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

MINUTES

Work Session Meeting
June 28, 2016

Board Auditorium
540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey

The Board of Education held its Public Work Session on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 in the Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mr. Kim, President of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:
Jason Kim, President
William J. Meisner, Ed.D., Vice-President
Raymond Hryczyk
Lawrence Meyerson, Ed.D.
Norah Peck, Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools

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

All present pledged allegiance to the flag of 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 this school to all board members and the following:

County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders
Editor, The Record
Editor, Herald News

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

• BERGEN COUNTY TEACHER/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Four teachers were recognized and received this prestige’s Recognition Award:
Maria Mihas – Paramus Campus
Carlos Pena – Teterboro Campus
Nancy Sytsma - ATHS
Paul Kaser – Hackensack Campus

Carole Terrizzi spoke about Maria Mihas

Maria Mihas began her career in education just shy of 24 years ago. She spent 14 years in Arizona teaching Physical Education and health before moving to back to New Jersey and starting work at Bergen Tech Paramus. From the very start Ms. Mihas was a vibrant member of the school community. She is a regular attendee of most after school events including National Honor Society Induction, Prom, and Senior Awards night.

In addition to her support of the school community, Ms. Mihas is always working to provide individualized instruction for students looking to improve and maintain their health. With this fervor, Ms. Mihas worked with district grant writers to win a Shaping NJ grant. In doing so Ms. Mihas not only provided a better educational experience for her own students, but partnered with Special Services Blesham School to provide co-curricular activities that enriched the lives of students at both schools.

Ms. Mihas’s commitment to fitness education has helped shape the physical education program as well as the facility. Her expertise was invaluable in developing plans for the recently built cardio/weight room. On behalf of the Paramus Campus students, parents, administrators and staff we congratulate you on the honor of being chosen for teacher of the year.

Andrea Sheridan spoke about Nancy Sytsma

Nancy Sytsma has been with the District as a Student Assistance Counselor for 20 years. She has been an integral part of the Bergen County Academy by initiating a unique and community-based Peer Leadership program, SPARK. She serves as the BCA Anti-Bullying Specialist, Affirmative Action Officer and the SOS (Sources of Strength-Suicide Prevention) Advisor. This year she has taken on the challenge of becoming actively involved with our new high school at Bergen Community College, Applied Tech High School. Additionally, she teaches the Foundations of Social, Emotional and Academic Success to all Freshmen in the Academy, as well as Applied Tech. What makes her so special is that everything she does revolves around assisting students with their emotional well-being. She is an asset to both the Academy and Applied Tech.

Jon Chevalier spoke about Carlos Pena

Carlos Pena has been a Spanish teacher for seven years prior to becoming a school counselor. His Educational Philosophy: “I believe that every student deserves the proper support to allow them to succeed in an educational setting that prepare them and for their future.” He believes that success comes from “building relationships with students of all backgrounds, having enthusiasm to assist students, advocating for students' success, and collaborating with parents and other school professionals.”
He devotes a great deal of time getting to know each student and their individual academic and emotional needs. He gets to know each child and their family, he views himself as playing many roles: He is a guide, encourager, and problem-solver. He encourages each of his students to see the value in learning from each other's cultures in order to respect and appreciate different points of view and beliefs. Carlos is successful because he works collaboratively with students, teachers, parents and administrators.

Andrea Sheridan spoke about Paul Kaser and accepted the award on his behalf.

Paul Kaser, Bergen County Academies Guidance Counselor is one of the finest examples of the best of the best. His dedication to his students, colleagues and community is exemplary, but it is his ability to rally his students in a positive manner that makes things happen, that truly sets him apart. Paul is an extraordinary organizer, he has led many successful student trips to various colleges and organized unique Global Exchanges for students to London and Hong Kong. His attention to details results in amazing experiences for our students. In addition to his role as Guidance Counselor, Paul takes on additional responsibilities. During Paul's tenure as the Student Council Advisor, our chapter became a National Gold Council of Excellence. Again, Paul's dedication to our students and community was apparent as his leadership and guidance helped our students achieve this distinction.

Paul is a positive force at the Bergen County Academies. His creative ideas and ability to get things done are second to none. We are fortunate to have Paul at the Academies and we know that he has a very bright future ahead.

REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

The Board reviewed the following Resolutions:

Personnel 16-P-170T through 16-P-201T  
Finance 16-F-215T through 16-F-254T

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 by the Board.
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to go into executive session, per the resolution, was made at 6:15 PM by Dr. Meyerson, 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.”

A motion to reopen the work session was made at 6:55 PM by Dr. Meyerson, second by Dr. Meisner. All members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion to close the work session and open the regular meeting was made at 6:55 PM by Dr. Meyerson, second by Mr. Hryczyk. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

John Susino
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of 8/23/16