

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

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
September 26, 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 Tuesday September 26, 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
Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

Absent at roll call:

Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*

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 Dr. Meyerson, to approve the following minutes:

Public Work Session Meeting: August 30, 2023
Regular Public Meeting: August 30, 2023
Executive Session Meeting: August 30, 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	Abstain

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Board Secretary John Susino did not present a report.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

❖ **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING REPORT**

▪ The district is required to report specific incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the Board of Education. This past month we had two HIB investigations. After a thorough investigation, it was determined that one was a non-HIB incident, and one was a confirmed HIB incident as follows:

- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #1 – IIDT - School Year 2023-2024**
 - Incident—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments made by two offenders to one victim.
 - Intervention—Offenders received a 3-day suspension and signed behavioral contracts. They and their parents are receiving restorative counseling. The victim and offenders will ride separate buses. The victim has been offered counseling. Parent contact was made.

❖ **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 NSTW summer program mini courses on wellness and performance for students of all grades, all campuses.
- **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
 - The Bergen County Festival for Seniors was held at Van Saun Park on 9/12. Six ATHS students volunteered prepping and serving lunch and facilitating activities for the event.
- **BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES**
 - For first time in the school’s history, students from BCA topped the global average in every AP and IB subject test across the board. This is a remarkable achievement. Congratulations to our hardworking students as well as their dedicated teachers, administrators, and supportive families.
 - The Bergen County Academies began the new school with their annual student convocation. Students were welcomed back to a new school year and heard updates on BCA’s Innovation

Lab at the Bergen Makerspace and heard from students who traveled to Denmark and London last year as part of the Global Studies program.

▪ **PARAMUS CAMPUS**

- The Environmental Design students have collaborated with the Paramus Veterans home on our CTE In-Service initiative, engaging in efforts to rejuvenate, renew, and revamp the landscape and gardens surrounding the facility.

▪ **TETERBORO CAMPUS**

- A 12th grade Digital Media student spent her summer conducting research at The Governor's School of New Jersey Program in the Sciences.
- At this year's FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado, a BT Fashion & Design student won second place in Fashion Construction in the Senior Category and a Culinary student won third place for Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation in the Junior Category!

▪ **INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY @ NORTHERN VALLEY – DEMAREST & OLD TAPPAN CAMPUSES**

• **UX/UI Design**

- A UX/UI Design senior has been chosen as a recipient of the National Merit Scholarship.
- Our classes practiced team building with the On Top of Spaghetti challenge! Students were given 15 pieces of spaghetti, 1 foot of tape and a marshmallow. The objective was to build the highest tower to support the marshmallow on top.

• **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**

- 9th grade Sports Medicine students are exploring career opportunities under the sports medicine umbrella and are mapping out educational plans to align their career goals with their current education and volunteer opportunities.

▪ **ADULT EDUCATION**

- BCTS Adult Education is excited to break ground in the coming weeks on our HVAC-R renovation.
- On September 26, 2023, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center will be doing a press release and ribbon cutting ceremony officially announcing their Skilled Trade Apprenticeship Program in partnership with BCTS Adult Education.

▪ **EMS**

- Our Fall 2023 EMT class and our Fall 2023 Specialized Rescue Technician program has started
- In the month of September, we re-certified 125 CPR Instructors in the American Heart Association – Basic Life Support classes. Our instructors must re-certify every two years. The re-certification classes included, on-line work, an on-line quiz, practical skills testing and an American Heart Association written test.

▪ **ATHLETICS**

- All fall sports teams have begun their seasons and are off to great starts.

▪ **BERGEN COUNTY JOB CENTER**

- The Bergen County Job Center, Employment Services, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services under the Bergen County One-Stop Career Center Umbrella were brought together through a service integration team-building activity entitled, "It Takes 4 To Tango". We all enjoyed getting to know each other (and ourselves) better, laughing about respective "type" strengths and weaknesses, and integrating teams.

▪ **BELA**

- BELA would like to thank all the families that participated in our School Drive to help the YCS Holley Center. We are very grateful for all the generous donations.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

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

Administration	24-A-28T	Through	24-A-40T
Personnel	24-P-21T	Through	24-P-34T
Finance	24-F-54T	Through	24-F-75T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

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

24-A-31T, 24-A-32T, 24-A-40T, 24-P-27T, 24-F-54T, 24-F-55T

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-31T, 24-A-32T, 24-A-40T, 24-P-27T, 24-F-54T, 24-F-55T	
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 Dr. Meyerson, 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 5:44 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 10/19/23