey Department of Education, Essex County Office.

As required, the Board of Education will permit the public to make comments on the proposed amended contract this evening and comments at this time will be permitted on the contract only. The Superintendent of Schools retains his right to privacy and as such the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A.

10:4-12(b), the Open Public Meetings Act, shall not publicly discuss personnel matters and shall not respond to comments made by members of the public.

Anyone from the public who would like to comment on the proposed amended contract for the Superintendent is invited to step forward after the Board opens the floor for public comment and hearing, state their name and address and sign the register at the podium.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING TO PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AMENDED CONTRACT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

On a motion by Mr. Kim, seconded by Ms. Enrique, the Board opened the meeting to public comment and hearing on the proposed amended contract of the Superintendent of Schools. All members presented voted in the affirmative; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AMENDED CONTRACT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

There was no public comment.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AMENDED CONTRACT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

On a motion by Mr. DeLisio, seconded by Mr. Kim, the Board closed public comment and hearing on the proposed amended contract of the Superintendent of Schools. All members presented voted in the affirmative; none opposed.

MOTION TO RESUME THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

On a motion by Mr. Kim, seconded by Ms. Enrique, the Board moved to resume the regular order of business.

A roll call was taken to resume the regular order of business:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Connelly	X			
Mr. DeLisio	X			
Ms. Enrique	X			
Mr. Kim	X			
Dr. Meyerson				X

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Secretary John Susino made the following report to the Board.

Pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1, I am required to notify you of two emergency expenditures that I authorized. First, I authorized an emergency contract with Specialized Fire & Security, Inc. of 20 Cotliss Road, Suite 9, Riverdale, New Jersey to provide the necessary repairs and modifications to the FM-200 fire suppression system and panel located at our Hackensack campus.

I also authorized a contract with Zoom Drain of 129 East 1st Avenue, Roselle, NJ to clear the main sewer line of our Paramus campus.

Both these items needed immediate attention for the health and safety of the school community.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform the board that tonight you will be considering adoption of a tentative budget for school year 22-23. This budget has been approved by the Department of Education's county office. In the coming weeks, I hope to schedule the meeting of the Board of School Estimate which will then finalize the budget.

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. The District had 2 Alleged-HIB incidents and 7 confirmed HIB incidents reported since last month.

- **HIB Incident: *Alleged-HIB Case #4* – Paramus - School Year 2021-2022**
- **HIB Incident: *Alleged-HIB Case #5* – BCA - School Year 2021-2022**
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #6 – BCA - School Year 2021-2022**
 - Incident—insulting or demeaning verbal comments.
 - Intervention—parent contact, individual counseling, and restorative group counseling.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #7 – BCA - School Year 2021-2022**
 - *Incident*—insulting or demeaning verbal comments, created a hostile educational environment, and caused physical or emotional harm.
 - *Intervention*—parent contact, individual counseling, and restorative group counseling.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #8 – Paramus - School Year 2021-2022**
 - Incident—insulting or demeaning verbal comments.
 - Intervention—parent contact, individual counseling, restorative group counseling, and lunch tables moved.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #9 – Teterboro - School Year 2021-2022**
 - *Incident*—insulting or demeaning electronic and written comments, caused physical or emotional harm, created a hostile educational environment, and interfered with student's education.

- *Intervention*—parent contact, periodic follow-up, restorative group counseling, and restorative parent/guardian sessions.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #10 – ATHS - School Year 2021-2022**
 - *Incident*—insulting or demeaning electronic comments, caused physical or emotional harm, created a hostile educational environment, interfered with students’ education, and substantially disrupted the orderly operation of the school or rights of other students.
 - *Intervention*—parent contact, periodic follow-up, individual counseling, restorative group counseling, and restorative parent/guardian sessions, and suspension.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #11 – BCA - School Year 2021-2022**
 - *Incident*—insulting or demeaning electronic comments, created a hostile educational environment, and caused physical and emotional harm.
 - *Intervention*—parent contact, periodic follow-up, individual counseling, and restorative group counseling.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #12 – Teterboro - School Year 2021-2022**
 - *Incident*—insulting or demeaning verbal comments, created a hostile educational environment, and caused physical and emotional harm.
 - *Intervention*—parent contact, periodic follow-up, restorative group counseling and parent restorative group sessions.

❖ **DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOLADES AND OTHER IMPORTANT DISTRICT INFORMATION**

Dr. Lerner shared some highlights of the many accomplishments our students and staff have had, including the following:

- **NAVIGATING SUCCESS THROUGH WELLNESS INITIATIVE**
 - Continued with multiple groups running on four campuses, including “Life Hacks,” test anxiety management, social skills and positive relationships, and starting assertiveness training groups; also continued with individual counseling and support for 20+ students
 - Conducted a special parent meeting called “Partnering for Positivity” where parents joined (virtually) with a panel of students, administrators, counselors and teachers to discuss how to work together to combat racism, discrimination and insensitivity/intolerance in schools
 - Conducted multiple Restorative intervention groups on all four campuses for students involved in HIB investigations or other behavioral issues
 - Continue to provide 9th grade Resilience training at Teterboro and Paramus.
- **INSTITUTE FOR INTERACTIVE DESIGN @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN**
 - The 9th grade students are excelling in their typography designs and learning exceptional skills within various Adobe programs.
 - The 10th grade students are learning Animation and Motion Graphics while applying their core design skills into their projects.
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
 - Representatives from NJIT and Felician University were at ATHS to present to the 11th graders. During this time students were able to learn more about their campus facilities and the existing articulation agreements.

- Tuesday, March 15th was Destress Fest; all classes were cancelled, and we used the down time to indulge in self-care. Guest speaker, Cam Awesome, facilitated workshops on Impact vs Intent and Social Media. Students also participated in a viewing of the film “The Social Dilemma” with a counselor debriefing.
- **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
 - BCA Student Newspaper staff mentor local students
 - As part of our community outreach efforts, BCA students and teachers involved in the school newspaper will be mentoring students from the Teaneck Community Charter School to help them create their own online school newspaper.
 - BCA Robotics Team returns to State Finals
 - After a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, I am pleased to report that both of our Titanium Knights robotics teams advanced to the FTCNJ State Championship. Congratulations to our Engineering teachers and students on this remarkable achievement.
- **PARAMUS CAMPUS**
 - Bergen Tech Paramus Environmental Design Students refinished a brick walkway leading to the campus rose garden. This project was completely designed and built in house by students to further enhance our existing campus grounds.
- **TETERBORO CAMPUS**
 - On March 1, 2022, the Bergen Tech school community observed Mental Health Awareness Day. All students and staff viewed and discussed the film, The Social Dilemma.
 - On February 14, 2022, all students attended Bergen Tech’s annual Equity Panel. This year’s theme “Love Alone Heals” featured powerful stories about how the power of love over hate can transform the way we think, our lives, and our world.
- **ADULT EDUCATION**
 - New Bridge Medical Center has reached out to Adult Ed, expressing an interest in offering internships/full-time positions to our daytime students, and to send current employees to our apprenticeship program.
- **EMS**
 - EMS performed training programs (CPR, Bleeding Control, Emergency moves of patients) for 12 civilian staff members of the United Nations Crisis Bureau. The 12 members will be deployed to Ukraine for humanitarian and refugee support.
 - EMS conducted a Rescue Task Force program which was full with staff of the Union City EMS / Police.
 - EMS conducted a bleeding control class for 50+ teachers of Bergen County Special services.
- **ATHLETICS**
 - Girls and Boys Bowling qualified for NJSJAA Tournament Finals.
 - Winter Track had athletes qualify for the Meet of Champions.
- **One-Stop Career Center/Job Center**
 - The Bergen County Job Center hosted a Returnship/OJT Webinar.
- **BELA**
 - During Read Across America parents participated by reading to our students via Zoom.

- On March 7, 2022 BELA enjoyed a visit from Unique Creatures.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS:

On the motion of Mr. Kim, seconded by Mr. DeLisio, the following resolutions, as amended, were presented for action.

Administration	22-A-90T	Through	22-A-100T
Personnel	22-P-102T	Through	22-P-116T
Finance	22-F-127T	Through	22-F-158T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

Board President Mr. William Connelly commented on Dr. Lerner’s many accomplishments in his tenure as Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Connelly thanked Dr. Lerner for his continued dedication to the students and staff of BCTS and was grateful to continue the partnership between the Board and Dr. Lerner.

Board Trustee Mr. Jason Kim also acknowledged the accomplishments of Dr. Lerner. He thanked Dr. Lerner for carrying out the District’s vision and leading the school community. Mr. Kim commended Dr. Lerner for his hard work and professionalism.

Mr. DeLisio informed the board that he will abstain from the following resolutions: 22-P-105T, 22-P-107T, 22-P-116T, and 22-F-127T

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

There was no participation.

BOARD VOTE CONSENT AGENDA

A roll call vote on the consent agenda was taken as identified above:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Connelly	X			
Mr. DeLisio	X		22-P-105T, 22-P-107T, 22-P-116T, and 22-F-127T	
Ms. Enrique	X			
Mr. Kim	X			
Dr. Meyerson				X

OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

There were no off consent resolutions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ANY ISSUE)

There was no participation from the public

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kim, seconded by Mr. DeLisio. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 6:05 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 3/28/22