

# BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MINUTES FOR THE CAUCUS MEETING

---

Monday January 29, 2024

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	
Fanny Cruz-Betesh	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	

Also present: C.Tully, D. Markman, J. Khoury-Frias, S. Biggins

#### 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 January 24, 2024."

#### 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. Participants shall be limited to a three minutes time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a limit of 30 minutes for this public comment period. 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. Participants shall be limited to a three minutes time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a limit of 30 minutes for this public comment period.

Jennifer Cerezo thanked the Board of Education for being a part of the Franklin PTO.

Fanny Bonilla thanked the Board of Education for being a part of the Washington PTO.

## 7. Motion to go to Private Session

1. Tonight's personnel.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

## 8. Motion to Adjourn

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

# BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING

Monday January 29, 2024

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	
Fanny Cruz-Betesh	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	

Also present: C. Tully, D. Markman, J. Khoury-Frias, S. Biggins, V. Woods (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 January 23, 2024."

### 3. Presentation:

Lerch, Vinci & Bliss - Jeff Bliss - 2023 Audit

Board of Education thanked the staff for their hard work on the audit.

### 4. Minutes

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [4 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Cruz-Betesh

### 5. Written Communication: None

### 6. 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. Participants shall be limited to a three minutes time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a limit of 30 minutes for this public comment period. You will have an opportunity to make any other comments during the 2nd public comment session later in the meeting.

### 7. Report and Recommendations of Superintendent of Schools

#### A. Student Representative Report

Last week, the snow had caused delayed openings, which put the school district behind at a crucial point of the school year: the end of 2nd marking period. The two delayed openings and the early dismissal on Friday halted and postponed various academic and extracurricular endeavors. The weather created difficulties for students commuting to school, which also resulted in an abundance of late infractions. Students have voiced concerns about this due to the weather, as no grace period was given to those whose commutes were made difficult by the weather. Despite the snow causing delays throughout the district, the Bergenfield High School community has persevered! As marking period 2 comes to an end tomorrow, students and faculty alike have been diligently working to complete all requirements necessary to finish the marking period on time. Along with these scholarly accomplishments, the student body has continued with activities.

The Student Congresses of BHS have engaged in a variety of activities and plans to raise funds and foster community involvement. Freshman Congress aspires to fundraise with a Valentine's Day Bake Sale while the Sophomore Congress is designing class merchandise and planning a Ping Pong Tournament. Junior Congress recently held a successful bake sale and is planning to host a badminton tournament as well as a "Kissing the Seniors Goodbye" fundraiser (in which they'll sell Kiss Chocolates). Pending approval, they also hope to host a Family Feud Trivia

fundraiser in which teachers would participate in a Family Feud style game. Senior Congress has numerous activities lined up as they are planning to do Valentine's Day Grams, another gas fundraiser at BP, the March Madness Basketball Tournament and the annual Powder Puff Games. They will also be hosting the Talent Show, which was postponed due to the School Musical.

While on the topic of the School Musical, rehearsals for Once on this Island have begun and tickets are now available for purchase at [bergenfieldtheatre.ludus.com](http://bergenfieldtheatre.ludus.com). The Musical will be performed on March 7th, 8th and 9th and tickets are \$5 for students and staff. Along with this, the Acting/Theatre 2 class of BHS will be holding the first ever Theatre 2 Scene Night this Thursday. In this performance, every student taking Theatre 2 will be performing contemporary monologues and take on Shakespeare scenes. Performances start at 7:00 pm, and admission is free! Finally, the National Art Honor Society will be selling Pick up line Valentine's this week in the commons during lunch.

Regardless of the challenges Bergenfield has recently faced, the community continues to prevail!

## **B. General Recommendations**

1. Motion to accept and approve the Personnel Recommendations.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Fanny Cruz-Betesh, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

3. Motion to accept and approve the Annual Meeting between the Bergenfield Board of Education and Bergenfield Law Enforcement Officials - Uniform Memorandum of Agreement 2023/2024.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

4. Motion to accept and approve the Annual Meeting between the Bergenfield Board of Education and Teaneck Law Enforcement Officials - Uniform Memorandum of Agreement 2023/2024.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

5. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of SEL instructional supplies from Really Good Stuff LLC for Roy W. Brown Middle school students, in the amount not exceeding \$1,591.97, payable through Title I Funds.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

6. Motion to accept and approve the following Out-of-State Field Trips:

Bergenfield High School honors wind ensemble students to Carnegie Hall, New York City on Monday and Tuesday, March 18 & 19, 2024. Total 50 students with 4 chaperones.

Bergenfield High School NAHS students to Museum of Modern Art, New York on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Total 20 Students with 2 Chaperones.

Bergenfield High School AP Biology students to DNA Learning Center, Cold Spring Harbor, NY on Thursday, March 28, 2024. Total 33 Students with 3 Chaperones.

Bergenfield High School French IV Honors AP Class to “Lycee Fransais de New York” on Friday, February 2, 2024. Total 9 Students with 2 Chaperones.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

7. Motion to accept and approve the following In-State-Field Trip

Roy W. Brown Middle School Grade 8 trip to Six Flags Great Adventure on June 12, 2024. Number of students is approximately 250 and approximately 27 chaperones.

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

8. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of instructional supplies for the STEM Program at Roy W. Brown Middle School, from Dynamic Learning Experiences LLC, amount not exceeding \$5,847.00, payable through Title IV Funds.

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

9. Motion to accept and approve the in-District Professional Development for Elementary Math teachers, provided by Staff Development Workshops, one day in each building for five days in the Spring of 2024, amount not to exceed \$9,000.00, payable out of ESSER III Funds.

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

10. Motion to accept and approve Professional Development on Tiered Interventions for elementary level teachers, provided by Staff Development Workshops, three virtual sessions in the Spring of 2024, amount not to exceed \$3,600.00, payable out of Title II.

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

11. Motion to accept and approve the Latino Family Literacy Project facilitator training for Roy W. Brown Middle School and Bergenfield High School, provided by Lectura, Inc., payable through Title III Immigrant Funds in the amount of \$200.00.

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

12. Motion to accept and approve Professional Development on Tiered Interventions for secondary level teachers, provided by Staff Development Workshops, three virtual sessions in the Spring of 2024, amount not to exceed \$3,600.00, payable out of Title II.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

13. Motion to accept and approve the Second Reading of the following Revised Policies and Regulations:

Policy 2270	Religion in Schools
Policy 2419	School Threat Assessment Teams
Policy 3161	Examination for Cause
Policy 4161	
Policy 3212	Attendance - Teaching Staff Attendance -
Policy 4212	Support Staff
Policy 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
Regulation 5111	
Policy 5116	Education of Homeless Children and Youths
Regulation 5116	
Policy 8500	Food Services

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

14. Second Reading of Regulation #R2419 - School Threat Assessment Teams

Regulation 2419	School Threat Assessment Teams
-----------------	-----------------------------------

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh



15. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of the following Policy:

Policy # 2560.50 - Therapy Dog

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

16. Motion to accept and approve the Biannual Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff for the 2023/2024 School Year.

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

17. Motion to accept and approve the following new and revised courses to be offered at Bergenfield High School during the 2024-2025 school year.

1. AP African American Studies (New) (full year)
2. Introduction to Engineering (New) (half year)
3. Marine Biology (Revised) (half year)

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

18. Motion to accept and approve the January HIB Monthly Report.

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

19. Motion to accept and approve the following conference 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	PACE University Counselor Event, Pleasantville, NY 04/12/24	-	\$0.00	-

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

20. 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 /Other</u>	<u>Account</u>
D. Massey	PACE University Counselor Event, Pleasantville, NY 04/12/2024	-	-	\$14.24	\$6.25 (Tolls)	20-273-200-500-15-270

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

21. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of supplies for the SEL classrooms at Washington Elementary School, from Amazon.com LLC, amount not exceeding \$184.16, payable through Title IV Funds.

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

22. Motion to accept and approve the Special Education Monthly Report for January 2024.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

**8. Old Business: None**

**9. New Business**

Block vote motions A-L.

A. Motion to accept and approve the Tuition Contract(s) with Bergen County Special Services for the 2023/2024 School Year.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

B. Motion to accept and approve the Tuition Contract(s) for Received Student(s) for the 2023/2024 School Year.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

C. Motion to accept and approve the Transportation Contract as Host District for the 2023/2024 School Year.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

E. Motion to accept and approve the Tuition Contract for out of District Placement for the 2023/2024 School Year.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

F. Motion to accept and approve the Use of Facilities.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

G. Motion to accept and approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance 2023-2024.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

H. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Combustion Services for the boiler repair at Roy W. Brown Middle School at a cost of \$10,750 on Cooperative Bid Ed Data# 12191.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

I. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Combustion Services for the boiler repair at Roy W. Brown Middle School at a cost of \$20,623 on Cooperative Bid Ed Data # 12191.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

J. Motion to accept and approve the following donations:

Little Explorers Learning Center, Inc. has donated \$500.00 to the Bergenfield High School Dance Team.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

K. Motion to accept and approve the June 30, 2023 Audit Report from Lerch, Vinci & Bliss.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

L. Motion to accept and approve the General Fund and Fund 20 Inter-Account Transfers for December 2023.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

**10. 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 December 31, 2023 reflecting a balance of \$19,932,397.61 and The Treasurer's Report of Cash Balances as of December 31, 2023 reflecting a balance of \$19,932,397.61.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

B. Final Vouchers for payment in the month of December 2023 in the total amount of \$10,096,750.72.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

C. Partial Vouchers for payment in the month of January 2024 in the total amount of \$8,690,002.55

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

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 December 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 December 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.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

## 11. Verbal Comments

The Bergenfield Board of Education now opens the floor for our 2nd public comment for any other comments at this time. Participants shall be limited to a three minutes time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a limit of 30 minutes for this public comment period.

Vanessa Fraco - Parent

Thanked the Board for bringing back the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip.

Andre Bezerra - Medical Essential Diagnostics

Presented his company's services.

Brian Timmons - Music Coordinator

Thanked the Board for approving the trip to Carnegie Hall.

Anthony Rapetti - BEA President

Thanked the Board for the bleed kits and asked about PD for teachers.

**12. Adjournment**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Cruz-Betesh

**13. Private Session:**

Vice President Ruiz-Catala moved and Trustee Podwin seconded to go to Private Session in the Superintendent's Office. The Board will not reconvene.

Updates of the following:

- Residential Issue
- HIB