

BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES FOR THE CAUCUS MEETING

Monday November 27, 2023

7:00 PM

District Conference Room

1. Meeting Called to Order by the President

2. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Joseph Amara	Bergenfield Board of Education	President	Present	
Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala	Bergenfield Board of Education	Vice President	Present	
Nelson Reynoso	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	
Deborah Podwin	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	
Ovelis Munoz	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Late	7:07 PM

Also present: C. Tully, D. Markman, J. Khoury-Frias, S. Biggins V. Wood (Student Representative)

Flag Salute: Waived

Statement of the President: Waived

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of this Board, except where specifically exempted by law, at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having same advertised in The Record on June 30, 2023; also notice of this meeting has been mailed to the members of the Board, the Borough Clerk, all Elementary Schools, Roy W. Brown Middle School, the High School and District the Website on November 21, 2023."

3. Verbal Comments: None

The Bergenfield Board of Education now opens the floor for our first public comment session. Public comments regarding tonight's agenda items only will be heard at this time. You will have an opportunity to make any other comments during the 2nd public comment session later in the meeting.

4. Discussion of Evening Agenda

5. Discussion of Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

B. Policy Committee

6. Verbal Comments

The Bergenfield Board of Education now opens the floor for our 2nd public comment for any other comments at this time.

7. Motion to go to Private Session

1. Tonight's personnel.
2. Open Litigation.
3. HIB.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

8. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

2. INFORMATIONAL:

1. Informational Item (ID # 10796)
Posting for 11-27-23 Regular Meeting.

BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING

Monday November 27, 2023

8:00 PM

Front Cafeteria of the High School

1. Meeting called to order by the President

2. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Joseph Amara	Bergenfield Board of Education	President	Present	
Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala	Bergenfield Board of Education	Vice President	Present	
Nelson Reynoso	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	
Deborah Podwin	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	
Ovelis Munoz	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	

Also present: C. Tully, D. Markman, J. Khoury-Frias, S. Biggins, Vanessa Wood (Student Representative)

B. 2023/2024 Board Goals

1. Continue to raise academic achievement levels of all students all subject areas to maintain ranking as a top tier school district
2. Continue to promote a supportive environment that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusive programming and curriculum for all
3. Continue to provide opportunities to expand critical thinking skills, SEL competencies, civic involvement, environmental awareness, and information literacy skills
4. Review, modify, and expand co-curricular activities, experiential learning, and community service opportunities
5. Continue to broaden public engagement with parents, students, and community while increasing parental engagement in the educational process

Flag Salute

Statement of the President

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of this Board, except where specifically exempted by law, at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having same advertised in The Record on June 30, 2023; also notice of this meeting has been mailed to the members of the Board, the Borough Clerk, all Elementary Schools, Roy W. Brown Middle School, the High School and District the Website on November 21, 2023."

3. Minutes

1. Motion to accept and approve the Minutes for October 2023.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

4. Written Communication: None

5. Verbal Comments: None

The Bergenfield Board of Education now opens the floor for our first public comment session. Public comments regarding tonight's agenda items only will be heard at this time. You will have an opportunity to make any other comments during the 2nd public comment session later in the meeting.

6. Report and Recommendations of Superintendent of Schools

A. Student Representative Report

Returning from the Thanksgiving break, our student body is settling calmly back into school! Progress reports for Marking Period 1 have been released, and students have smoothly transitioned into marking period 2. Fortunately, our high school remains active with diverse activities.

The Student Congress has engaged in numerous activities; Notably, Junior Congress recently orchestrated this year's Volleyball Tournament, held on November 16th, which showcased spirited competition and camaraderie among the students. They also hosted a chocolate sale, both of which were to raise funds for their class. The Freshman Congress sweetened the scene with a Mr. Cupcake sale. The Class of 2024 Congress is reviving the Winter Pep Rally in support of our winter season sports teams next Tuesday after school - admission is set at two dollars. Senior Congress has also chosen a soon-to-be released date for the exciting annual talent show, and will be hosting March Madness this year. Their recent pie-in-the-face fundraiser successfully raised \$225 for breast cancer awareness and research.

In extracurricular news, the Drama Club is in preparation for their fall play, "Clue," scheduled for performances on December 1 and 2. For dance enthusiasts, the Bears Dance Team is hosting a clinic on November 29th. Sign up details are available on the @bearsdanceteam Instagram page. Project Graduation hosted a sold-out Skate Jam on November 17th, bringing an exhilarating buzz to the community. The Science National Honor Society is also making a commendable contribution with a food drive extending through December.

B. General Recommendations

Block voted motions 2-14.

1. Motion to accept and approve the attached Consent Personnel Recommendations.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

2. Motion to accept and approve the attached Non-Consent Personnel Recommendations.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz
ABSTAIN:	Amara

3. Motion to accept and approve the November 13, 2023, Special Education Monthly Report as per the attached.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

4. Motion to accept and approve the Edpuzzle subscription renewal for Roy W. Brown Middle School and Bergenfield High School, amount not to exceed \$5,880.00, payable through LEA Funds.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

5. Motion to accept and approve the in-district Professional Development by Inspired Instruction, LLC, Best Practices for Student Centered Classrooms, a.m./p.m. sessions, scheduled to be held on November 7, 2023, cost not to exceed \$2,550.00, payable through Title IIA Funds.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

6. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of a 1-year subscription of the ALEKS Program for the Alternative High School and Bergenfield High School, from McGraw Hill LLC, amount not to exceed \$2,277.00, payable through Title I Funds.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

7. Motion to accept and approve the quote from MJS Removal Services for the removal of contaminated soil and wood chips at Hoover Elementary School, at a cost of \$2,100.00.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

8. Motion to accept and approve the attached quote from IXL Learning for the IXL site license renewal (Grades K-12) in the total amount of \$10,200.00 payable through LEA Funds.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

9. Motion to accept and approve the Revised Special Education Consultants dated 11/16/2023 as per the attached for the 2023/2024 School Year.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

10. Motion to accept and approve the continuation of student suspensions for students whose names are annexed in the Superintendent's Office.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

11. Motion to accept and approve the attached HIB Report.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

12. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of refreshments for each of the 9 sessions of Project Welcome offered at Bergenfield High School from November 20th through June 3rd at a total amount not to exceed \$900 payable through Title III Immigrant.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

13. Motion to accept and approve the following conferences payable out of Title II Funds.

<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
D. Massey	Guidance Counselor	Felician University Guidance Counselor Holiday Luncheon, Rutherford, NJ, 12/8/23	-	\$0.00	-
E. Valera	Guidance Counselor	NJIT's School Counselor Appreciation Day, Newark, NJ, 12/15/23	-	\$0.00	-
D. Markman	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum	NJASA Techspo 2024 Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, 1/24/24 through 1/26/24	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$540.00	Title II

K. Agosta	Science Teacher	Innovation Institute: Focusing Forward-Preparing Future Ready Students, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 04/15/24 to 04/16/24	-	\$0.00	-
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RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

14. Motion to accept and approve the following travel reimbursement payable through Title II funds.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Meals</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Tolls/ Parking/ Airfare</u>	<u>Account</u>
K. Agosta	Innovation Institute: Focusing Forward-Preparing Future Ready Students, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 04/15/24 to 04/16/24	-	\$114.75	-	\$237.79 (Airfare)	20-273-200-500-15-270
D. Markman	NJASA Techspo 2024 Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, 1/24/24 through 1/26/24	\$234.44	\$87.25	\$126.95	\$19.60 (Tolls) \$15.00 (Parking)	20-273-200-500-15-270

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

15. Motion to accept and approve the submission of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Mid Term Report.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business

A. Motion to accept and approve the attached Use of Facilities.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

B. Motion to accept and approve the attached Specialty Contracts for the 2023/2024 School Year.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

C. Motion to accept and approve the attached Tuition Contracts with Bergen County Special Services for the 2023/2024 School Year.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

D. Motion to accept and approve the attached Tuition Contracts for Received Students for the 2023/2024 School Year.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- E. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from V.E. Ralph & Son for bleeding control kits at a cost of \$27,720 on Cooperative Bid New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance # BC-22-14.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- F. Motion to accept and approve the agreement for the Trees for Schools Grant for the amount of \$12,346.40. The grant will be used for tree planting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- G. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Combustion Services for the replacement of hot water pumps #2 and #4 at Bergenfield High School at a cost of \$49,600 on Cooperative Bid Ed Data # 10392.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- H. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Academy Construction Inc. for the environmental clean-up at Roy W. Brown Middle School at a cost of \$16,719.16 on Cooperative Bid HCESC-SER-22-15.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- I. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Eastern Datacomm for annual support for the paging system at a total cost of \$11,000 on Cooperative Bid # ESCNJ Emergency Notification System 22/23-09.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- J. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Eastern Datacomm for annual support for the LENS2/LENS3 system at a total cost of \$16,000.00 on Cooperative Bid # ESCNJ Emergency Notification System 22/23-09.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- K. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Eastern Datacomm for annual support for the ShoreTel/Mitel system at a total cost of \$39,825.00 on Cooperative Bid # ESCNJ Emergency Notification System 22/23-09.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- L. Motion to accept and approve the FY24 Pre-Kindergarten Projected Enrollment report to be submitted to NJDOE.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- M. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from McGraw Hill for Anatomy and Physiology Honors textbooks in the amount of \$11,388.30.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- N. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Public Sewer Service for acid neutralization tank maintenance at Bergenfield High School at a cost of \$10,022.50 on Cooperative Bid Ed Data# 11647.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- O. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from White Rock Cybersecurity for Microsoft Licensing at a cost of \$29,454.10 on Cooperative Bid NJECC.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- P. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Northeast Roof Maintenance for repairs at Jefferson Elementary School in the amount of \$7,440 on cooperative bid BC-Bid-22-40.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- Q. Motion to accept and approve the agreement between Holy Name Medical Center and the Bergenfield Board of Education for the calendar year 2024. This agreement provides services to be in compliance with the Department of Transportation (DOT) Drug Testing Standard.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- R. Motion to accept and approve the General Fund and Fund 20 Inter-Account Transfers as per the attached list.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER: Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

9. Report and Recommendations of Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Motion to accept and approve the following as presented:

- A. The Secretary's Report of Cash Balances as of October 31, 2023 reflecting a balance of \$18,036,665.80 and The Treasurer's Report of Cash Balances as of October 31, 2023 reflecting a balance of \$18,036,665.80.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- B. Final Vouchers for payment in the month of October 2023 in the total amount of \$10,953,896.20.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- C. Partial Vouchers for payment in the month of November 2023 in the total amount of \$5,478,744.10.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

- D. Motion to accept and approve the following:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Board of Education Secretary certifies that as of October 31, 2023 that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education Secretary certifies that as of October 31, 2023, after review of the District's monthly financial reports, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

10. Verbal Comments

The Bergenfield Board of Education now opens the floor for our 2nd public comment for any other comments at this time.

Dana Falcicchio - Parent
Transportation

Corinne Patoray - Parent
Writing for elementary students.

11. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz