

BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES FOR THE CAUCUS MEETING

Monday December 18, 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	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 December 1, 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. 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: None

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.

7. Motion to go to Private Session at 7:30 PM

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, Munoz

8. Motion to Adjourn

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

2. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Informational Item (ID # 10858)

Posting for 12/18/23 Meeting.

Attachments:

Posting for 12-18-23 Meeting(PDF)

2. Informational Item (ID # 10866)

Custodial/Maintenance OT November 2023.

Attachments:

Custodial-Maintenance OT - November 2023 (PDF)

BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING

Monday December 18, 2023

8:00 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	Present	

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

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 December 1, 2023."

3. Minutes

1. Motion to accept and approve the Minutes for November 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

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. Participates 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.

Ligia Alberto -
Attachments for the agenda.

6. Report and Recommendations of Superintendent of Schools

A. Student Representative Report

Vanessa Wood was absent, the following report was read at the meeting.

As the school community prepares for the upcoming Holiday Break, student involvement is at an all-time high! Progress reports for marking period 2 were released today in anticipation of parent teacher conferences, which will be held on Thursday, January 4th.

The numerous honor societies of BHS have been involved in a multitude of fundraisers and activities. The National Art Honor Society recently held a pottery sale in which the members' pottery creations ranging from mugs to figurines were up for sale. Students' works were sold for \$5 each. On the 14th, the Science National Honor Society held a bake sale for the STEM open house- an informational event for incoming BHS students interested in the rigorous program. The National English Honor Society is hosting a Holiday Party this Thursday for all current and prospective members. Additionally, the National Honor Society has elected its inductee Vice President: junior Sara Bilici!

In club related news, HOSA, also known as Health Occupations Students of America, will be holding a bake sale tomorrow. The French Club will be hosting a holiday party for club members on Wednesday. Activities will include making and decorating gingerbread cookies, board games and music, and the entrance fee is \$5. The Botany Club is holding a holiday plant sale on Tuesday and Wednesday during lunch and after school. Plants will be sold for as low as \$2. The

Congress Class of 2026 hosted a holiday bake sale after school today, and they are holding a holiday-themed spirit week throughout the week to boost holiday spirit here at BHS!

Finally, the annual Holiday Concert featuring performances from the Honors Symphony Orchestra, Honors Vocal Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, and Concert Choir will be held this Wednesday at 1:15 PM and again at 8:00 PM in the BHS Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at <http://bergenfield.ludus.com/>. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. A reception for senior citizens will be held immediately following the 1:15pm performance.

B. General Recommendations

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

Motions 2 - 13 were blocked voted.

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

2. Motion to accept and approve the December 12, 2023, Special Education Monthly Report as per the attached.

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

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

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

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

5. Motion to accept and approve the Abolishment of the following Policies and Regulation:

Policy 3432 Policy 4432	Sick Leave	To be replaced with 1st Reading of New Policy 1642.01
Policy 8540 Policy 8550	School Nutrition Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Bill Service	To be combined with 1st Reading of Revised Policy 8500
Policy 5460.02 Regulation 5460.02	Bridge Year Pilot Program	Eligibility expired June 2023

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

6. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of the following Revised Policies and Regulations:

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

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

7. Motion to accept and approve the First Reading of the following New Policies and Regulations:

Policy 1642.01 Regulation 1642.01	Sick Leave
Regulation 2419	School Threat Assessment Teams

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

8. Motion to accept and approve the Revised Independent Special Education Consultants as per the attached.

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

9. Motion to accept and approve the 2022/2023 Final Expenditure Report and Carry-over ESSA Funds.

<u>2022-2023 ESSA Grant</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Final Expenditures</u>	<u>Carry-Over Amount</u>
Title I, Part A	\$ 530,463	\$ 493,303	\$ 37,160
Title IIA	\$ 113,822	\$ 75,440	\$ 38,382
Title III	\$ 52,265	\$ 42,021	\$ 10,244
Title III Immigrant	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Title IV	\$ 41,943	\$ 31,873	\$ 10,070

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

10. Motion to accept and approve the ESEA Amendment for Title I, Title IIA, Title III, and Title IV based on the redistribution of Carryover Funds.

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

11. Motion to accept and approve the High Impact Tutoring Grant for \$114,983.00.

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

12. Motion to accept and approve the amendment for the ARP ESSER Safe Return Plan.

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

13. Motion to accept and approve the following conferences payable out of LEA and 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>
A. Hilburn	English Teacher	NJ Writing Project, Madison, NJ January 10, 2024	-	-	-
S. Machin	Director of Guidance Counseling and Support Services	Summit on Combating the Loneliness Epidemic, Teaneck, NJ, January 11, 2024	-	-	-
L. Zapata	Guidance Counselor	Introduction to Solution Focused School Counseling, January 11 and 25, 2024	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$117.00	Title II
E. Valera	Guidance Counselor	Farleigh Dickinson University Counselor Luncheon, Teaneck, NJ, February 2, 2024	-	\$0.00	-
Z. Bacha	French Teacher	Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Hilton Midtown, New York, NY February 23, 2024	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$190.00	Title II
R. Churn	Spanish Teacher	Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Hilton Midtown, New York, NY February 23, 2024	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$190.00	Title II

S. Liguori	Spanish Teacher	Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Hilton Midtown, New York, NY February 23-24, 2024	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$200.00	Title II
M. Weigl	Director of Transportation	STS 54 th Annual NJ Pupil Transportation Conference, Atlantic City, NJ March 20-22, 2024	11-000-270-593-10-000	\$475.00	LEA
A. Hilburn	English Teacher	The NJ Ed Summit 2023-2024, Monroe Township, NJ March 21, 2024	20-273-200-500-15-270	\$150.00	Title II
K. Stevenson	Guidance Counselor	Turnbridge Professional Development & Networking Event, New Haven, CT, May 2-3, 2024	-	\$0.00	-

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

14. Motion to accept and approve the new TriValley Multiple Disabilities Class at Lincoln Elementary School beginning January 8, 2024.

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

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business

Motions A-O were block voted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- D. Motion to accept and approve the attached Transportation Contract(s) as the Joiner District for the 2023/2024 School Year.

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

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

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

F. Motion to accept and approve the attached Tuition Contract(s) for Sent Student for the 2023/2024 School Year.

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

H. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Academy Construction for the asbestos abatement at Bergenfield High School, Roy W. Brown Middle School and Washington Elementary School at a cost of \$19,387.16 on cooperative bid HCESC-SER-22-15.

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

I. Motion to accept and approve Change Order #1 from Shore Top Construction to reduce the contract price by \$18,099.60 for the Bergenfield High School Tennis Court Improvement Project. The revised contract amount will be \$154,700.40.

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

J. Motion to accept and approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bergenfield Board of Education continue its membership in the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education for the 2024-2025 school year; does hereby accept, adopt, and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws; designates Christopher Tully, Superintendent, as its representative to Region V; and empowers him to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interest in Region V.

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

K. Motion to accept and approve the following donation(s):

Ms. Bellotti donated a violin that was used by her daughter when she was in the Bergenfield Music Department. The violin is in good condition and has an approximate value of \$200. The violin will be used by the Bergenfield Elementary music students.

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

L. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Frontline Education for the Employee Evaluation Management Tool at a cost of \$12,557.27.

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

M. Motion to accept and approve the proposal from Dell Technologies for KACE System Management at a cost of \$15,051.14 on NJ State Contract# 20-TELE-01510.

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

N. Motion to accept and approve the volunteer visitation services of The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs District Wide for the 2023-2024 year.

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

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

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nelson Reynoso, 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 November 30, 2023 reflecting a balance of \$19,476,445.71 and The Treasurer's Report of Cash Balances as of November 30, 2023 reflecting a balance of \$19,476,445.71.

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

- B. Final Vouchers for payment in the month of November 2023 in the total amount of \$9,148,586.93.

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

- C. Partial Vouchers for payment in the month of December 2023 in the total amount of \$6,366,228.74.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nelson Reynoso, Trustee
SECONDER:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
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 November 30, 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 November 30, 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:	Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice President
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. Participates 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.

Ligia Alberto - Parent
OPRA Requests.

Domingo Almonte - Parent
Attachments from the agenda.

Hernando Rivera - Parent
Attachments from the agenda.

Merlo -
TriValley opening at Lincoln.
Covering of teacher duties.

Julissa Acevedo - Parent
Placement of special education programs.

Ely Taveras - Parent
Streaming meetings.

Henry Alberto - Parent
Give time to his wife, Ligia Alberto - attachments from the agenda.

11. Adjournment

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

A. Private Session:

1. Motion to accept and approve going to Private Session in the Superintendent's Office.
The Board will not reconvene to Public Session.