

BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES FOR THE CAUCUS MEETING

Monday February 22, 2021

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	Remote	
Deborah Podwin	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	
Ovelis Munoz	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Absent	

Also present: C. Tully, D. Markman

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 both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting to be published by having same advertised in The Record on June 30, 2020; 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 the District Website on February 16, 2021."

The Board publishes its agenda to the extent known by approximately 4:00 p.m. on a Friday preceding a Monday Board meeting. Individuals who wish to submit written comments regarding any government or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district must do so by sending an email with the written comments to ba@bergenfield.org or by written letter addressed to the Board Secretary, 225 W. Clinton Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621. Comments submitted in writing or by email must include the commenter's name and address. Written comments must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Written comments will be read aloud and addressed during the meeting in a manner audible to all meeting participants and the public. When reading written comments during a meeting, the person reading the comment will stop reading after three minutes, no matter how long the comment is. The Board may summarize duplicative comments as permitted by law, and duplicative comments shall be noted for the record.

Covid Update:

We continue to have very few cases to report so far in February.

The Borough is once again providing COVID testing for staff this week.

We have no information on vaccination at this time. We continue to be in contact with the Bergenfield Health Department and NJDOE.

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.

Those participating via Zoom shall use the "Raise Hand" feature. Participants shall be limited to a three-minute time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a time limit of 30 minutes for each public comment period.

4. Discussion of Evening Agenda

5. Discussion of Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

B. Policy Committee

6. Verbal Comments: None

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

Those participating via Zoom shall use the "Raise Hand" feature. Participants shall be limited to a three-minute time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a time limit of 30 minutes for each public comment period.

7. Motion to go to Private Session

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

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

8. Motion to Adjourn

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

BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING

Monday February 22, 2021

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	Remote	
Deborah Podwin	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Present	
Ovelis Munoz	Bergenfield Board of Education	Trustee	Absent	

Also present: C. Tully, D. Markman

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 both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting to be published by having same advertised in The Record on June 30, 2020; 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 the District Website on February 16, 2021."

The Board publishes its agenda to the extent known by approximately 4:00 p.m. on a Friday preceding a Monday Board meeting. Individuals who wish to submit written comments regarding any government or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district must do so by sending an email with the written comments to ba@bergenfield.org or by written letter addressed to the Board Secretary, 225 W. Clinton Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621. Comments submitted in writing or by email must include the commenter's name and address. Written comments must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Written comments will be read aloud and addressed during the meeting in a manner audible to all meeting participants and the public. When reading written comments during a meeting, the person reading the comment will stop reading after three minutes, no matter how long the comment is. The Board may summarize duplicative comments as permitted by law, and duplicative comments shall be noted for the record.

3. Presentation:

Presentation: Lerch, Vinci & Higgins - Jeff Bliss - 2020 Audit

4. Minutes

1. Motion to accept and approve the Minutes for January 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

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. You will have an opportunity to make any other comments during the 2nd public comment session later in the meeting.

Those participating via Zoom shall use the "Raise Hand" feature. Participants shall be limited to a three-minute time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a time limit of 30 minutes for each public comment period.

7. Report and Recommendations of Superintendent of Schools

A. General Recommendations

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

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

2. Motion to accept and approve the February 17, 2021, Special Education Monthly Report as per the attached.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

3. Motion to accept and approve Rainbow ABA to provide services for Special Education students during remote instruction at \$80/hour for Behavior Technician and \$130/hour for BCBA Supervision/Parent Training as per the attached contract.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

4. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 0145 - Board Member Resignation and Removal.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

5. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 1643 - Family Leave.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

6. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 2415 - Every Student Succeeds Act.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

7. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 2415.02 - Title I - Fiscal Responsibilities.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

8. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 2415.05 - Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

9. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 2415.20 - Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

10. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 5330.01 - Administration of Medical Cannabis.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

11. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 6360 - Political Contributions.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

12. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

13. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 8330 - Student Records.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

14. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 9713 - Recruitment by Special Interest Groups.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

15. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Policy # 4125 - Employment of Support Staff Members.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

16. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Regulation # R 1642 - Earned Sick Leave Law.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

17. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Regulation # R 2415.20 - Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

18. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Regulation # R 5330.01 - Administration of Medical Cannabis.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

19. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of Regulation # R 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER: Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

20. Motion to accept and approve the following Abolished Policies and Regulation:

- Policy # 3431.1 - Family Leave (Teaching Staff Members)
- Policy # 4431.1 - Family Leave (Support Staff)
- Policy # 3431.3 - New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program (Teaching Staff Members)
- Policy # 4431.3 - New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program (Support Staff Members)
- Policy # 7430 - School Safety
- Policy # 2415.01 - Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability
- Regulation # R 7430 - School Safety

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

21. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of Raz-Plus.com and ELL Edition Licenses from Learning A-Z, in the amount not exceeding \$1,342.00, payable through Title III Funds.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

22. 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:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

23. Motion to accept and approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Fairleigh Dickinson University and Bergenfield Public Schools for participation in the FDU Gildart Haase School Pre-Collegiate STEM Discovery Programs.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

24. Motion to accept and approve the following Conference over \$150 payable through ESEA Funds.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L. Koppenal A. Gutierrez M. Lopes G. Lee D. Rothenberg M. Martinez Blanco Z. Lloyd	ESL, Bi-Lingual Teachers, and Supervisor, World Language and ELs/Bilingual	NJTESOL/NJBE INC., 2021 Virtual Spring Conference, May 25, 26, & 27, 2021	\$16,289	20-273-200- 500-15-270	\$299 each
C. Taveras	BHS - Media Specialist	NJECC 2021 Annual Statewide Conference, Virtual, March 9 & 10, 2021	\$14,196	20-273-200-500-08-270	\$160

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business

A. Motion to accept and approve the attached South Bergen Jointure Tuition Contract for the 2020/2021 School Year.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

B. Motion to accept and approve the attached Specialty Contracts for the 2020/2021 School Year.

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

C. Motion to accept and approve the attached contract(s) with Bergen County Special Services for the 2020/2021 School Year.

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

D. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Synovia for GPS and Asset Services for our district vehicles at a cost of \$1,247 per month. This software is proprietary and is exempt from public bidding.

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

E. Motion to accept and approve the 2019/2020 Audit Report from Lerch, Vinci & Higgins.

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

F. Motion to accept and approve the invoice from IXL Learning for 1 Year IXL Service Site License for Roy W. Brown Middle School in the amount of \$7,200.00.

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

G. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Bobcat of North Jersey for one Snow Pusher Pro at a total cost of \$6,630 on Bergen County Co-op # CK04 Bid #20-03.

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

H. Motion to accept and approve the Alternative Revenue Projection for SEMI for 2022 in the amount of \$23,645.57.

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

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

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

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 January 31, 2021 reflecting a balance of \$16,143,531.19 and The Treasurer's Report of Cash Balances as of January 31, 2021 reflecting a balance of \$16,143,531.19.

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

- B. Final Vouchers for payment in the month of January 2021 in the total amount of \$9,876,088.95.

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

- C. Partial Vouchers for payment in the month of February 2021 in the total amount of \$8,231,755.73.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	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 January 31, 2021 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 January 31, 2021, 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:	Deborah Podwin, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	Munoz

11. Verbal Comments

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

Those participating via Zoom shall use the "Raise Hand" feature. Participants shall be limited to a three-minute time limit and shall identify themselves before speaking. There will be a time limit of 30 minutes for each public comment period.

Mike Burns - Parent
Hybrid Learning Opportunities.

12. Adjournment

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