

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

MINUTES

**Regular Meeting
January 25, 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 January 25, 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, *Interim 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*

William Soukas, Esq., *Board Attorney*

Ava Miller, *Assistant Board Secretary*

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 Ms. Enrique, to approve the following minutes:

Work Session Meeting: December 7, 2021
Regular/Public Meeting: December 7, 2021

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes:

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

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Secretary John Susino reported to the Board that the School Ethics Commission requires all board members and administrative staff members that make personnel and purchasing decisions to complete *Personal and Financial Disclosure Forms*. In the month of February, these individuals will receive an email with instructions on how to complete the disclosure statements. Although the deadline for completion is April 30, 2022, the submission must be reviewed and certified by Mr. Susino and the county office. As such, Mr. Susino asked that the forms be completed well in advance of the deadline.

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 0 HIB cases and 1 Alleged-HIB incident reported last month.

❖ 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**
 - Restorative Groups (post-HIB) in progress so students may understand and process what has occurred and a learning component will eliminate this from happening again.
 - Mental Health Wellness workshop series, specific to staff, students, and parents are ongoing and continue to be well received and beneficial.
 - Wellness Ambassador Program launched at all the campus.
- **INSTITUTE FOR INTERACTIVE DESIGN @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN**
 - 10th grade students had classes in December that incorporated Virtual Reality activities using the equipment in the "VR Studio" at both Demarest and Old Tappan.
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
 - From December 1, 2021 thru January 14, 2022, the ATHS school Climate Team organized a food drive and fundraiser for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. As a school community, we collected dozens of boxes filled with food and we raised approximately \$900, which provides about 2,700 meals for those in need.

▪ **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**

- Seven BCA Students have been named National Semifinalists in the **2022 Regeneron Science Talent Search**. BCA has the highest number of semifinalists in New Jersey and the third highest number of semifinalists in the Nation.
- Seventy students have qualified for the **NJ DECA State Conference**. Twenty-six students placed in the Top 3 regionally and BCA swept 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Business/Finance event.

▪ **PARAMUS CAMPUS**

- The BCTS Paramus English Department organized a school wide “Gallery Walk.” Students were tasked with analyzing quotes and character traits relating to the Hindu Literature “Numskull and the Rabbit.” Their collaborative efforts were highlighted in a visual display to all students at the school.

▪ **TETERBORO CAMPUS**

- Sea Souls was a short film created in two weeks by three Bergen Tech students. Sea Souls is about a lonely little ghost who is visited by a mysterious diver. The students won an Honorable Mention at the NYC Teen Film Festival.
- A Bergen Tech 12th grader has started the first chapter of its kind in a high school of the Farmlink project. The chapter has helped move more than 1.2 million pounds of surplus food from farms to food banks in communities in need.

▪ **ADULT EDUCATION**

- The Career Services section of the Adult Ed website is now complete. It is an effective platform for communicating with local contractors regarding employment needs.
- New classes will enter plumbing now, and Electrical in March. With the new groups, both programs remain at full capacity.

▪ **EMS**

- On Wednesday, January 12, 2022 we started a new EMT class for Clifton Fire Department and West Orange Fire Department

▪ **ATHLETICS**

- Varsity Bowling won their second consecutive “Winter Break-er Holiday Tournament.”

▪ **One-Stop Career Center/Job Center**

- The Bergen County Job Center was featured in the December 2021 Issue of the Bergen Magazine. The Article is called, “Help Desperately Wanted”.

❖ **Dr. Lerner Shared The Progress Report On The Goals That He Set At The Start Of The Year:**

- **Resiliency Training:** Resiliency Trainings for 9th grade students have been completed at BCA, ATHS and Paramus. Teterboro will begin their training now and complete it by April 2022.
- **Aspiring Leaders:** This action plan began with a communication going out to all certificated staff this fall to inform them of the opportunity to learn more about different leadership roles in our district. An application was developed and 20 district teachers applied to part of this cohort. The first part of this seven-session program will begin in mid-January and will include such topics as: maintaining a safe school, building a positive workplace culture, and fostering a

diverse and inclusive environment. The Aspiring Leaders program is scheduled to wrap-up by the end of April and will include a post-survey for all participants.

- **Alumni Survey:** In collaboration with our central administration and building principals, and after careful review of archived surveys as well as those from other LEA's, a new, online alumni survey was created this fall. Through the efforts of our school guidance departments, a survey link was sent out to alumni of all ages. By the end of December, we had 746 responses that ranged from the class of 1997 all the way up to the class of 2021. These results are now being compiled and readied to be integrated into our district and school planning process.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS:

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

Administration	22-A-64T	Through	22-A-80T
Personnel	22-P-75T	Through	22-P-85T
Finance	22-F-101T	Through	22-F-111T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

Mr. DeLisio informed the board that he will abstain from the following resolutions: 22-A-66T, 22-A-67T, 22-A-72T, 22-A-80T, 22-P-79T, 22-F-101T, 22-F-104T, 22-F-105T, 22-F-108T.

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-A-66T, 22-A-67T, 22-A-72T, 22-A-80T, 22-P-79T, 22-F-101T, 22-F-104T, 22-F-105T, 22-F-108T	
Ms. Enrique	X			
Mr. Kim				
Dr. Meyerson				X

OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ANY ISSUE)

None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kim, seconded by Ms. Enrique. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:56 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

2/22/22