

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) December 9, 2008

**BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY**

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(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**New Jersey**

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(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

**001-4802**

**22-0760120**

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(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey**

**07417-1880**

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(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

**(201) 847-6800**

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(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

**N/A**

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(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K Filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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ITEM 5.02 DEPARTURE OF DIRECTORS OR CERTAIN OFFICERS; ELECTION OF DIRECTORS; APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS; COMPENSATORY ARRANGEMENTS OF CERTAIN OFFICERS

Becton, Dickinson and Company (“BD”) previously announced that John R. Considine, the Vice Chairman of BD, had planned to remain as a member of BD’s Board of Directors until his planned retirement following BD’s 2010 Annual Meeting. However, on December 4, 2008, Mr. Considine indicated that he plans to retire earlier, although no date has been set. As a result, he will not stand for re-election as director at BD’s 2009 Annual Meeting to be held in February 2009. Mr. Considine will continue to serve as Vice Chairman in an executive officer capacity until his retirement, and will, among other things, oversee the transition of responsibilities to David V. Elkins, who became BD’s Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on December 1, 2008.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Dean J. Paranicas  
Dean J. Paranicas  
Vice President, Corporate  
Secretary and Public Policy

Date: December 9, 2008

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