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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
January 28, 2020

Board Auditorium
540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey

The Board of Education held its Regular Public Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ. The public meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Dr. Meyerson, President of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:
Lawrence Meyerson, Ed.D. President
Jason Kim, Vice President
William Connelly
William J. Meisner, Ed.D.

Absent at roll call:
Louis DeLisio, Interim Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools

Also in attendance:
Howard Lerner, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Susino, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator
Andrea Sheridan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Gary Hall, Coordinator of Human Resources
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:

“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

The district is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.”
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Dr. Meisner, second by Mr. Connelly to approve the following minutes:

Work Session Meeting: December 10, 2019
Regular Session Meeting: December 10, 2019
Executive Session: November 1, 2019 and December 10, 2019

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Connelly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Kim</td>
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<td>Dr. Meisner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Meyerson</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. DeLisio</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Secretary John Susino requested that the audit report presented during the work session be submitted for the record as part of his report. Mr. Susino also informed 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 coming days, these individuals will receive an email from School Ethics containing an authentication code and link to the Commission’s web based compliance site. It is here that the statements will be completed. Although you have until April 30th to complete the forms, your submission must be reviewed and certified by my office and the county office. As such, Mr. Susino asked that you complete the forms well in advance of the deadline.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• HIB REPORTING

The District is required to report specific incidents of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying to the Board of Education. We had 2 HIB incidents and 5 non-HIB incidents in the last month.

HIB Incident PARAMUS-1, School Year 19-20
• Incident—insulting or demeaning comments.
• Intervention—parent contact, periodic follow-up, consultation with CM, SW and/or school psychologist, parent conferences, school disciplinarian involvement.

HIB Incident BCA-2, School Year 19-20
• Incident—insulting or demeaning comments.
• Intervention—parent contact, peer support/mentoring, periodic follow-up, consultation with ME, NM and/or school psychologist, individual student counseling, school disciplinarian involvement.
Dr. Lerner shared some highlights of the many accomplishments our students and staff have had, including the following:

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

- Early this month a 12th grader at ATHS was chosen for participation in Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle's Young Women's Leadership Program. This is a five-month fellowship program running from January-May 2020 for aspiring young women.
- On Friday, January 10th ATHS hosted its 1st Day of Tolerance. The goal of the Day of Tolerance was to provide students with an opportunity to explore diversity, and to learn the importance of respectfully co-existing in a community where values may differ. During the first half of the day, students were required to participate in grade-level school culture meetings – Who Are We Now & Who Do We Want to Become. In addition, they selected two additional workshops from the following list:
  - Gender Identity
  - Communication Through Improve
  - Body Image

BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES

- **Eleven BCA Students named National Semifinalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search**
  For the second time in school history, BCA has 11 National Semifinalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search. BCA tied with Bronx Science for the highest number of semifinalists in the nation. Semifinalists were chosen based on their exceptional research skills, commitment to academics, innovative thinking and promise as scientists. Ten of our semifinalists are in the area of Bio research and one is in the area of Mathematics research. Congratulations to our students and our teachers for their continued hard work. Two of the eleven are now finalists and will be going to Washington, D.C. in March. They are two of forty finalists in the nation.

- **55 BCA Students advance to New Jersey DECA Conference**
  We are happy to announce the results of the DECA Regional competition. 55 BCA students have qualified for the annual New Jersey DECA State conference. DECA’s industry-validated competitive events are aligned with the National Curriculum Standards in the career clusters of marketing, business management and administration, finance, and hospitality and tourism. Please congratulate our students and our teachers for their continued hard work.

PARAMUS CAMPUS

- Teachers and students on the Paramus campus welcomed 10 women from the Center for Hope and Safety, formerly Shelter Our Sisters, an organization dedicated to assisting victims, and their children, of domestic violence. During their visit, the guests were treated to manicures, pedicures, facials, a makeup session, and a lunch prepared by our culinary students. They also participated in several wellness activities during the course of their visit.

TETERBORO CAMPUS

- On December 6th our Computer Science major students participated in the Cyber Patriot Competition. "CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association (AFA) to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future." They competed against over 6700 teams across the nation.
• The French II Class is corresponding/exchanging French for English with French Students at the Lycée Jute Siegfried in Paris. They completed the first exchange (basic introductory letters) this month. They will continue with two more in the New Year.

ATHLETICS

• Girls Varsity Basketball won the William Ferguson Holiday Tournament.

ADULT EDUCATION

• New! ESL part time evening site at Bergenfield, is already filled up to its 75-seat capacity with another 75 names on a wait list.
• Adult Education admissions staff has increased collaboration with counselors of various local high schools in the county. As a result, an increase in group visits has been conducted for Full-Time daytime programs.

EMS

• Our Fall 2019 EMS program ended on January 16, 2020. Our Spring 2020 programs started on January 16, 2020 with the Spring 2020 EMT program starting on February 3, 2020
• On Monday, January 27, 2020 we start teaching the Emergency Medical Responder program for the approximately 100 police recruits at the Bergen County Police Academy.

DAY CARE

• The children, staff and families had a terrific time at our holiday show.

ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER

✓ Scheduled “roll-out” date for CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems) test on January 25th
✓ GSETA (Garden State Employment and Training Association) Operations Committee Meeting – Eatontown, NJ

✓ BCTS DISTRICT AND BOARD GOALS 2019-2020

PROGRAM:

By June 2020, the District will create a comprehensive plan to add multiple, new career and technical program offerings that align to both student interests and workforce needs.

So far this school year, the District has been researching the levels of student interest, job opportunities, facility needs, and curriculum for several cutting-edge CTE programs. Fabrication and Design, Dental Healthcare, Emergency Services, and Global Logistics have all been explored. As part of that work, surveys were administered to middle school students around the County. Small focus groups were also run to gather additional feedback on student interests. Department of Labor resources were used to assess current employment levels as well as the long-range projections for these careers. In addition, industry experts were consulted and course outlines and student projects were designed. Finally, we have been working with a team of architects to discuss the diverse facility needs of these very different programs.
In late December, the NJDOE released a set of guidelines for The Securing Our Students' Futures Bond Act which will release a grant opportunity this spring. Currently, we are reviewing the criteria that will be used for this grant, along with the results of our research, to determine which of these CTE offerings will be the best match for us. That analysis will allow us to create the timeline, budgets, and curriculum documents needed for this long-range plan and subsequent grant application.

COMMUNITY:

By June 2020, the District will recruit students for a new satellite program that will increase access to career and technical education for students around the County.

After multiple planning meetings with the Northern Valley Administrative team, and a focus group with students, the recruitment efforts for the new Institute for Interactive Design Technology began this past October. The District ran two open house presentations that were attended by more than one hundred attendees. Prospective students and their families listened to presentations from industry experts in the field of UX design as well as NJIT’s Dean of the School of Architecture and Design. In addition, district and Northern Valley administrators shared information on non-CTE course offerings, extra-curricular opportunities, and logistical information on this new school within a school. As of the start of this month, more than 60 students have submitted applications for this new program.

TECHNOLOGY:

By June 2020, the district will develop and implement improvements to data security by aligning to Best Practice and Industry Standard policies and procedures. Improvements will be addressed at the device level, across the network and on servers and cloud-based services.

A collaborative cybersecurity workshop series has been planned where experts in school and government data threats have been engaged to work with our District and key partners to develop comprehensive policies and implementation guidelines. This outcome driven workshop will result in specific recommendations that will better support and protect our staff and students’ critical data.

BUDGET:

By June 2020, establish a budget for the 2020/2021 school year that is both cost effective and responsive to the educational needs of our students.

This past November, principals and program supervisors worked closely with Assistant Superintendent Sheridan and the business office to develop projected student enrollments and budget requests/wish list items for the coming school year. The business office assembled this information into a draft budget that was presented to the Superintendent in December. The Superintendent and his central administration staff are currently working to finalize a balanced budget that will be presented to the Board at its February meeting.

2019-2020 SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS

**Technology:** By June 2020, The District will develop and implement a new model for school security on the BCTS Paramus Campus. This model will include upgrades and additions to Video, Building Access, Alert Systems, Global Communication and Crisis Management systems.
The BCTS Technology Team along with the Paramus Campus Administration and the District Safety Committee met throughout the fall and developed a comprehensive plan to create a new model for school security for the district. To date all hardware for the project has been purchased and delivered. The next step is to wire the infrastructure and install the new hardware. Once installed, training will be provided to staff to utilize the new system.

Mental Health/Wellness Goal: Since September 1, 2019, the four BCTS campuses have had the services of an MSW intern for 21 hours per week, as well as a LCSW for 16 hours and a Registered Dietician/Yoga Teacher for 16 hours. These individuals have provided drop-in groups for students; skill-based workshops for students and staff; in-class presentations on positive mental health and self-care; and individual/group counseling. In addition, Jill Pantaleo, owner and director of BC Therapy, our contracted partner, has held five monthly parent education and support groups. These groups have been attended by parents of all four campuses. Professional development for staff has included workshops on Mindfulness as well as Adolescent Anxiety and Depression. Ms. Pantaleo has also facilitated teacher groups on two campuses to ascertain the stress challenges being experienced by staff and students.

Podcast Goal: Using the district’s Rodecaster Pro Podcasting equipment, we launched ‘Lerner On Learning’, a 10-12 minute quarterly podcast, hosted by Dr. Lerner that addresses current topics affecting career and technical schools. Each episode features an interview with one of our building principals, giving them a chance to highlight the programs and achievements that make their schools unique. Our first episode focused on internship opportunities and a school to career initiative with the principal of our Paramus Campus, Jeremy Wertheim. Our second episode outlined workplace simulations with industry partners with the principal of our Applied Technology High School, Dennis Montone, and our Assistant Superintendent, Andrea Sheridan. Our next podcast to be released will be with the principal of BCA, Russ Davis, and we’ll be discussing the achievements of their research and global exchange programs later this month. You can listen to all episodes of ‘Lerner on Learning’ by clicking the link at the top of our website: www.bergen.org.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS:

On the motion of Mr. Kim, second by Mr. Connelly the following resolutions were presented for action.

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BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

There was no discussion.

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:

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<tr>
<td>Mr. Connelly</td>
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OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ANY ISSUE)

Mr. Haobo Lai, an Academy parent from Rutherford, spoke to the Board about the importance of “wellness” to students in relationship to their academic performance. He expressed concern that the homework workload seems to be excessive and creates a major problem for students who also wish to participate in other school activities. He requested the district to review this matter with the hope that a better balance between homework and wellness can be struck. Such a balance would assist students in achieving higher GPA and at the same time permit fuller participation in other school activities.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Connelly, second by Dr. Meisner. All members present voted in the affirmative. Dr. Meyerson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

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 2/25/20