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

MINUTES

Work Session Meeting
October 15, 2019

Board Auditorium
540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey

The Board of Education held its Public Work Session on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mr. Kim Vice-President of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:
Jason Kim, Vice President
William Connelly
William J. Meisner, Ed.D.
Joseph Zarrà, Interim Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools

Absent at roll call:
Lawrence Meyerson, Ed.D. President

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 Record and Herald News

The district is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.”
RETIREMENTS

FRANK NAPOLITANO

Frank Napolitano has been an employee of the Bergen County Technical Schools District since June of 1994; a career that spans over 25 years. Frank has been an integral part of the school’s custodial department. He is a hard-working and genuine individual who always has an enthusiastic smile on his face. Frank is dedicated and committed to ensuring that the tasks at hand are always completed. The entire school will all miss seeing him on a daily basis. We wish him well in his retirement.

JOSEPH DEFALCO

Joe DeFalco came to BCA after working with our Adult Education program, and his lab immediately became the go-to destination for our engineering academy students. Whether students wanted to build a robot or design a bridge, they could always count on Mr. DeFalco’s expertise and encouragement to see them through. For years, Mr. DeFalco also headed up BCA’s award-winning Battlebots team, a group of engineering students who competed with other teams from around the country. Winning in the Battlebots competition often required our teams to put in late nights and weekends in the lab. Mr. DeFalco was with them every step of the way, such is his dedication to his students.

Mr. DeFalco also led his students to success at The Panasonic Creative Design Challenge, a premier science and technology competition where teams of New Jersey high school students put their engineering and technical skills to the test. Many of BCA’s most successful engineers got their start working with Mr. DeFalco on this competition.

Whether it was working with our first-place competitive teams, or teaching AutoCAD design or teaching Night School, Joe DeFalco has been a powerful force in our community.

We thank him for his many years of service and dedication to the students of our District and we wish him all the best in the future.

KAREN WALLER

Karen Waller has been an exemplary educator during her 17-year tenure at Bergen County Technical Schools. As the architect of the Visual and Graphic Design program, she planned her technical courses to be a combination of classical art training and authentic, real world tasks that prepare students for the field. Ms. Waller’s work with students has literally reshaped the image of the school. From designing admissions materials to editing school spirit videos, Ms. Waller’s influence is seen in the physical culture of everyday life at BCTS – Paramus Campus.

In addition to shaping the way stakeholders see BCTS, Ms. Waller and her students brought attention to the Paramus Campus from across the globe. Artwork from Visual and Graphic Design students have been displayed at exhibits all over the world. Ms. Waller’s ability to garner interest from far reaches is best exemplified by her work to create the world’s longest graffiti scroll, which was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Many of Ms. Waller’s most significant accomplishments at Bergen Tech were recognized through the grants and awards that she and her students won. Ms. Waller was able to create cutting edge programs for her students by regularly receiving grant funding to enhance instruction.

Ms. Waller was a pioneer in creating career and technical educational service projects for her students. From her very first days at Bergen County Technical Schools, Ms. Waller had her students entering Project Ignition competitions, creating public awareness campaigns against smoking, and developing PSAs to help keep prom goers safe.

To say that Ms. Waller will be missed is an understatement. Her contributions to the school community are innumerable, and her retirement leaves a void which will likely never be filled. We wish her all the best in retirement.
WILLIAM PAVLU

Bill Pavlu is retiring after 42 years in education and 36 years of teaching in our District. When Bill arrived at Bergen Technical Schools of Bergen County in 1984, he quickly got to work and literally rebuilt the existing Print Shop by staying late nights working on equipment with the help of his father -- who was also a lifelong printer.

His dedication to his students and his insistence on “making sure they learn something new each day” speaks to his value as a classroom teacher.

His calm demeanor, strong moral compass and positive interactions with people made him a valuable asset to the teachers of the District. In his role as President of the Teachers’ Association, he led his colleagues through some difficult but rewarding times.

Bill organized BCA’s annual Print Week celebration which pays tribute to Ben Franklin’s role as a printer and reminds students of the power of the printed word. Bill has also worked tirelessly to build the sets for our school’s theater productions which continue to amaze audiences each time the curtain rises.

Bill’s technical skills, in a variety of areas, are unmatched and there is literally nothing he can’t make or fix. Bill is many things -- a printer, a plumber, an electrician, a carpenter, an auto mechanic, and so much more. But most of all, he is an amazing teacher, leader and mentor who loves to share his knowledge with others.

Thank you, Bill, for your many years of dedicated service to our students and the District. We wish you a long, happy and healthy retirement!

PRESENTATIONs

BCA Presentation: “Life below water”

Preserving and sustaining “Life below Water” is one of the United Nations’ seventeen “Sustainable Development Goals.” These goals are part of an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership to improve the world.

The staff and students of the Bergen County Academies will be presenting their ongoing research work involving Coral Reef Restoration. This research involves teachers from various disciplines; including biology, chemistry, physics, engineering and mathematics, working with students on a variety of topics to improve the health of our coral reefs around the world.

Presenters included:
Russell Davis, Principal
Dr. David Reeves, Microscopy Lab Specialist
Thomas King, 11th grade student
Maya De Los Santos, 12th grade student

Student Learning Report

Richard Panicucci presented Student Learning Report (see attached)

Student Safety Data System: Report Period 2

Patricia Cosgrove presented Student Safety Data System: Report Period 2 (see attached)
REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

The Board reviewed the following Resolutions:

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DISCUSSION—ANY ITEM ON AGENDA—BOARD ONLY

There was no discussion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

There was no public participation.

ANY ITEM FOR DISCUSSION—BOARD ONLY

There was no discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to go into executive session, per the resolution, was made at 5:30 PM by Mr. Connelly second by Dr. Meisner. All members present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

“Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4–12, certain specified items are exempt from public disclosure and discussion. At this time, the Board of Education intends convene in private session, from which the public shall be excluded, to discuss matters, which fall under the exclusion of pending or anticipated litigation. Therefore, the public portion of this meeting shall now be adjourned. The results of any Board discussion conducted in this private session shall be made public at the earliest possible date.”

Due to the absence of Mr. Kim, Board Secretary John Susino entertained a motion by Mr. Zarra, seconded by Dr. Meisner, to suspend the regular order of business for the purpose of appointing a President Pro Tempore for the remainder of the work session meeting as well as the public meeting to follow.

On a motion by Dr. Meisner, second by Mr. Zarra, the Board members present unanimously appointed Mr. Connelly President Pro Tempore.

A motion to reopen the work session was made at 5:50 pm by Dr. Meisner, second by Mr. Zarra. All members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion to close the work session and open the regular meeting was made at 5:50 PM by Dr. Meisner, second by Mr. Zarra. All members present voted in the affirmative.
Respectfully submitted,

John Susino  
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of 12/10/19