

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

**MINUTES**

**Regular Public Meeting  
June 20, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Special Services School District in the County of Bergen held its Regular Public Meeting on Tuesday June 20, 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*  
Ms. Kelly Epstein  
Mr. Gary Lentini, *President of the Board*  
Ms. Ana Marti

**Absent at roll call:**

Dr. Beth Lancellotti, *Vice President of the Board*  
Mr. Michael McCarthy

**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*  
William Soukas, 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 Ms. Epstein, seconded by Mr. Lentini, to approve the following minutes:

Work Session:	May 16, 2023
Regular Public Meeting:	May 16, 2023
Executive Session:	May 16, 2023

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes:

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

## **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT**

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates**

- John Susino, School Business Administrator and Board Secretary, reminded the Board and the members of the public of the summer meeting schedule, including the Board's reorganization and retreat on July 13, 2023.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB) Report**

- The District is required to report specific incidents of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying to the Board of Education. This past month the district had two non-HIB incidents and three HIB incidents as follows:
  - **HIB Incident – 10 – School Year 22-23**
    - Offender verbally insulted or demeaned the victim. The victim is from another school. The offender was suspended from track practice for five days and received one day of in-school suspension. All parents have been notified.
  - **HIB Incident – 11 – School Year 22-23**
    - Offender verbally insulted or demeaned the victim. The offender lost privileges and will receive counseling. The victim will continue to receive counseling. All parents have been notified.
  - **HIB Incident – 12 – School Year 22-23**
    - Offender verbally insulted or demeaned the victim. The offender received 5 days of redirection status and counseling. The victim will continue to receive counseling. All parents have been notified.

### **District Highlights, Accolades and other Important District Information**

- **End of the Year Activities**

- All of our schools held their End of Year or Moving Up Ceremonies over the last week. Each one was different, but all truly celebrate their students' achievements. I would like to mention a few:
  - The Transition Center Wood-Ridge had seven graduates. Many parents and family attended what was a very moving ceremony.
  - Brownstone School held their moving up ceremony last Thursday. There were nine students moving on to high school. Each teacher spoke eloquently about each student. Parents and families were very proud
  - HIP at Godwin School in MPK held their preschool music show and graduation on June 19th. As always it was fun and truly celebratory.
  - New Bridges High School held its graduation for seventeen students. Several of them will be returning for an additional year and the others will be attending various adult programs. It was a mostly happy but a little bit sad day for our staff and families.

Dr. Lerner also thanked our school staff & our technology department staff who worked so hard to make sure that all of our ceremonies were meaningful, fun and went off without a hitch.

o **BCSS Extended Year Programs**

- Most of our extended school year programs will be provided during the month of July with the exception of our Autism Programs which will run from the last week of June through the first week in August.
- Our staff is in place and ready to provide the high-quality instruction and activities as we always do.
- Generally, our schools develop a theme for their program. This continues to be true. Schools have identified their themes and are planning activities and projects around it.

We are looking forward to a great summer!

**BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS:**

On the motion by Ms. Epstein, seconded by Ms. Marti, the following resolutions, as submitted, were presented for Board action.

Administration	23-A-113S	Through	23-A-123S
Personnel	23-P-186S	Through	23-P-215S
Finance	23-F-125S	Through	23-F-159S

**BOARD DISCUSSION – CONSENT AGENDA ONLY**

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

23-A-116S, 23-P-190S, 23-P-195S, 23-P-196S, 23-P-197S, 23-P-198S, 23-F-125S, 23-F-126S

**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		Yes except for 23-A-116S, 23-P-190S, 23-P-195S, 23-P-196S, 23-P-197S, 23-P-198S, 23-F-125S, 23-F-126S	
Ms. Epstein	X			
Dr. Lancellotti				X
Mr. Lentini	X			
Ms. Marti	X			
Mr. McCarthy				X

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no off consent agenda items.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ANY ISSUE**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

A motion to adjourn the Board's Public Regular Meeting was made by Ms. Epstein, seconded by Mr. Lentini. All members present voted in the affirmative. None opposed. Mr. Lentini adjourned the 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 8/29/23