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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
June 21, 2018

Board Auditorium
540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey

The Board of Education held its Regular Public Meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2018 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, NJ. The public meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm by Mr. Hryczyk, President of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Present at roll call:
Raymond Hryczyk, President
William J. Meisner, Ed.D.
Joseph Zarra, Interim Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools

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

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 Schools for Curriculum and Instruction
William Soukas, Esq., Board Attorney
Gary Hall, Coordinator of Human Resources
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. Zarra to approve the following minutes:

Work Session Meeting: May 31, 2018
Regular Session Meeting: May 31, 2018
Executive Session: May 31, 2018

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes:

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<td>Mr. Hryczyk</td>
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<td>Mr. Kim</td>
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<td>Dr. Meisner</td>
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<td>Dr. Meyerson</td>
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<td>Mr. Zarra</td>
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BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

John Susino, Board Secretary, reminded the Board that its next scheduled meeting is August 28, 2018. The Board will have 3 meetings on that date. First at 4pm, the Board will conduct its annual ethics review and goal setting. This will be followed by the Board’s work session at 5pm and public meeting at 5:45pm.

Mr. Susino also wished all present a relaxing summer.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The District is required to report specific incidents of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying to the Board of Education. We have had one reportable incident in the last month as follows:

1. HIB Incident T–7, School Year 17–18
   Incident—insulting/demeaning language and ethnic harassment
   Intervention—students will seek out SAC as needed. Offender will process situation with a therapist and review current events regarding politically correct language, sensitivity and tolerance awareness.

Dr. Lerner shared some highlights of the many accomplishments our students and staff have had, including the following:

Applied Technology

- On Wednesday, May 30th Assemblyman Calabrese was at ATHS to tour the school and interact with the students. He was thoroughly impressed with our students and our school.
- On June 4th Applied Technology High School held its first National Honor Society Induction ceremony to honor the ten new inductees of the junior class.

Bergen Academies
• BCA Theatre has garnered some exciting awards and nominations that we are thrilled to share with you. Montclair Theatre Night—Foxy Award: Winner for Outstanding Acting Ensemble in a Classical Play and Outstanding Achievement in Stage Direction for Elektra.
• The Bergen County Academies American Computer Science League teams placed first in the world in the ACSL All-Stars Contest recently. This year over 200 teams in the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa and Asia participated.

Paramus Campus

• Senior students in our Green Building Trades program replaced a garden at Washington South with a “water bottle” garden to simulate an indoor greenhouse effect, while providing protection from animals, and recycling plastic to help the environment.

Teterboro Campus

• Two Computer Science 11th graders were both accepted into the selective and prestigious Governor's School program. The young man will attend the Governor's School in the Sciences and the young woman will attend the Governor's School of Engineering and Technology.
• Congratulations to the student who won 1st place in the 2018 Bergen County NAACP essay contest. The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

Athletics

• Boys Tennis won the Bergen County Tournament for large schools.

Day Care

• Everyone was excited for our Graduation/show on June 13th! We had 6 pre-k graduates and 2 kindergarten graduates.

Adult Education (WBA Updates)

• Nine plumbing students have been participating in paid WBA internships, 4 days a week since April 30. Eight out of the nine students are expected to seamlessly transition into full time employment with a WBA sponsor after their graduation date on June 15.
• WBA Internship & Job Fair took place on Wednesday, June 6 for all seven eligible HVAC/R students to start internship on June 19. Nine HVAC/R employers took part in this event and spoke with each student in an informal networking manner in the HVAC/R shop. Employers have been holding offsite interviews with students to select new interns.

ESL News

• One of our adult ESL students won 2nd place in the Photography category of the New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning (NJALL) Writing Contest.

EMS

• The spring 2018 semester has finished – NJ State EMT certification exam was administered by NJ Department of Health on Thursday, June 7, 2018.
• Summer EMT program starts on Wednesday June 27, 2018 and will continue until August 15, 2018.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS:

On the motion of Mr. Zarra, second by Dr. Meisner, the following resolutions were presented for action.

| Administration | 18-A-151T | Through | 18-A-163T |
| Personnel      | 18-P-143T | Through | 18-P-171T |
| Finance        | 18-F-234T | Through | 18-F-272T |

BOARD DISCUSSION - CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

There was no Board 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. Hryczyk</td>
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OFF-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ANY ISSUE)

Three Teachers from the Teterboro Campus spoke on the behalf of the Teterboro staff regarding building safety issues. Their concern included: poor air quality, airport pollution, potential soil contamination and flooding conditions in the building.
Jon Bercovici, President of the Bergen County Vocational and Technical Schools Education Association, made the following remarks:

I have worked mostly at Bergen Academies and on our Paramus Campus but am part of the Teterboro Child Study Team and have traveled often to Teterboro for meetings over the years. I also have many friends and colleagues currently working at Teterboro in addition to the fact my daughter attended Teterboro several years ago. Between the school administration, so capably led by Dave Tankard, the devoted and talented staff, an incredible student body and caring and involved parents, I have watched Teterboro develop from a shared and full time vocational high school into one of the showpiece public high schools in the nation. Teterboro has been ranked as one of the top 20 public high schools in the country and is ranked 2nd or 3rd in the state right alongside Bergen Academies. While Teterboro as a school is one well worth celebrating, its safety issues are not and that is what we are here to discuss tonight.

As you know the campus is located along route 46 directly across the street from Teterboro Airport. There are four areas of concern that are impacting or potentially impacting the school: air quality, airport safety, potential soil contamination, and flooding.

Central administration, building administration, and our teachers' association, have joined together in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect to address this situation which we greatly appreciate. Dr. Lerner asked for the formation of a committee in the 2017-18 school year to address this important matter. The committee is made up of the following stakeholders all of whom are here today, Andrea Sheridan, the Assistant Superintendent and former longtime principal at Teterboro, John Susino, the district Business Administrator whose daughter currently attends Teterboro, Dave Tankard the Teterboro Principal, myself, as well as two longtime teachers at Teterboro; Mabel Van Daalen, Business Teacher, and Jaysaree Sankar, a Chemistry Teacher.

All of us have worked throughout the year to research and better understand the situation at Teterboro as well as trying to find solutions for the school to be safe in both the short and long term including looking into the future of the building as a viable place to house one of the premier schools in the country.

Mabel Van Daalen made the following remarks:

My name is Mabel Van Daalen and I have been a teacher in this district for twenty years. I came here tonight on behalf of myself, my students and my colleagues, to express safety concerns at the Teterboro campus.

My first concern is poor indoor air quality. I have had casual conversations with building occupants about the concerns. Some may be vague, perhaps to the effect that one feels "sick" including headaches, nausea, respiratory issues, and eye irritation or that there are "odors." But I can assure you that their concerns are expressed due to sincere feelings. Since people respond to stressors differently, it may be that the people who grumble the most are indeed more sensitive, but, in essence they are like the "canary in the coal mine", providing an indication of a problem. I have spent the past few months learning about contaminants caused by planes and vehicles. There is conclusive documentation about the poor air quality around Teterboro Airport provided by Department of Environmental Protection, independent contractors, and by the Port Authority. There is equally as much information about the dangers of vehicle exhaust. Likewise, there is considerable evidence supporting a relationship between poor air quality and student learning and illness.
As far back as 2001 there have been evaluations done of the school regarding air quality impacts caused by the airport. Those studies indicate findings ranging from:

- air toxic concentrations higher than other locations (2003 Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Institute)
- measurable negative impacts on local air quality (2003 Malcolm Pirnie)
- concentrations of compounds consistently detected are associated with cancer risks five times higher than normal and the airport exceeds health benchmarks inadequate air exchange, and insufficient fresh air intake

The recommendations in those studies include:

- Installing high efficiency filters to remove volatile organic Compounds (2003 Malcolm Pirnie) and recommending High Efficiency Particulate filters (2003 Malcolm Pirnie)

My colleagues and I also have concerns about the physical safety of being near the airport and Route 46. Just over a year ago there were 2 fatalities from a plane crash. That latest plane crash was the 6th major accident in 12 years. In fact, the National Transportation Safety Board reported that Teterboro airport is "known for safety problems."

A newspaper columnist once called Teterboro airport "an accident waiting to happen." There is potential for cars or trucks to run off the road. Just last summer a car hit the building. This would have been catastrophic had there been students on the sidewalk.

I, along with Ms. Sheridan, Mr. Susino, Mr. Tankard, my colleague Dr. Sankar, and Mr. Bercovici participate on a committee formed to address the air quality. It is refreshing to see a display of eagerness and a willingness to as a team work toward making meaningful change. An analysis of the existing HVAC system to ascertain the viability of retrofitting it to improve filtration has begun. Of course, this will not address the physical safety concerns, but it is a step in the right direction.

The airport has increased aircraft movements by 22% in the past few years and an expansion is in the works. There are safety and environmental impacts to land uses around airports, as deadly toxins are emitted through day-to-day operations of the airport. Schools are not compatible with airports, aircraft, or highways. Students and staff deserve and expect a healthy environment in which to learn and teach. Similarly, parents expect schools to provide a safe, healthy environment conducive to learning. I implore you to safeguard the smallest breath to prolonged exertion of all Teterboro campus inhabitants. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak tonight.

Dr. Jayasree Sankar made the following remarks:

Good Evening Honorable Board of Education members, Dr. Lerner, Mrs. Sheridan, parents, colleagues, students.

My name is Dr. Jayasree Sankar. I have been teaching chemistry at the Teterboro location for 14 years. I am here this evening on behalf of students and my fellow teachers to express some concerns on possible lead contamination and recurring local flooding at the Teterboro campus.

To start with, I would like to bring your attention to the cause for a possible lead contamination.

The EPA has reported total lead emissions estimated from 3414 airports. Teterboro is listed as one of the top 25th in the list of airports with a 579 Kg/year or 0.6tons/year emissions based on the Landing Take
Off for Piston Engine aircrafts. Most piston-engine aircraft fall into the categories of either general aviation (GA) or air taxi (AT).

Teterboro is a reliever airport focusing on smaller airplanes mainly using leaded aviation gas. 579Kg/year is almost double the emission at the Newark Liberty airport with 304Kg/year. The leaded aviation fuel uses tetraethyl lead as an additive for better fuel performance. Lead deposited to soil and water can remain available for uptake by plants, animals and humans for long periods of time. Emissions during local flying are more likely to influence air and soil concentrations of lead in the vicinity of the airport. It is a big concern because they occur near the airport, often at altitudes below the mixing height. (mixing height is defined as the height of the layer adjacent to the ground over which an emitted or entrained inert non-buoyant tracer will be mixed (by turbulence) within a time scale of about one hour or less)

The report indicates:

- The aircrafts with smaller piston engines contribute to a greater emission of toxic fumes and particulate matter (small solid material particles) including lead and other toxic metals.
- This particulate matter containing lead will undergo dispersion and easily deposit on the ground as insoluble materials on the top surface of the soil, which can create serious health conditions when children are exposed while playing and performing their physical education activities.
- Students and teachers use the field area as part of their physical education class and the soil lead contamination is a serious threat to them.

*The next concern I would like to bring your attention is the local flooding:*

The Federal Aviation Administration in their short term Environmental Assessment for Airport Development report, *(based on the flood insurance Rate maps, FIRMS dated May 30, 2014)* Identifies Teterboro as Zone AE subject to storm surge flooding. In the vicinity of the project, the base flood elevation is 8 ft. Last year flash flooding destroyed one car in our parking lot, and there has been a similar incident a few years back as well. Flash flooding have occurred several times in the past in our campus affecting some low-level classrooms as well. A recent article in NJ.com reports that The Regional Planning Association recommending phasing out Teterboro airport due to rising sea levels and possible flooding. This is also a great concern to our Teterboro community especially with the proposed expansion plans for the airport.

Being part of the committee addressing and discussing these issues, I am very happy that the Administration team is listening to our concerns and ready to bring action plan to address these issues. We believe a healthy and safe environment for our students and employees is very important and strongly believe that, administration will provide us that the way we deserve it. Thank you for listening and also your valuable time.

Mr. Hryczyk, President of the Board, responded to the teachers by indicating that the administration and the Board take this matter very seriously. He stated that the safety of the students and teachers at the Teterboro campus is the Board’s primary concern. He asked Dr. Lerner to do further research and review each of the conditions that were set forth by the teachers. He requested the Superintendent to take all the necessary steps to investigate the situation and recommend remedial action, if necessary, to the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Meisner, second by Mr. Zarra. All members present voted in the affirmative. Mr. Hryczyk adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

NOTE: No further action was taken by the board.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

John Susino
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of 8/28/18