

# BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING

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Monday December 20, 2021

8:00 PM

Front Cafeteria of the High School

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#### 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	Present	

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

#### 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, 2021; 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 Wednesday, December 14, 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](mailto: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. Minutes**

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

<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, 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.

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.

**6. Report and Recommendations of Superintendent of Schools**

**A. General Recommendations**

1. Motion to accept and approve the official counts for the November 2, 2021 School Election for Candidates.

Total Votes for:

Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala	2,199
Nelson Reynoso	1,844

<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, Munoz

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

<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, Munoz

3. Motion to accept and approve the December 14, 2021, Special Education Monthly Report as per the attached.

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

4. Motion to accept and approve the Second Reading of Policy # 5770 - Student Right of Privacy.

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

5. 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:** Nelson Reynoso, Trustee  
**SECONDER:** Deborah Podwin, Trustee  
**AYES:** Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin, Munoz

6. Motion to accept and approve Professional Development on "Project-Based Learning" (a.m. session) and "Effective Differentiation for Whole Class Instruction" (p.m. session), provided by Inspired Instruction on January 17, 2022, in the amount not exceeding \$2,200.00, payable through Title IIA Funds.

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

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

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

8. 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>
M. Saunders	Supervisor Early Childhood Education, Gifted and Talented	Early Childhood Leadership Seminar, Virtual, January 19, February 16, March 16, March 23, April 20, May 18, and June 15, 2021.	\$13,125	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$300.00
L. Alberto	Director of the Alternative School	NJPSA Spring Conference March 24 and 25, 2022.	\$12,825	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$320.00

<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, Munoz

9. Motion to accept and approve the following estimated travel reimbursement, total not to exceed by \$25, payable through ESEA Funds.

Name	Conference	Lodging	Mileage	Tolls/ Parking	Total	Account
L. Alberto	NJPSA Spring Conference, Borgata Resort, Atlantic City, NJ, 03/23-24/2022.	-	\$94.15	\$34.30	\$128.45	20-273-200-500-15-270

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

10. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from EAI Education for 10 Graphing Calculators at a cost of \$1,308.34 for Roy W. Brown Middle School, payable through ESSER II Funds.

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

11. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from EAI Education for 30 Graphing Calculators and 1 graphing calculator storage case at a cost of \$3,993.60 for Bergenfield High School, payable through ESSER II Funds.

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

12. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of Actively Learn ELA and Social Studies Plan Subscriptions from Achieve 3000 for Bergenfield High School at a cost not exceeding \$2,400.00, payable through Title IA Funds.

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

13. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of Actively Learn ELA and Social Studies Plan Subscriptions from Achieve 3000 for Roy W. Brown Middle School, at a cost not exceeding 2,820.00, payable through Title IA Funds.

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

14. Motion to accept and approve the following additional 2021/2022 After School Professional Development Academy Workshops for District employees.

Atlas Lesson Planner (2 Sessions)	Payable through LEA
Panorama SEL (1 Session)	Payable through Title IIA

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

15. Motion to accept and approve the proposal for Understanding and Using Grammar 5th Edition Textbooks from Pearson at a cost of \$1,794.87. Textbooks are proprietary and exempt from public bidding.

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

**7. Old Business: None**

**8. New Business**

A. Motion to accept and approve the Tuition Contracts with South Bergen Jointure Commission for the 2021/2022 School Year.

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

B. Motion to accept and approve the Tuition Contract(s) for Sent Student(s) for the 2021/2022 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, Munoz

C. Motion to accept and approve the attached Specialty Contract for the 2021/2022 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, Munoz

D. Motion to accept and approve the attached Use of Facilities list.

<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, Munoz

E. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from SHI for masks at a total cost of \$7,750 on cooperative bid E-8801-NJSBA-ACES-CPS.

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

F. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Touchpoint for 11 Touchpoint Electronic Voucher Kiosks to be used to submit work vouchers electronically at a total cost of \$22,419.23.

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

G. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Magic Touch Construction for the installation of two Elkay water coolers w/bottle fillers at a total cost of \$12,205.16 on Cooperative Bid ESCNJ 17/18-52.

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

H. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Always Safe Sidewalks for safety repairs to sidewalks at Lincoln School in the amount of \$8,412 on Cooperative Bid ESCNJ 20/21-27.

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

I. Motion to accept and approve the contract with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. for substitute nurse services.

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

J. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from C & S Fencing for the installation of fencing around Lincoln School's playground in the amount of \$19,475 on Ed Data # 9184 bid #24.

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



K. Motion to accept and approve the quote from Sweetwater for twenty-five (25) Novation Impulse 61 USB keyboard controllers for Bergenfield High School Room 136 (Music Technology Lab) in the amount of \$9,633.00.

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

L. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Apple for computers for the Roy W. Brown Middle School and Bergenfield High School music programs in the amount of \$18,915.90 on Cooperative Bid ESCNJ 18/19-67.

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

M. Motion to accept and approve the quote from Cifelli & Son General Construction, Inc. for concrete work at Lincoln Elementary School in the amount of \$8,800 on Ed data Bid #9184 Masonry, Concrete #24B.

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

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

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

O. Motion to accept and approve the following resolution for a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

WHEREAS, the Bergenfield Board of Education (hereafter referred to as the "Board of Education") conducted a disciplinary hearing on the continued suspension of the student whose name is on file in the board offices;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that there is factual support for the disciplinary charges;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby continues the suspension until the next regularly scheduled meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby further determines that the student shall not be present on any of the Board of Education's school campuses before, during and after the regularly scheduled school day during the period of his/her suspension, unless specifically authorized by the Superintendent;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby further determines that the student shall not be permitted to participate in any athletic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Board of Education and shall not be present for or attend any Board of Education sponsored activities, either on campus or in any school district where the Bergenfield School District is participating in the activities during the period of suspension;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the suspension shall be reviewed at every subsequent regularly scheduled board meeting to determine whether the suspension will be continued until the next regularly scheduled meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an alternate education shall be provided to the student during his/her suspension.

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

**9. CoVid Update by Superintendent:**

We have experienced an uptick in positive cases so far this month. We are in constant contact with the Bergenfield Health Department and they have been fabulous. Please know that there is zero discussion about shutting down and going virtual for the holidays. Schools do not have the ability to make that decision. Moving to virtual instruction can only be implemented by a health department. Please remember to stay home when not feeling well and get tested if you have COVID symptoms. The NJDOH changed quarantine protocol timelines three times over the last 10 days. The latest has us being able to allow close contacts of a case to be tested on days 5, 6, or 7 and return on day 8 with a negative test and if they are symptom-free.

Social Media Incident - Thank you to the RWB students, staff, and the Bergenfield Police for working together to quickly resolve the situation. Please remember to remind our students about the importance of reporting anything suspicious so that the police and school district can investigate it immediately. See something, hear something, say something.

We will be hosting a parent and student seminar on how to use social media safely and how to be a responsible user of the Internet. We will be advertising this informative event shortly. Save the date of 1/18/2022 at the BHS Auditorium at 6:30 pm. This session will be available both in-person and via Zoom.

President Amara made the following announcement; there will be an Organizational Meeting on January 3, 2022 and he wished everyone Happy Holidays.

## 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 November 30, 2021 reflecting a balance of \$16,833,313.40 and The Treasurer's Report of Cash Balances as of November 30, 2021 reflecting a balance of \$16,833,313.40.

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

- B. Final Vouchers for payment in the month of November 2021 in the total amount of \$8,917,078.38.

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

- C. Partial Vouchers for payment in the month of December 2021 in the total amount of \$6,795,174.83.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	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 November 30, 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 November 30, 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.

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

Brian Timmons - Staff Member

Thank you for your support of the Music Department and announced the Holiday Concert.

**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, Munoz