

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN

Regular Meeting

January 16, 2024

Call to Order the Regular Meeting of the Bergen County Special Services Board of Education

Roll Call:

	Present	Absent
Mr. Barnaskas		
Mr. DeLisio		
Ms. Epstein		
Ms. Marti		
Dr. Lancellotti		
Mr. Lentini		
Mr. McCarthy		

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Open Public Meetings Act Statement

The following statement was read as required by the Open Public Meeting Law:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure 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 interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with provision of this law, the Bergen County Special Services School District has caused the 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

3. May I have a motion to approve the Minutes of:

Regular Meeting: December 19, 2023

Work Session Meeting: December 19, 2023

Introduced by _____, second by _____

Roll Call to approve the minutes

Mr. Barnaskas
Mr. DeLisio
Ms. Epstein
Ms. Marti
Dr. Lancellotti
Mr. Lentini
Mr. McCarthy

Yes No Abstain Absent

4. Board Secretary Report
5. Superintendent's Report
- **Superintendent Report**

6. May I have a motion to introduce the consent agenda:

Administration	24-A-61S	through	24-A-69S
Personnel	24-P-97S	through	24-P-111S
Finance	24-F-60S	through	24-F-68S

Introduced by _____, second by _____

7. Are there any Comments/ discussions—regarding any item on Consent Agenda—Board only
8. Open the floor to public comment on Consent Agenda only. Speaker to please state name and town (5–minute maximum per speaker)
9. Close Public Participation

Roll Call Consent Agenda

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Barnaskas				
Mr. DeLisio				
Ms. Epstein				
Ms. Marti				
Dr. Lancellotti				
Mr. Lentini				
Mr. McCarthy				

Off-Consent Agenda

10. May I have a motion to introduce the off-consent agenda

Introduced by _____, second by _____

11. Is there any discussion on the off-consent agenda – Board Only
12. Open the floor to public comment on off-consent agenda items only.
13. Close Public Participation

Roll Call Off-Consent Agenda

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Barnaskas				
Mr. DeLisio				
Ms. Epstein				
Ms. Marti				
Dr. Lancellotti				
Mr. Lentini				
Mr. McCarthy				

14. Open the floor to public comments on any issue. Speaker to please state name and town (5–minute maximum per speaker)

15. Close public participation.
16. Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Introduced by _____, second by _____

All in favor _____

Time _____

Regular Agenda Item

Regular Meeting: December 19, 2023

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

12-19-23 BCSS Regular Public Minutes

File Name

12-19-

23_BCSS_Public_Meeting_Minutes.pdf

Upload Date

1/16/2024

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL
DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN**

MINUTES

**Regular Public Meeting
December 19, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Special Services School District in the County of Bergen held its Regular Public Meeting on Tuesday December 19, 2023 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, N.J. The public meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Gary Lentini, President of the Board.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call:

Mr. William Barnaskas

Mr. Louis DeLisio, *Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools*

Mr. Gary Lentini, *President of the Board*

Ms. Ana Marti

Mr. Michael McCarthy

Absent at roll call:

Ms. Kelly Epstein

Dr. Beth Lancellotti, *Vice President of the Board*

Also present:

Dr. Howard Lerner, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

John Susino, *Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

Mitchell Badiner, *Director of Instruction*

Tara Bohan, *Director of Instruction*

Gary Hall, *Director Human Resources*

John Schettino, Esq., *Board Attorney*

Absent:

Matthew Knapik, *Student Representative to the Board of Education*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present pledged allegiance to the United States of America.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

John Susino, Board Secretary, read the following statement as required by the Open Public Meeting Law:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure 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 interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with provision of this law, the Bergen County Special Services School District has caused the 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Mr. Barnaskas, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, to approve the following minutes:

Work Session Meeting:	November 21, 2023
Regular Public Meeting:	November 21, 2023
Executive Session Meeting:	November 21, 2023

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes of the meetings identified above:

Mr. Barnaskas	Yes
Mr. DeLisio	Yes
Mrs. Epstein	Absent
Dr. Lancellotti	Absent
Mr. Lentini	Yes
Ms. Marti	Yes
Mr. McCarthy	Yes

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Board Secretary John Susino did present a report. Mr. Susino wished the school community a happy holiday season.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB) Report

- The district is required to report specific incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying to the Board of Education. This past month, there were three HIB investigations. After a thorough investigation, all were deemed to be non-HIB incidents.

District Highlights, Accolades and other Important District Information

- **We Can! Virtual Career Day for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**
 - The National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes Engage for Change State Team for New Jersey held its third annual "We Can! Virtual Career Day" on December 1, 2023. It was hosted by our (BCSS) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Continuum. Panelists who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind and representing a variety of careers, modes of communication, and backgrounds shared information about their employment experiences with high school students from all different schools throughout New Jersey. Students were able to ask questions and engage with the panelists. It was great for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to learn that there is no limit in terms of the career opportunities available to them and how important it is for them to advocate for themselves.
- **Bleshman Apple Distinguished School Celebration**
 - Last week Bleshman School hosted an event to celebrate their being recognized as an Apple Distinguished School. Board member Bill Barnaskas, County Executive Jim Tedesco, County Commissioner Mary Amoroso, and Bergen County Sheriff Anthony Cureton were in attendance. Two representatives from Apple spoke to express how impressed the award committee at Apple was when they viewed Bleshman's video portion of the application

(Those videos were shown here in October). Most importantly about ten or so students came to the podium to tell the crowd how they used technology both for learning and for entertainment purposes. Each student wowed the crowd. It was truly a joyful event!

○ **Holiday Happenings**

- Holiday Express also performed at Bleshman, New Bridges MS/HS and at our Adult Programs. This is a non-profit group of musicians who typically perform holiday songs in schools and hospitals. Holiday Express performed many holiday songs and there were visits from a several favorite characters, including, the Grinch, Frosty, Elmo and of course, Santa. Students, staff, and I had a great time.
- The Transition Center at Wood-Ridge performed their Annual Holiday Music Show. Students sang and played instruments to various holiday tunes. The showed ended with a sing-along including the families and friends present and the staff. Everyone enjoyed O
- Our Visions Paramus students celebrated with an interactive Holiday Story Time led by the principal. This was followed by a visit from Santa and a pizza lunch.

Dr. Lerner concluded by wishing the Board Members, the staff and the entire school community a very happy, peaceful and safe holiday season.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS:

On the motion by Ms. Marti, seconded by Mr. Barnaskas, the following **consent agenda resolutions**, as submitted, were presented for Board action:

Administration	24-A-49S	Through	24-A-60S
Personnel	24-P-81S	Through	24-P-96S
Finance	24-F-50S	Through	24-F-59S

BOARD DISCUSSION – CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

Mr. DeLisio informed the Board that he would be abstaining from resolutions:

24-P-88S, 24-F-50S, 24-F-51S, 24-F-55S

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

There was no participation from the public on consent agenda items

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED, WAS TAKEN:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Barnaskas	X			
Mr. DeLisio	X		<i>Yes except for: 24-P-88S, 24-F-50S, 24-F-51S, 24-F-55S</i>	
Mrs. Epstein				X
Dr. Lancellotti				X
Mr. Lentini	X			
Ms. Marti	X			
Mr. McCarthy	X			

OFF CONSENT AGENDA

There were no off-consent agenda resolutions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ANY ISSUE

There were no comments from members of the public.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Prior to entertaining a motion for Adjournment, Board President Mr. Lentini wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

A motion to adjourn the Board's Public Regular Meeting was made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Marti. All members present voted in the affirmative. None opposed. Mr. Lentini adjourned the Board's Regular Public Meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Susino
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of _____

Regular Agenda Item

Work Session Meeting: December 19, 2023

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	File Name	Upload Date
12-19-23 Work Session Minutes	12-19-23_BCSS_Work_Session_Minutes.pdf	1/16/2024

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN**

MINUTES

**Public Work Session Meeting
December 19, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Special Services School District in the County of Bergen held its Public Work Session meeting on Tuesday December 19, 2023 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, N.J. Mr. Gary Lentini, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call:

Mr. William Barnaskas

Mr. Louis DeLisio, *Executive Bergen County Superintendent of Schools*

Mr. Gary Lentini, *President of the Board*

Ms. Ana Marti

Mr. Michael McCarthy

Absent at roll call:

Ms. Kelly Epstein

Dr. Beth Lancellotti, *Vice President of the Board*

Also present:

Dr. Howard Lerner, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

John Susino, *Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

Mitchell Badiner, *Director of Instruction*

Tara Bohan, *Director of Instruction*

Gary Hall, *Director Human Resources*

John Schettino, Esq., *Board Attorney*

Absent:

Matthew Knapik, *Student Representative to the Board of Education*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present pledged allegiance to the United States of America.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

John Susino, Board Secretary, read the following statement as required by the Open Public Meeting Law:

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PRESENTATION

- Career Crossroads Program Highlights – Principal Robert Mortorano

REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

The Board reviewed the following Resolutions:

Administration	24-A-49S	Through	24-A-60S
Personnel	24-P-81S	Through	24-P-96S
Finance	24-F-50S	Through	24-F-59S

BOARD COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS

There were no comments from the Board

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

There were no comments from the public on the agenda resolutions

BOARD COMMENT ON ANY ISSUE

There were no additional comments from the Board

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUE

There was no public comment on any issue

EXECUTIVE/PRIVATE BOARD SESSION

A motion to recess the Work Session and move the meeting into Private Executive Session, per the Resolution below, was introduced by Mr. Barnaskas and seconded by Ms. Marti. All members present voted in the affirmative; none opposed. Mr. Lentini recessed the Work Session meeting at 5:07 p.m.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded from certain matters to be discussed by the Board; and

WHEREAS the Board intends to convene in private session from which the public shall be excluded to dismiss matters which permit the exclusion of the public, during which minutes shall be taken; and

WHEREAS the matters to be discussed fall under the exclusion of confidentiality required by Federal or State Law; impair a right to receive Federal government funds; unwarranted invasion of individual privacy; collective bargaining agreement negotiations; purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds; tactics and techniques to protect safety of property of public, or investigations of violations or potential violations of law; pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations, or matters falling within the attorney-client privilege; personnel/employment matters unless individual requests that matter be discussed in public; deliberations after public hearing that may result in imposition of penalty;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the public portion of the meeting shall now be recessed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a summary of the closed session minutes shall be made available to the public by the next public meeting of the Board of Education, or upon approval of the minutes, and once the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

At 5:30 p.m. a motion was introduced by Mr. DeLisio, seconded by Ms. Marti, to resume the Work Session meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative. None opposed.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A motion was introduced by Mr. DeLisio, seconded by Mr. Lentini, to adjourn the Work Session Meeting. All members present voted in the affirmative. None opposed. Mr. Lentini adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Susino
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator

Approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of _____

Regular Agenda Item

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Report – December 19, 2023

- Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB) Report
 - o The district is required to report specific incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying to the Board of Education. This past month there were three HIB investigations. After a thorough investigation, all were deemed to be non-HIB incidents.
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 - o The National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes Engage for Change State Team for New Jersey held its third annual “We Can! Virtual Career Day” on December 1, 2023.
 - o It was hosted by our (BCSS) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Continuum
 - o Panelists who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind and representing a variety of careers, modes of communication, and backgrounds shared information about their employment experiences with high school students from all different schools throughout New Jersey
 - o Students were able to ask questions and engage with the panelists.
 - o It was great for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to learn that there is no limit in terms of the career opportunities available to them and how important it is for them to advocate for themselves.
- Bleshman Apple Distinguished School Celebration
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 - o Board member Bill Barnaskas, the County Executive, Jim Tedesco, County Commissioner Amoroso, and the County Sheriff, Anthony Cureton were in attendance.
 - o Two representatives from Apple spoke to express how impressed the award committee at Apple were when they viewed Bleshman’s video portion of the application (Those videos were shown here in October)
 - o Most importantly about ten or so students came to the podium to tell the crowd how they used technology both for learning and for entertainment purposes. Each student wowed the crowd.
 - o It was truly a joyful event!
- Holiday Happenings
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 - o Our Visions Paramus students celebrated with an interactive Holiday Story Time led by the principal. This was followed by a visit from Santa and a pizza lunch.

- Happy Holidays
 - o On behalf of BCSS, I would like to wish all Board members a very happy, peaceful, and safe holiday season.
- Thank you, Mr. President
 - o That concludes my report.

Regular Agenda Item

Consent Agenda

Administration	24-A-61S	through	24-A-69S
Personnel	24-P-97S	through	24-P-111S
Finance	24-F -60S	through	24-F -68S