

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

**MINUTES**

**Regular Public Meeting  
May 31, 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 May 31, 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. Jason Kim, Vice President of the Board.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present at roll call:**

Ms. Ivonne Enrique  
Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*  
Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

**Absent at roll call:**

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

**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 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 Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Ms. Enrique, to approve the following minutes:

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Public Work Session Meeting: April 28, 2022  
Regular/Public Meeting: April 28, 2022

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes:

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

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

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

Mr. Susino informed the Board that the Board of School Estimate for the Bergen County Vocational School District is scheduled to meet on June 1, 2022. The Board's Vice President Mr. Kim will represent the Board of Education and be a voting member of the Board of School Estimate. Consequently, final passage of the District's 2022-2023 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 and/or bullying to the Board of Education. The District had three (3) Alleged-HIB incidents and two (2) confirmed HIB incidents reported since last month.

- **HIB Incident: Alleged-HIB Case #7 – Teterboro - School Year 2021-2022**
- **HIB Incident: Alleged-HIB Case #8 – ATHS - School Year 2021-2022**
- **HIB Incident: Alleged-HIB Case #9 – IIDT - School Year 2021-2022**
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #13 – Teterboro - School Year 2021-2022**
  - *Incident*—insulting or demeaning verbal comments.
  - *Intervention*—parent contact and individual counseling.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #14 – ATHS - School Year 2021-2022**
  - *Incident*—insulting or demeaning electronic communications.
  - *Intervention*—parent contact, restorative group counseling, and one detention.

#### **❖ 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**
  - Provided Resilience Training to Adult Ed
  - Provided in-service presentation on "Working with the Angry Client" to One Stop Career Center
  - Completed "Feed Your Soul" mini-course for teachers and staff; provided April parent meeting and mindful parent meeting
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**

- On Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> twenty-nine students from ATHS earned their Associates degree from Bergen Community College.
- Since the college semester ended in early May, many ATHS students have participated in electives such as cooking, Drama-cize (interactive experience that infuses performance art, wellness practices, and other creative modalities), and Self Exploration and Social Awareness Through Art.
- **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
  - Congratulations to the BCA Robotics & Engineering Team for winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Princeton University Stem Design Challenge. This competitive event encourages students to collaborate with each other when solving real-life problems. Our students winning presentation involved designing various sustainable solar projects for cities.
  - We are proud to share with you that eight BCA students were recently named to the New Jersey 2022-2023 All State Chorus. Additionally, the BCA Chamber Choir recently performed at two Bergen County events. Everyone in attendance was moved by their heartwarming rendition of America the Beautiful.
- **PARAMUS CAMPUS**
  - This month our BCTS – Paramus baking students participated in the New Jersey Restaurant & Hospitality Association Culinary Showcase. The theme was International Cuisine and our baking students won best dessert which was a raspberry and apricot rugelach.
- **TETERBORO CAMPUS**
  - This year Bergen Tech hosted an Equity Panel with the theme “Love Alone Heals” -- and our diverse presenters shared powerful personal stories of perseverance and compassion. We appreciate the participation of both students and staff--and the special guest appearance by the Founder & Executive Director of STEM Kids NYC.
  - The 9th grade law students presented their murals to a representative from the Case Method Institute (formerly known as the Harvard Case Method Project). The students created these murals to answer the essential questions proffered by a Harvard Professor who developed and created the cases in conjunction with Harvard history scholars.
- **ADULT EDUCATION**
  - The testing schedule has been structured so we can offer twice as many tests as previously used to by administering via the HiSet Exam. The HiSET exam assists out of school youth and adults, giving them the best opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge and earn a state-issued high school diploma.
- **INSTITUTE FOR INTERACTIVE DESIGN @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN**
  - The 9th grade students are developing their own brand and creating a mobile app prototype using Adobe XD. They are currently in the process of creating the visual app design.
  - The 10th grade students are finishing their 3D apartment projects and preparing for presentations.
- **EMS**
  - Our Rescue Program just completed a Confined Rescue Operations class - Confined Space Rescue is a technical rescue operation that involves the rescue and recovery of victims trapped in a confined space or in a place only accessible through confined spaces, such as underground vaults, storage silos, storage tanks, or sewers.
  - Our Rescue Task Force Class (active shooter training program) continues, our classes are taught one night per week (four hours) and classes are currently booked until the end of June.

The RTF program is where EMS personnel make entry into a location with law enforcement personnel to locate and treat victims, even as other officers search for the suspect.

- **ATHLETICS**
  - Softball is off to a 16-0 start, including a County and NJTAC wins
  
- **One-Stop Career Center/Job Center**
  - The Township of Teaneck recently hosted the Bergen County Mobile Job Center Experience, where mobile Job Center services were introduced to their community. The event was a big success, and BCJC counselors are now diligently assisting some Teaneck residents who participated!
  
- **BELA**
  - BELA'S Pre-k class had a wonderful time at Van Saun Park for our first field trip in two years!

**BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS:**

On the motion of Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Ms. Enrique, the following resolutions were presented for action.

Administration	22-A-114T	Through	22-A-127T
Personnel	22-P-130T	Through	22-P-152T
Finance	22-F-176T	Through	22-F-205T

**BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY**

There was no discussion by the Board.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CONSENT AGENDA ONLY**

There was no public participation.

**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
Ms. Enrique	X			
Mr. Kim	X			
Dr. Meyerson	X			

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**OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**

There were no off-consent resolutions.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ANY ISSUE**

Jae Joon Lee of Cresskill, NJ and a graduate of BCA Class of 2019 discussed the State of New Jersey's adoption and implementation of S4021 and S3764 signed by Governor Murphy in January 2022. S4021 and S3764 are legislation that ensures Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are represented in school curriculums. The legislation requires lessons about the contribution, history, and heritage of Asian American and Pacific Islanders are included in the NJ Student Learning Standards for Social Studies for students K-12<sup>th</sup> grades. S3764 establishes the Commission for Asian American Heritage within the Department of Education. Both laws take effect for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Lee represented that he and his organization, Make Us Visible NJ, can be a resource for the District in implementing the new requirements.

Dr. Lerner asked Mr. Panicucci, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, regarding this new law. Mr. Panicucci responded that the curriculum department, working with building administrators and teachers, has already begun implementing the requirements of the legislation into the district's curriculum.

Dr. Lerner thanked Mr. Lee for his comments and offer of assistance.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Ms. Enrique. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:00 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 6-28-22