

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

MINUTES

Regular Public Meeting

December 12, 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 December 12, 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 5:32 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:

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*

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. Kim, to approve the following minutes:

Public Work Session Meeting:	October 19, 2023
Regular Public Meeting:	October 19, 2023
Reorganization Meeting:	November 1, 2023

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

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

BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

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

❖ **SY 2022-2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Update**

- Mr. John Susino, Board Secretary and School Business Administrator, informed the Board that the District’s external auditor was working to complete the financial report and certify such within the mandated timeframe. A presentation will be made to the Board once complete.

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. After a thorough investigation, it was determined the district had nine Non-HIB incident and nine confirmed HIB incident. Please note that this is over a two-month period as there was not Board meeting in November. The cases were as follows:
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #3 – BCA - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #4 – BCA - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #5 – IST NVOT - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #6 – IST NVOT - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #7 – ATHS/BCA/Teterboro - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #8 – BCA - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #9 – IST NVD - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #10 – Paramus (FT) - 2023-2024 SY**
 - **Non-HIB Incident: Alleged HIB Case #11 – ATHS - 2023-2024 SY**

 - **HIB Incident: HIB Case #4 – BCA - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—The offender made insulting or demeaning electronic communications to the victim.
 - *Intervention*—The offender has been referred to restorative group counseling. The victim has been offered individual counseling. All parents have been notified.
 - **HIB Incident: HIB Case #5 – Teterboro - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—The offender made insulting or demeaning electronic communications to the victim from another school district.
 - *Intervention*—The offender served a one-day out-of-school suspension and will have periodic follow-ups with the Student Assistance Counselor. The victim is from another school district. All parents have been notified.
 - **HIB Incident: HIB Case #6 – Teterboro - 2023-2024 SY**

- *Incident*—The offender from another school district made insulting or demeaning electronic communications to the victim.
- *Intervention*—The offender is from another school district. The victim will have periodic follow-ups with the Student Assistance Counselor. All parents have been notified.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #7 – IST NVOT - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—The offender made an offensive drawing and made insulting or demeaning verbal comments to the victim from another school district.
 - *Intervention*—The offender served a one-day out-of-school suspension, and was referred to restorative group counseling and individual counseling. The victim is from another school district. All parents have been notified.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #8 – ATHS - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—The offender made insulting or demeaning verbal comments to the victim.
 - *Intervention*—The offender served four days of out-of-school suspension, was sent for psychiatric screening, and is receiving individual counseling. The victim will receive periodic follow-ups from the Student Assistance Counselor and will continue to receive individual counseling. All parents have been notified.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #9 – IST NVOT - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—The offender from another school district altered photos of the victim that were insulting and demeaning.
 - *Intervention*—The offender is from another school district. The victim has been offered individual counseling. All parents have been notified.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #10 – BCA - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—The offender made insulting or demeaning verbal comments to the victim.
 - *Intervention*—The offender has been referred to restorative group counseling. The victim has been offered individual counseling and will receive periodic follow-ups with the Student Assistance Counselor. All parents have been notified.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #11 – ATHS - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—Three offenders made insulting or demeaning verbal comments to the victim.
 - *Intervention*—The offenders have been referred to restorative group counseling. One offender served a one-day out-of-school suspension and has a behavior contract. The other two offenders served a one-day lunch detention. The victim will receive periodic follow-ups with the Student Assistance Counselor. All parents have been notified.
- **HIB Incident: HIB Case #12 – Paramus (ST) - 2023-2024 SY**
 - *Incident*—Two offenders made insulting or demeaning verbal comments to the victim.
 - *Intervention*—The offenders have been referred to restorative group counseling. The victim has been offered individual 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**
 - All Freshmen district-wide will have completed their “Freshman Connection” Training by December 14.
 - Continued Monthly Parent Education Support Series, including topics such as: Helping Your Child Manage Stress and Wellness Lessons on Social Responsibility and Creating a Positive and Supportive Healthy School Culture.
- **Applied Technology High School**
 - On November 18th, ATHS hosted the 2nd annual East Coast Parliamentary Debate Tournaments which consisted of approximately 100 students from different schools from New York and New Jersey. The ATHS debate team placed third!

- **Bergen County Academies**
 - The Parent Partnership Organization recently sponsored a “Sold Out” Pot-Luck dinner on December 2nd. The gymnasium was beautifully decorated as parents brought food representing their diverse cultures and backgrounds. This event is an annual tradition dating back nearly thirty years and celebrates the rich diversity of BCA.
 - Our BCA Math team was recently invited to compete in the World Mathematics Team Championship in Seoul Korea. The objective of the WMTC is to cultivate the interest of mathematics for students, and to discover that mathematics and the logic used in mathematics can be fun, useful, and a good way to make friends. One student ranked first individual score overall, as well as the following team results: four gold medals, twelve silver medals, and six bronze medals. Thank you to everyone who made this trip possible and for providing this unique opportunity for our students.

- **Paramus Campus**
 - A Paramus junior Media Production student has just received his Adobe Certification for Adobe Premiere Pro, in addition to Photoshop. This marks the first time a student has ever achieved an Adobe Certification for Premiere Pro, and he is also the first person to receive multiple certifications in the Media Production trade.

- **Teterboro Campus**
 - A 10th grade Digital Media student was accepted into the highly selective Student Historian Internship Program in New York City. This student will spend the year using the resources of New-York Historical to conduct exciting research and create digital projects.
 - BT’s National Spanish Honor Society celebrated the 8th annual I Stand With Immigrants Day of Action on Wednesday, October 25th. All BT students were invited to participate in various events during lunch periods.

- **Institute for Science and Technology @ Northern Valley – Demarest & Old Tappan Campuses**
 - **UX/UI Design**
 - Students had to create their own original font, based on a day of observance in October. They then created an animation using the unique font, and tied it into the theme they selected.
 - **Exercise Science/Sports Medicine**
 - 9th grade Sports Medicine students just finished their introduction to the medical terminology unit and were excited to create "tiktok"-like videos - check our Instagram page @bctssportsmedicine for some of their submissions
 - 10th grade Anatomy and Physiology students are finishing up presenting their disease research on the epidermis and hypodermis. Students acted as though they were the expert on this disease and were presenting a case study to colleagues at a conference. They all did a wonderful job!

- **Adult Education**
 - On November 13, 2023, our Plumbing program welcomed a representative from Wales Darby who certified the current class in gas track piping.
 - On December 5, 2023 the Plumbing program also welcomed a representative from Rheem Plumbing Company, who certified the students in tankless water heater installation.

- **EMS**
 - During the months of October/November we have conducted numerous Bleeding Control Classes and CPR classes for school staff. Additionally, we have conducted the Rescue Task Force Class for North Arlington Police, Fire and EMS. We have additional classes scheduled during the month.

- While attending the National EMS Conference we had a presentation by Crisis Response Canines. Crisis Response Canines is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide strength, support, comfort and emotional response to families, communities and first responders.
- **Athletics**
 - Girls Volleyball advanced to the semifinals of the NJSIAA State Tournament.
- **Bergen County Job Center**
 - The Bergen County Job Center’s TANF (Temporary Assistance For Needy Families) is leading the State in its Work Participation Numbers.
- **BELA**
 - BELA students had a “Spooktacular” time during their Halloween Parade and continue to learn and socialize through play and.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION:

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

Administration	24-A-57T	Through	24-A-67T
Personnel	24-P-47T	Through	24-P-60T
Finance	24-F-97T	Through	24-F-115T

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

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

24-A-59T, 24-A-60T, 24-P-52T, 24-F-97T, 24-F-98T, 24-F-108T

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-59T, 24-A-60T, 24-P-52T, 24-F-97T, 24-F-98T, 24-F-108T	
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 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 5:46 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 _____