

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

MINUTES

Regular Public Meeting

August 30, 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 Wednesday August 30, 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 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:

Mr. William Connelly, *President*

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

Mrs. Jacqueline Gadaleta

Absent at roll call:

Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*

Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

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*

Matthew Giacobbe, 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 Mrs. Gadaleta, seconded by Mr. DeLisio, to approve the following minutes:

Public Work Session Meeting: June 27, 2023
Regular Public Meeting: June 27, 2023
Executive Session Meeting: June 27, 2023

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

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

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Secretary John Susino welcomed back the staff for the start of the 2023-2024 SY. Mr. Susino also thanked the construction, maintenance and custodial staff for their tireless work in preparing the district's schools for the start of the school year.

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, there were no HIB investigations.

❖ 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**
 - Completed freshmen wellness "Meet and "Greet" screenings: 6 social workers; four days a week 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 2 social workers in the evening from 7:00 - 8:30 PM.
 - Start of NSTW summer program "Fun Time in the Sunshine" - mini courses on wellness and performance for students of all grades, all campuses.
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
 - The guidance department held their annual senior meeting to prepare for the upcoming school year. Twelfth grade students at ATHS maintain a full college course load. This meeting covered the Bergen Community College registration process, course prerequisites, and internships requirements.
- **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
 - This summer, over one hundred middle school students from throughout Bergen County participated in the "Academy After Hours" program. The program serves as an outreach initiative geared toward students in grades 6-8, seeking to pursue advanced coursework in the sciences, humanities, mathematics, computer science, and visual and performing arts.
 - Students interested in advancing their science research skills recently took part in the BCA Summer Research Program. Students were able to work side by side with their teachers and dedicate numerous hours working with the advanced equipment in our research labs. This hands-on training allows our students to compete in state, national and international science competitions

- **PARAMUS CAMPUS**
 - On July 27th, the Paramus Culinary and Bake shop partnered with Lasagna Love, to celebrate National Lasagna Day. Lasagna Love is a worldwide nonprofit organization seeking to make a positive difference in communities by facilitating homemade meal deliveries among neighbors less fortunate. 200 lasagnas were prepared, on site, and distributed to families throughout the state, as well as several food pantries.

- **TETERBORO CAMPUS**
 - Congratulations to an 11th grade Commercial Art student whose BC Teen Arts Festival watercolor submission was chosen as one of 20 to be displayed at the county show at One Bergen Plaza. This student also recently started a Caring Through Art program, which invites students to volunteer and host art workshops at nursing homes and independent living facilities.
 - Introducing BT's 2023 Design Challenge! The guiding question in this year's 2023 Design Challenge was "How can STEM-based solutions improve the efficacy of public policy initiatives?" Students in the Law & Justice, Aerospace Engineering, and Auto Engineering & Design majors had the opportunity to showcase their respective talents and use their ideas to propel public policy.

- **INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN CAMPUSES**
 - **UX/UI Design**
 - UX/UI Design rising seniors further developed their interpersonal and professional skills by participating in the introduction of our Senior Learning Experience.
 - **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
 - Sports Medicine is looking forward to articulating with William Paterson University to offer anatomy and physiology to the sophomore class.

- **ADULT EDUCATION**
 - On July 27, 2023, Verizon visited with our students in our HVAC and Electrician programs. The two representatives from the company spoke to the students about upcoming job opportunities and the benefits available to them as employees.
 - Our upcoming start dates for our HVAC and Plumbing programs have been filling up with recent high school graduates. We are excited to see our efforts in attending recruitment events at local high schools come to fruition.

- **EMS**
 - Our Summer EMT program began on July 5th, and students will take their final test and then become eligible to take their National Registry of EMT certification examination.
 - The EMS training Center will be starting a new program in the fall –the 9-1-1 Basic Telecommunicator dispatch class and then the Emergency Medical Dispatcher program both required to work as a 9-1-1 dispatcher.

- **ATHLETICS**
 - Over 400 students have registered for sports programs.

- **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**
 - Over 200 job seekers attended the BC Job Center's Job Fair on Wednesday July 12th on the Green in Hackensack.

- **BELA**
 - BELA students enjoyed being outside as much as possible this summer, enjoying nature, and keeping cool!

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

On the motion by Mrs. Gadaleta, seconded by Mr. DeLisio, the following consent resolutions were presented for action.

Administration	24-A-04T	Through	24-A-27T
Personnel	24-P-03T	Through	24-P-20T
Finance	24-F-05T	Through	24-F-53T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

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

24-A-09T, 24-A-10T, 24-A-11T; 24-A-15T, 24-F-05T, 24-F-06T, 24-F-08T, 24-F-20T, 24-F-21T, 24-F-22T, 24-F-49T, 24-F-53T

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: 24-A-09T, 24-A-10T, 24-A-11T; 24-A-15T, 24-F-05T, 24-F-06T, 24-F-08T, 24-F-20T, 24-F-21T, 24-F-22T, 24-F-49T, 24-F-53T	
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. DeLisio, seconded by Mrs. Gadaleta, the Board moved to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:42 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 9-26-23