

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

Monday November 28, 2022

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	Absent	

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

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, 2022; 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 22, 2022."

3. Presentation

Dr. Alberto, Testing Data Presentation

4. 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.

5. Discussion of Evening Agenda

6. Discussion of Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee**
- B. Policy Committee**

7. Verbal Comments: None

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

8. Motion to go to Private Session

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

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

9. Motion to Adjourn

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

2. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- 1. Informational Item (ID # 9856)

Posting for the 11-28-22 Meeting.

Attachments:

11-28-2022 Posting (PDF)

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

Monday November 28, 2022

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	Absent	

Also present: C. Tully, D. Markman, J. Khoury-Frias, A. Marin (Student Representative)

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, 2022; 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 22, 2022."

3. Minutes

1. Motion to accept and approve the Minutes for the month of October 2022.

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

1. Motion to accept and approve the appointment of Anna Marin to fill the unexpired term of the Student Representative to the Bergenfield Board of Education for the 2022/2023 school year.

Anna reported on Bergenfield High School events.

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

2. 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

3. Motion to accept and approve the November 14, 2022 Special Education Monthly Report as per the attached.

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

4. Motion to accept and approve the Second Reading of Policy # 6620 - Petty Cash.

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

5. Motion to accept and approve the Matific subscription renewal for Roy W. Brown Middle School, amount not to exceed \$540.00, payable through Title I Funds.

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

6. Motion to accept and approve the purchase of a 1-year subscription of the ALEKS Program for the Alternative School, from McGraw Hill LLC, amount not to exceed \$1,242.00, payable through Title I Funds.

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

7. Motion to accept and approve professional development for Roy W. Brown Middle School Math teachers provided by Curriculum Associates, on 11/16/2022 , for a total cost not exceeding \$1,750.00 payable through Title II Funds.

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

8. Motion to accept and approve Mindfulness Skill Development for Bergenfield Alternative High School students provided by Pandora Healing LLC, four times a week for 30 minutes each to begin December 2022 through June 2023, with a total amount not to exceed \$12,000, payable through Title IA Funds.

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

9. 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: Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
AYES: Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT: Munoz

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

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

11. Motion to accept and approve the following conferences, payable through ESSA Funds.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
D. Markman	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum	NJASA Techspo 2023 Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, January 25-27, 2023.	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$515	Title II
J. Mitchel	Elementary School Principal	NJASA Techspo 2023 Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, January 25-27, 2023.	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$515	Title II

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

12. Motion to accept and approve the following conferences, payable through LEA Funds.

Name	Position	Conference	Account Number	Cost	Source of Funds
K. McGarril	Elementary School Nurse	Best Strategies for Success During School Medical Emergencies, Virtual, December 7, 2022.	11-000-213-580-06-000	\$279	LEA

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

13. Motion to accept and approve the following travel reimbursements, payable thru ESSA Funds.

Motion to accept and approve the following travel reimbursement, payable thru ESSA Funds.

Name	Conference	Lodging	Mileage	Tolls/ Parking	Account
D. Markman	NJASA Techspo 2023 Conference, Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, NJ, January 25-27, 2023.	\$ 234.44	\$ -	\$ -	20-273-200-500-15-270
J. Mitchel	NJASA Techspo 2023 Conference, Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, NJ, January 25-27, 2023.	\$ 234.44	\$ -	\$ -	20-273-200-500-15-270

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

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business

A. Motion to accept and approve the attached Specialty Contract(s) for the 2022/2023 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 Tuition Contracts for Received Students for the 2022/2023 School Year.

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

C. Motion to accept and approve the attached Tuition Contracts with Bergen County Special Services for the 2022/2023 School Year.

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

D. Motion to accept and approve the attached Transportation Contract as the Joiner District for the 2022/2023 School Year.

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

E. Motion to accept and approve the attached Transportation Contract as Host District for the 2022/2023 School Year.

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

F. Motion to accept and approve the attached Tuition Contract for a Sent Student for the 2022/2023 School Year.

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

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

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

H. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Madina Restoration for the additional work required to replace the site drainage at Franklin Elementary School at a cost of \$9,450.

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

I. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Westchester Environmental for the air quality testing of the nurse's office at Washington Elementary School at a cost of \$11,886.

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

J. Motion to accept and approve the attached School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports for November 2022.

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

K. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from MAP Restaurant Supplies for an ice machine for the Athletics Department at a cost of \$6,190.

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

L. Motion to accept and approve the invoice from Rapid Recovery Services in the amount of \$12,717.04 for emergency services at Washington Elementary School.

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

M. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from American Wear Uniforms for maintenance and custodial uniforms at a cost of \$14,201 on Cooperative Bid #HCEC-Cat-21-04.

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

N. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Raptor Technologies for the purchase of visitor management software and hardware at a total cost of \$6,921.85.

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

O. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from GL Group for the environmental cleanup of the nurse's office at Washington Elementary School at an additional cost of \$7,150 on Cooperative Bid # HCEC-Ser-22-15.

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

P. Motion to accept and approve the renewal quote from Commercial Recreation Specialists, Inc. for the Lightning Detection System for January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$7,181.

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

Q. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Weatherproofing Technologies for the district wide roof investigation and moisture analysis leak repairs at a cost of \$18,737.79 on Cooperative Bid #ESCNJ/AEPA 21D.

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

R. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Finalsite for the district web hosting and mass calling services at a total cost of \$31,335.

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

S. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Academy Construction for the replacement of hallway flooring at Washington Elementary School at a cost of \$31,855 on cooperative bid Ed Data# 9742.

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

T. Motion to accept and approve the quote from Scott & Al's Shed World for a shed for the Athletics Department in the amount of \$7,467.

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

U. Motion to accept and approve the following gift:

Bergenfield VFW Post 6467 donated a framed poster of Bergenfield's Hometown Hero Floyd J. Thompson to be displayed in the Commons of Bergenfield High School. Floyd J. Thompson was the longest-ever held prisoner of war in the history of the United States.

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

V. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Gates Flag and Banner Co., Inc. to relocate the flagpole from Roy W. Brown Middle School and install the same pole at the Bear Den. As a result, a new 45' flagpole will be installed at Roy W. Brown Middle School at a total cost of \$10,818.00.

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

W. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Magic Touch Construction to replace (10) water fountains in the District at a cost of \$68,401.60 on ESCNJ Coop #20/21-18.

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

X. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Renaissance Learning for the annual renewal of Star Math and Reading Software at a cost of \$91,889.19 this software is proprietary and exempt from public bidding.

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

Y. 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:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	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, 2022 reflecting a balance of \$19,389,910.99 and The Treasurer's Report of Cash Balances as of October 31, 2022 reflecting a balance of \$19,389,910.99.

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

B. Final Vouchers for payment in the month of October 2022 in the total amount of \$8,808,518.16.

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

C. Partial Vouchers for payment in the month of December 2022 in the total amount of \$6,772,186.71.

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

D. Motion to accept and approve the following Certification Statement:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Board of Education Secretary certifies that as of October 31, 2022 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, 2022, 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:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
AYES:	Amara, Ruiz-Catala, Reynoso, Podwin
ABSENT:	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.

Jennifer Cerezo - Parent
Commented about substitutes.

11. **Adjournment**

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