

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

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
December 13, 2022**

**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 December 13, 2022 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, N.J. The public meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. William Connelly, President of the Board.

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:

None

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

Public Work Session Meeting:	October 20, 2022
Regular/Public Meeting:	October 20, 2022
Executive Session:	October 20, 2022
Reorganization Meeting:	November 1, 2022

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

Mr. Connelly	Yes to all meetings	
Mr. DeLisio	Yes to all meetings	
Mr. Kim	Yes to all meetings	
Dr. Meyerson	Yes on Reorganization Meeting of November 1, 2022	<i>Abstain</i> from Minutes of the October 20, 2022 Meetings

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

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

SY 2021-2022 District Audit

Mr. Susino informed the Board that typically the District’s audit is due and presented in December of each year. But as with the last two years, the State of New Jersey has failed to provide necessary data in order to complete the audit. As such, the State has extended the filing deadline to February 6, 2023. The District’s auditor will present findings at that time.

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. There were four Alleged-HIB incident reported since last month which, after investigation, three were determined to be HIB incidents and one was a non-HIB incident.

- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #2 – Paramus - School Year 2022-2023**
 - *Incident:* insulting or demeaning verbal and electronic comments, caused physical or emotional harm, created a hostile educational environment, and interfered with student’s education.
 - *Intervention:* parent contact, individual counseling, students separated in school and on the school bus, ARISE restorative group counseling, 5 days out of school suspension, and 5 days attending SAP program.

- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #3 – IIDT - School Year 2022-2023**
 - *Incident:* insulted or demeaned a student by sending an offensive meme in a group chat, created a hostile educational environment, and victim was in fear of physical or emotional harm.
 - *Intervention:* parent contact and individual counseling.

- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #4 – Paramus Tech/ Wyckoff School District - School Year 2022-2023**
 - *Incident:* a student from another school made insulting or demeaning verbal comments.
 - *Intervention:* parent contact and weekly individual counseling.

- **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #3 – ATHS/Paramus Tech - 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 facilitated a full day of professional development for the entire counseling staff (GCs, SACs, CST) on the assessment, design and utilization of effective behavior modification contracts for students. This presentation also emphasized the importance of, and skills for, engaging and collaborating effectively with parents.
- NSTW facilitated Freshmen Transition Groups on all campuses. Students who were identified as higher risk during the summer wellness screenings were included. Additionally, one ongoing in-person freshmen support group with 7 students continues to run at Paramus and two evening virtual groups were founded and are ongoing.

▪ **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**

- On Dec. 2, ATHS hosted our first Friday Fun-Day during lunch. At the event, the students participated in a variety of art activities delivered by the Navigating Success Through Wellness team. The goal of Friday Fun-Day, which will continue throughout the year, is to teach students healthy ways to de-stress.

▪ **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**

- I am proud to share with you that “Sunrise Bergen” (BCA’s Environmental Club) was recently awarded the 2022 “President’s Environmental Youth Award” co-sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and the White House. The award recognizes outstanding community-level environmental projects by K-12 youth that promote awareness of natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Congratulations to everyone involved.
- The BCA Math Team recently held its 11th Annual Joe Holbrook Memorial Math Competition. This competition brings the best and brightest elementary and middle school math students from the greater Bergen County area to meet and compete with fellow students. Congratulations to our current Math Team members and their Coaches for hosting this successful event.

▪ **PARAMUS CAMPUS**

- BCTS Paramus National Honor Society students partnered with Bleshman School for their Trunk or Treat event. Twelve cars were decorated by seniors and included efforts from Bergen Tech’s Art, Culinary, Healthcare Occupations, and Media Production students that coordinated different festivities for the students of Bleshman and their families.
- A former shared-time animal care student (Lodi, class of 2017) became the first Animal Care student in the history of the program to be accepted into a Veterinary School. She will be attending Vet school at St. George University in Grenada.

▪ **TETERBORO CAMPUS**

- Bergen Tech's Indian IDT team officially celebrated Diwali (Festival of Lights) on Monday, October 24th by decorating Diya's (lamps), while also learning about Indian culture through video presentations, music and food. Diwali is a festival of lights and a major holiday in India celebrating good over evil. This event was a first for Bergen Tech, and was well attended by staff, students and administrators.
- In honor of National Chemistry Week and Mole Day, on October 20th, Bergen Tech’s American Chemical Society Chemistry club chapter hosted a tie-dye t-shirt activity for all BT students and staff.

- **INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN CAMPUSES**
 - **UX/UI Design**
 - 10th graders at both Demarest and Old Tappan received a lesson and visit from an expert animator who serves several big-name companies (Converse, Coca Cola, Ulta, Lysol, etc.) He discussed industry standards, career expectations and answered questions.
 - IIDT & Sports Medicine at Old Tappan had a luncheon to receive mentoring from upperclassmen in their programs hosted by the wellness center
 - -NV 9th graders are equipped with Resilience training before entering the holiday break.
 - **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
 - Sports Medicine Students were excited to utilize the new iPads to create "TikTok" like videos for joint movement terminology as review for the test.
 - At both Northern Valley High Schools, Sports Medicine students hosted their first HOSA chapter meeting to plan out which competitions they will pursue and other service projects they'd like to accomplish this year.
- **ADULT EDUCATION**
 - As a result of our partnership with Bergen New Bridge, we are in the process of expanding our network of employers to include Holy Name Medical Center, we hope to assist Holy Name in creating a similar process to help more of our students achieve employment with apprenticeship opportunities.
- **EMS**
 - We are currently working with New Bridge to be included in our hospital clinical time
 - We started a new Continuing Elective training program, Northern New Jersey Incident management Plan, Triage, (Adult and Child) training program.
- **ATHLETICS**
 - This past fall we had 5 1st Team All-County Athletes.
- **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**
 - The BCJC held its second Mini Job Fair & Resource Event in Van Saun Park in Paramus which was another major success. Ten employers from Bergen County participated and hired many of the candidates.
- **BELA**
 - BELA students are enjoying learning about the changing seasons and preparing for the upcoming holidays through crafts and songs.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

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

Administration	23-A-61T	Through	23-A-72T
Personnel	23-P-41T	Through	23-P-54T
Finance	23-F-88T	Through	23-F-112T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

Mr. DeLisio reported that he will be abstaining from the following resolutions:

23-A-65T, 23-P-45T, 23-P-48T, 23-F-88, 823-F-89T, 23-F-96T

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		23-A-65T, 23-P-45T, 23-P-48T, 23-F-88, 823-F-89T, 23-F-96T	
Mr. Kim	X			
Dr. Meyerson	X			

OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

There were no off-consent resolutions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ANY ISSUE

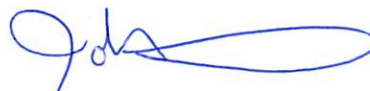
There was no public discussion on any issue.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Mr. Kim. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:42 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 1/24/23