

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

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
October 19, 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 Thursday October 19, 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
Mr. Jason Kim, *Vice President*
Dr. Lawrence Meyerson

Absent at roll call:

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 Dr. Meyerson, seconded by Mrs. Gadaleta, to approve the following minutes:

Public Work Session Meeting:	September 26, 2023
Regular Public Meeting:	September 26, 2023
Executive Session Meeting:	September 26, 2023

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

Mr. Connelly	Yes
Mr. DeLisio	Yes
Mrs. Gadaleta	Yes
Mr. Kim	Abstain
Dr. Meyerson	Yes

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

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

Budget Calendar for School Year 2024-2025

In the coming weeks, the administration will begin the budget process for the next school year. This process begins in late October/early November with the business office providing principals and program managers historical data on their budget lines. Principals and managers are given approximately 1 month to review, develop and present their proposed budgets, wish list items, projected enrollment figures, and other recommendations to the district’s Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Sheridan, and to the business office. In December, all recommendations and requests are presented in a draft budget to the superintendent. Dr. Lerner, along with his central administration staff, will work to draft a balanced budget that takes into account programmatic requests, fixed costs and revenues. I will present this draft budget to the board at its February meeting. The board will then have one month to review and comment on the budget with action to follow in March. At that time, the administration will submit the approved budget to the NJ Department of Education for its review and approval. Finally board members, we hope to present the approved budget to the board of school estimate in April of 2024.

Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Susino reminded the board that their next scheduled meeting is Wednesday November 1st. This is the Board’s reorganization meeting and it will begin promptly at 5pm.

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 three HIB investigations. After a thorough investigation, it was determined that one was a non-HIB incident, and two were confirmed HIB incidents as follows:
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #2 – Paramus - School Year 2023-2024**
 - **HIB Incident: HIB Case #2 – BCA - School Year 2023-2024**
 - Incident—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments made by two offenders to one victim.
 - Intervention—Offenders are receiving restorative group counseling through the Wellness Team and will be offered ongoing counseling with our SAC. The victim has been offered counseling. All parents have been notified.
 - **HIB Incident: HIB Case #3 – IST NVD - School Year 2023-2024**
 - Incident—Insulting or demeaning verbal comments made by one offender to five victims from our school and one from another school.

- Intervention—Offender received a 1-day detention and restorative group counseling through the Wellness Team. The victims have been offered counseling. All parents have been notified.

❖ **DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOLADES AND OTHER IMPORTANT DISTRICT INFORMATION**

Dr. Lerner shared highlights of the many accomplishments of our students and staff, including the following, as well as other important district information and communications.

▪ **Navigating Success Through Wellness Initiative**

- NSTW completed the Freshmen Connection curriculum in both ATHS and BCA, including a poster design project at ATHS in which designed posters with themes they took away from the lessons. The top three designs won small goody gift bags for students and the posters will be displayed on the school's TVs to reinforce the messages of kindness, support and social responsibility
- In-person freshmen wellness screenings were completed on the Paramus campus, bringing the total number of students screened to nearly 800.

▪ **Applied Technology High School**

- ATHS is excited to share that this semester 47 of our students are eligible to join Phi Theta Kappa, the Bergen Community College Honor Society.

▪ **Bergen County Academies**

- BCA was recently recognized for Platinum status for College Culture, Platinum status for College Credit and Gold status for College Optimization. This AP recognition is in addition to the numerous International Baccalaureate (IB) classes the students participate in. To qualify for the 2023 AP School Honor Roll, schools must meet or exceed the criteria for a given recognition level for all three metrics. Congratulations to our students, teachers, and administration for this national recognition.
- BCA students recently represented our district by singing at multiple County events. Our students performed during a Law Day celebration, a 9-11 Memorial event, and Italian Heritage Day. Thank you to these talented singers and their teachers for representing our District at these County events.

▪ **Paramus Campus**

- A team of Environmental Design students collaborated with the Fort Lee Department of Public Works to expand the landscaping and grounds surrounding the pre-existing Butterfly Garden, also constructed by the students, as part of the Bergen Tech Paramus: CTE In-Service initiative.

▪ **Teterboro Campus**

- Once again Teterboro was awarded the Apple Distinguished School Award.
- In September, Bergen Tech's Student Council and Peer Leader Organization partnered to host a series of panels for ninth grade students to discuss opportunities, and answer questions about academic and student life at Bergen Tech.
- Bergen Tech congratulated 41 commended students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program and 5 additional students who were named National Merit Semifinalists.

▪ **Institute for Science and Technology @ Northern Valley – Demarest & Old Tappan Campuses**

● **UX/UI Design**

- The Navigating Success Through Wellness team spoke to freshman and sophomores about tolerance and respect.
- A Senior committed to Harvard.

- Celebrated Hispanic heritage month with a collaborative student created playlist.
- **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
 - Sports Medicine students are looking for current sporting news events and debating the legal and ethical implications - such as head injuries. They ask what goes wrong in certain situations and how the sports medicine team could improve.
- **Adult Education**
 - The number of enrolled apprentices in our evening classes increased again from 207 last year to 227 this semester.
 - Two of our graduates, who are now apprentices, were recognized and acknowledged by Bergen New Bridge Medical Center during the ribbon cutting ceremony on September 26th, 2023. One student was from our Electrician program and the other student graduated from our Plumbing program.
- **EMS**
 - We started our 9-1-1 telecommunications dispatch class, and the students and the instructors had an excellent class. This class will continue until November 15. Then we will start the Emergency Medical Dispatcher program. All required paperwork has been submitted to the state of New Jersey
 - During the month of October, we are teaching numerous Continuing Education programs to help the EMTs receive their required 48 CEU credits for their recertification.
- **Athletics**
 - Girls Volleyball is 14-2 and in the Quarterfinals of the Bergen County Tournament.
- **Bergen County Job Center**
 - Back by popular demand - The Bergen County Job Center resurrected BEN (Bergen's Employer Network)
- **BELA**
 - BELA students are enjoying learning about the changing of the seasons and are looking forward to their Halloween Parade.
- **BUS EVACUATION DRILLS**
 - As per resolution number 24-A-51T and in accordance with NJDOE requirements I am reporting to the board that the district has completed the first round of the required bus evacuation drills for the 2023-2024 school year.
- **NJOSAC**
 - We are very happy to share that we received our NJQSAC results and have been designated as a "High Performing School District." The Commissioner will recommend to the State Board of Education that the district be certified as providing a thorough and efficient system of education for a period of three years or until the next NJQSAC review.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

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

Administration	24-A-41T	Through	24-A-51T
Personnel	24-P-35T	Through	24-P-45T
Finance	24-F-76T	Through	24-F-89T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

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

24-A-46T, 24-A-51T, 24-F-76T, 24-F-77T, 24-F-79T, 24-F-82T

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-46T, 24-A-51T, 24-F-76T, 24-F-77T, 24-F-79T, 24-F-82T	
Mrs. 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 Mr. Kim, the Board moved to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Connelly adjourned the meeting at 5:43 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 _____