The Board of Education held its Public Work Session on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mr. Hryczyk, President of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:
Raymond Hryczyk, President
William J. Meisner, Ed.D.
Lawrence Meyerson, Ed.D. Vice President

Absent at roll call:
Jason Kim
Joseph Zarra, 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
Ava Miller, Assistant Board Secretary
William Soukas, Esq., Board Attorney

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.”
PRESENTATION

Overview of the trip to Costa Rica

Andrea Sheridan introduced Lauren Dungan, student at the ATHS who spoke to the Board about her trip to Cost Rica, as part of Sustainable Summer: “Bridge to the Future”.

Over the month of July, I traveled across Costa Rica with 10 other teens from around the country, through an organization, Sustainable Summer (Bridge to the Future). We started the trip by exploring the Costa Rican culture and meeting with indigenous tribes to learn about living a simplistic life. We said good bye to the tribe and rafted out on the Pacuare River. Our next stop was EARTH University. EARTH University is a 4 year college in Costa Rica whose purpose is to educate students of developing countries (often from Africa) of sustainable agricultural practices. After graduation, the graduates go back to their home countries and teach local farmers and workers about what they learned. While at the university, we toured their model farms (all organic) which included vegetable farms, animal farms, and urban farm models. We learned about different agricultural practices such as the mandala system, agroforestry, and polyculture. One of the highlights of this visit was our seminar with the students. We discussed human's involvement in climate change and the environmental impact we have. What was most insightful about this was hearing from someone who was not American and did not live in America reflecting on our way of life. After a couple days at EARTH University, we went to Sarapiqui where we stayed in an eco-lodge in the rainforest. While in Sarapiqui, we were spent two days working on a local organic farmer’s farm. He used to work for a large, industrialized company. His story of switching from industrialized agriculture to organic farming was truly inspiring. While in Sarapiqui, we were able to immerse in the Costa Rican culture by spending time with the locals. After leaving Sarapiqui, we went to Mastatal, where we would be staying for the next week. We stayed at a world renowned natural building and sustainability school called Rancho Mastatal. While here, we studied natural building techniques, such as wattle and daub, and building plans. We had multiple lessons on sustainable food systems and the distribution of food and resources in a growing population. We learned about fermentation and its importance in everyday life and got to practice fermenting different foods. One main topic throughout our stay was permaculture and its benefits. We ended our trip in Quepos with a day on the beach to have one final lesson on bringing what we learned back to the. After a day in Quepos, we all said our goodbyes and flew home.

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 5:10 PM by Dr. Meisner second by Dr. Meyerson. 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.”

A motion to reopen the work session was made at 5:45 pm by Dr. Meisner, second by Dr. Meyerson. All members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion to close the work session and open the regular meeting was made at 5:45 PM by Dr. Meyerson, second by Dr. Meisner. 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 9/25/18