

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Pascack Valley Regional High School District**

**Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.  
In the Pascack Hills High School Media Center**

**Meeting Regulations**

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education members, district administration, and staff will treat parents/guardians and other members of the public with respect and expect the same consideration in return. The district is committed to maintaining orderly processes for keeping school and district events free from disruption. The Board reserves the right to establish rules for the conduct of its meetings, including such matters as the time at which the public will be heard, if at all, who may speak, and for how long. All such rules shall be monitored by the President unless the majority of the Board present and voting, rule otherwise.

During this regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to make comments. In order for a citizen to make a comment, they must be physically present at the meeting. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, comments regarding agenda items are invited. The second opportunity will occur just prior to adjournment, when residents may address general comments to the Board.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and town of residence. Comments shall be limited to issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer shall require the speaker to sit down.

**All regular meetings will be live streamed for viewing purposes only to the Pascack Valley Regional High School District [YouTube](#) channel.**

To inspect or obtain a copy of any public record required to be made available under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, Examination and Copies of Public Records, please contact Mr. Yas Usami, 28 West Grand Avenue, Suite 2, Montvale, NJ 07645.

Notice: With advance notice, we can provide personal assistance for those with disabilities. Please contact 201-358-7005 x21005.

*Copies of all public meeting agendas are online on the district website:  
<http://www.pascack.org>*

The Vision of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District:

To create a culture of innovation, inquiry, and individuality that promotes achievement and choice by cultivating the skills needed to complete and collaborate as ethical and responsible global citizens.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Gini Varghese, President

Present: Mrs. Gini Varghese, President  
Ms. Elizabeth Calderone  
Mrs. Stephanie Huang  
Mr. Pat Luisi  
Mrs. Kristin Martin  
Mr. James Stankus  
Ms. Debra Stephans  
Mr. Michael Weaver  
Ms. Sarah Bilotti, Superintendent  
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Student Representatives: Olivia Ge- PHHS, Madeline Gibbs- PVHS

Absent: Mr. Joseph Blundo, Vice President

**II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Varghese led all those present in a salute to the flag.

**III. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing copies of said notice to The Record, filing copies of said notice with the municipal clerks of Hillsdale, Montvale, River Vale, and Woodcliff Lake, and publishing said notice in The Record on July 21, 2023.

**IV. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

In remembrance of Joseph McNeice, Pascack Hills High School Class of '24.

**V. ROUTINE MATTERS**

District Report: Robert Donahue, Director of Facilities and Capital Improvements, [Project Update](#)  
Mr. Donahue presented the attached update. He mentioned that lately projects have been taking a long time to close.

Mrs. Varghese asked about the status of the locker replacement with jumpseats at Valley.

Mr. Donahue said that the project is complete and students and even faculty have used them.

Facilities Committee Report : Robert Donahue

He indicated that negotiations for the auditorium project at Hills has brought the cost to approximately \$1.9 million from \$2.2 million. The scope is now being reviewed by the users.

Finance Committee: Report: Pat Luisi, Chair

Mr. Luisi indicated that the committee met remotely on February 21 to discuss the 2024-2025 budget. The discussion focused on the factors leading to the "Fiscal Cliff" that is being mentioned throughout the state. He said rising costs in health insurance, pension for non-certificated staff, salaries, student transportation, and special education programs and services. He commented that the 2% tax levy cap is just under \$1.1 million and that increase in benefits alone takes up most of the cap. Mr. Luisi indicated measures that can be taken to offset the gap by increasing maintenance reserve, increasing extraordinary aid, increasing budgeted fund balance, and increasing state aid which we do not control. He added that the final topic was options to reduce costs in this budget and future budgets.



- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Pascack Hills High School golf and tennis players, and coaches, Edward Sandt, Eric Ganz, and Charleen Schwartman, to participate in early spring training (attached) at Amelia Island, Florida from March 23-26, 2024.

2. **New Tuition Students**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following tuition paying students to attend the R.I.S.E. and Park Academy programs for the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 2023-2024	Student ID#	Program	Sending District	Start Date
10	814090	R.I.S.E.	Englewood	2/12/2024
6	814097	Park Academy	Hillsdale	2/21/2024

3. **Homebound Instruction**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve homebound instruction for student ID# 812079, per student's IEP, who has been placed at GenPsych Educational and services will be provided by Silvergate Prep. Billing is \$55 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week. The start date is February 13, 2024 with an anticipated end date in 30-60 days.

4. **Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Corrective Action Plan (attached)**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the corrective action plan to meet the projected state increases for the total participation of the Special Education Medicaid Initiative for the 2024-2025 school year.

5. **Overnight Trip**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve an overnight trip for Pascack Hills High School DECA members, advisor Corin Gamgort, and chaperones, Vani Apanosian, Paul Henry, Michelle Geata, Nick Scerbo, Steve Casamento, Dana Amato, and Nicole Olshalsky to travel to the DECA State Competition in Atlantic City, NJ from March 4-6, 2024.

6. **Chaperone**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Jason Stephans, as a chaperone for the PHHS golf and tennis teams overnight spring training trip to Amelia Island, Florida from March 23-26, 2024.

Moved by: Stankus

Seconded by: Calderone

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Blundo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calderone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luisi	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Ms. Stephans abstained to item 6.

IX. **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**WHEREAS**, the superintendent, after considering the recommendation of her administrative staff which included consideration of experience, credentials, and references for the following candidates for employment in the school district, has determined that the appointment of these individuals is appropriate and in the best interest of the school district,

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, appoint the following individuals to the positions indicated, as provided by the budget, in accord with terms of the employment specified:

Note: Appointment of new personnel to the district is provisional subject to:

1. Authorization from the State Department regarding a criminal background check and/or authorization from the Bergen County Superintendent’s Office for emergent hiring; and
2. A medical examination including satisfactory results of the Mantoux tuberculin skin test; and
3. Valid certification appropriate for his/her employment or assignment in New Jersey; and
4. Disclosure and review of applicants’ employment history within the statutory time period.

Consent Agenda for Items 1-17

1. **Revised Leave of Absences**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the revisions to the following leave of Absences:

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following Revised Federal/NJ family leave request:

Employee ID#	Position	Request
1830	District Supervisor of Instruction	From: Total Leave Period: January 23, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Using 37 sick, 1 vacation and 2 personal days

		<p>FMLA:                  March 22, 2023 - June 21, 2023                  Leave of Absence:                  June 22, 2023 - June 30, 2024                  Without pay and without health benefits</p> <p>To:                  Total Leave Period:                  January 23, 2023 - January 2, 2025                  Using 37 sick, 1 vacation and 2 personal days</p> <p>FMLA:                  March 22, 2023 - June 21, 2023                  Leave of Absence:                  June 22, 2023 - January 2, 2025                  Without pay and without health benefits</p>
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- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following Federal/NJ family leave request:

Employee ID#	Position	Request
1323	PVHS Math Teacher	<p>From:                  Total Leave Period:                  November 13, 2023 - April 1, 2024                  Using 32 sick days                  FMLA: January 8, 2023 - March 29, 2024                  Leave of Absence: None</p> <p>To:                  Total Leave Period:                  November 13, 2023 - April 17, 2024                  Using 28 sick days                  FMLA: January 2, 2023 - March 25, 2024                  Leave of Absence: March 26 - April 14, 2024</p>

- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following Federal/NJ family leave request:

Employee ID#	Position	Request
1471	PVHS Media Assistant	<p>From:                  Total Leave Period:                  January 15, 2024 - May 31, 2024                  Using 33 sick days                  FMLA: March 4, 2024-May 31, 2024                  Leave of Absence: None</p> <p>To:                  Total Leave Period:</p>

		January 15, 2024 - June 18, 2024 Using 44 sick days FMLA: March 20, 2024-June 18, 2024 Leave of Absence: None
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2. **Interim Region II Coordinator - Extension**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Bertram Consultants, Inc. to provide interim coordinator services for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, from March 15, 2024 to June 30, 2024, at a rate not to exceed \$45,000.

3. **Substitutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Position	Type
Esmeralda Espinoza	Park Academy Classroom Substitute Teacher	New
Laura Hummel	Substitute Nurse	New

4. **Athletic Appointments**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following athletic appointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Team	Position	Stipend/Step
Joseph Belger	PVHS Boys Tennis	Assistant Coach	\$5,940/Step 3
Erin Flanagan	PHHS Softball	Assistant Coach	\$5,925/Step 3 (stipend split step 3x2.5/3)
Craig Buckley	PVHS	Co-Spring Site Manager	\$3,077.50 (½ stipend)/step 1
Christopher Guinta	PVHS	Co-Spring Site Manager	\$3,077.50 (½ stipend)/step 1
Owen Haveron	PHHS	Co-Spring Site Manager	\$3,077.50 (½ stipend)/step 1
Evan Lampert	PHHS	Co-Spring Site Manager	\$3,077.50 (½ stipend)/step 1

5. **Athletic Appointment**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following athletic appointment for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Team	Position	Stipend/Step
Jonathan Hirsch	PVHS Girls Soccer	Assistant Coach	\$7,338/Step 3

#### 6. Volunteers

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following volunteers for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	School	Activity
Frank Cascio	PVHS	Baseball
Anthony Cieszko	PHHS	Baseball
Sean Liddy	PVHS	Baseball
Richard Lutz	PVHS	Baseball

#### 7. Testing Support

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following staff members to provide technical support for the newly computerized SAT test on March 9, 2024 at PVHS:

Name	Assignment	Payment
Jamie Budakian	Technician	\$500
Scott Jones	Technician	\$500*

\*\$150 will be paid directly from the College Board. The remaining \$350 will be paid by the district.

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following staff members for proctoring and helping at the February 17, 2024 ACT10 test at PVHS:

Name	Assignment	Payment
Maggie Ely	Test Coordinator	\$1,150
Anthony Judilla	Standard Time Proctor	\$216
Bill Koenig	Standard Time Proctor	\$216
Dana Corasaniti	Standard Time Proctor	\$216
Ron Villone	Extended Time Proctor	\$285
JJ Moran	Testing Help	\$200



Jamie Taylor	Relief/Floater Proctor	\$200
Nicole Ortiz	Relief/Floater Proctor	\$200

8. **Summer Employment**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Jamie Taylor, General Secretary to the Internship Program, 3 additional days from 2023 summer employment at her usual rate of pay. Ms. Taylor was board approved on June 5, 2023 for 10 days of summer employment; she was needed for an additional 3 days.

9. **Chaperones**

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following chaperone for after school band auditions and rehearsals. The chaperone will be paid \$80 for two hours and additional time will be prorated:

Name	Event	School	Date	Timeframe
Craig Yaremko	Region Jazz Auditions	PVHS	3/11/24	4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Craig Yaremko	Region Jazz Auditions	PVHS	3/18/24	4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following staff members to chaperone an event at the rate of \$80 per event:

Name	Event	Date
Lillian Murray	Mr. Pascack Hills	2/1/24
Marianne Simak	Mr. Pascack Hills	2/1/24
Evan Lampert	PHHS Junior Prom	3/15/24
Jamie Marootian-Miller	PHHS Junior Prom	3/15/24
Robert Salgado	PHHS Junior Prom	3/15/24
Nicholas Scerbo	PHHS Junior Prom	3/15/24
Brooke Schwartzman	PHHS Junior Prom	3/15/24
Christopher Volk	PHHS Junior Prom	3/15/24
Nicole Ortiz	PVHS Spring Musical	3/14/24
Jamie Taylor	PVHS Spring Musical	3/14/24
Pat Uszenski	PVHS Spring Musical	3/14/24
Leah Jerome	PVHS Spring Musical	3/15/24

Marisa Mathias	PVHS Spring Musical	3/15/24
Janet Murray	PVHS Spring Musical	3/15/24
Danielle Macaluso	PVHS Spring Musical	3/16/24
Elizabeth Egan	PVHS Spring Musical	3/16/24
Dorely Leal-Drago	PVHS Spring Musical	3/16/24
Natalie Burd	PVHS Spring Musical	3/16/24
Amy Maniscaco	PVHS Spring Musical	3/16/24
Kate Overgaard	PVHS Spring Musical	3/16/24

### 10. Additional Periods

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following additional sixth period class for the 2023-2024 school year, for student ID# 813630 who requires Tier III intervention instruction:

Name	Subject	Timeframe	Total Pay
Cassandra Liebfried	Geometry	2/6/24-6/13/24	\$4,935

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following additional assignments while employee ID#1323 is on leave until April 17, 2024:

Name	Subject	Timeframe	Total Pay
Mark Russo	Geometry	4/2/24-4/17/24 (2 weeks and 3 days)	\$745
Christina Rossi	Algebra 2	4/2/24-4/17/24 (2 weeks and 3 days)	\$745
David Giraldo	Geometry	4/2/24-4/17/24 (2 weeks and 3 days)	\$745

- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following additional assignments while employee ID#1905 is on leave until February 16, 2024.

Name	Subject	Timeframe	Total Pay
Kenneth Sarajian	US History 1	2/12/24-2/16/24 (1 week)	\$275

Joseph Orlak	AP Economics	2/12/24-2/16/24 (1 week)	\$275
Joseph Orlak	Financial Literature	2/12/24-2/16/24 (1 week)	\$275

**11. Supplemental Instruction**

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve tier III intervention supplemental instruction for student ID# 812410 for the 2023-2024 school year, starting February 14 to April 30, 2024.

Name	Subject	Frequency
Michelle Gaeta	Algebra II w Trig.	1 hour per week

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve supplemental instruction for student ID# 812301, per student’s IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year, starting February 12 - June 13, 2024.

Name	Subject	Frequency
Dayna Lane	Spanish II	2 hours per week

- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve supplemental instruction for student ID# 812591, per student’s IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year, starting February 12 - March 11, 2024. The hourly rate will be \$55 per hour.

Name	Subject	Frequency
Christine Gorman	French II	8 hours total

**12. Home Instruction**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID# 812476, per student’s IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year, from January 29 to April 8, 2024 (10 weeks) for 2 hours per day.

Name	Subject	Frequency
Cassandra Leibfried	Algebra II w Trig.	2 hours per week
Angela Rossi	Ceramics and Sculpture	2 hours per week
Nicole Olshalsky	Health 11	2 hours per week
Deborah Ragone	US History 2	2 hours per week
Vani Apanosian	English 3	2 hours per week

**13. ABA Instructional Assistants - Region II**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following name correction of a previously board approved ABA Instructional Assistant. Ashly Sehovic is an ABA Instructional Assistant for Region II for the 2023-2024 school year, at the rate of \$25 per hour.

**14. ABA Behavior Consultants - Region II**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve ABA Behavior Consultants, Elaine Barrett, and Mary Rose Schmid for the 2023-2024 school year, at the rate of \$52 per hour.

**15. Resignation**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Josh Wilson, Pascack Hills Paraprofessional, effective March 15, 2024.

**16. Substitute**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following substitute for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Position	Type
Maksym Kostohlodov	Substitute Custodian	New

**17. Volunteer**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following volunteer:

Name	School	Activity
Jason Stephans	PHHS	Golf

Moved by: Martin ▾

Seconded by: Stephans ▾

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Blundo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calderone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luisi	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mr. Weaver abstained to item 4  
Ms. Stephans abstained to item 17

X. **FINANCE**  
Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 19

1. **Approval of Bills**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bills as follows:

Budget Expenditures as of February 26, 2024	\$3,821,477.48
Payroll as of February 15, 2024	\$2,043,055.08
Total	\$5,864,532.56

2. **Travel Pre-Authorizations**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the pre-authorization travel expenses for professional development or school trips (attached):

Name	Professional Development or School Trip
Mary Doherty	AMTNJ Spring Conference
Olivia Saez	NJECC Educational Technology Conference
Argine Safari	Multilingual Learners Summit
Argine Safari	FLENJ Annual Conference
Luisa Sanchez	NJECC Educational Technology Conference
Tim Wieland	NJCEC Annual Spring Conference

3. **Donations**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the following donations:

Date	Donor	Donation	Club or Group
2/5/24	Janet Bissinger	\$1,000	Robotics Team
2/22/24	Douglas & Beth Moore	\$200	William & Maura Ellis Scholarship
2/22/24	Leta Gordon	\$50	William & Maura Ellis Scholarship
2/22/24	Anna Maria Ostermann & Karen Kosch	\$50	William & Maura Ellis Scholarship
2/22/24	Glenn & Denise Priddy	\$35	William & Maura Ellis Scholarship

4. **Approve Use of Funds**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following teacher, Michelle Gaeta to provide additional supplemental instruction to prepare students for the Accuplacer exam during the 2023-2024 school year, using ARP ESSER funds through the Accelerated Learning Coach grant allocation for high impact tutoring for 10 sessions at \$51 per hour for a total of \$510.

5. **Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards Grant**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve for the Pascack Valley Regional High School District to apply for the Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards Grant through Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Resilience Projects New Jersey State grant in the amount of \$31,875.00 for creating a greenhouse and associated interdisciplinary learning.

6. **Approve Proposal from KSI Consulting Engineers, LLC - Conference Room Fan Filter Unit Design**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the proposal from KSI Consulting Engineers, LLC, Farmingdale, New Jersey for engineering services related to the Conference Room Fan Filter Unit Design at 28 West Grand Avenue, Suite 7 in the amount of \$1,000.00.

7. **West Bergen Mental Healthcare**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the agreement between Region II and West Bergen Mental Healthcare for the period August 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 as follows:

Assessment / School Clearances completed by:	Rate
LSW/LCSW or LAC/LPC or Psychologist	\$179
Advance Practice Nurse	\$230

8. **Capital Reserve Withdrawal - Milestones House**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent approve a Capital Reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$26,000.00 to fund the architectural services for the Milestones House compliance renovations at 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

9. **Renew MasterLibrary.com, LLC**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the renewal of the contract with MasterLibrary.com, LLC for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$6,000.

**10. Skopye, LLC Change Order 001**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Change Order 001 submitted by Skopye, LLC for the Structural Repairs to Room 107 at Pascack Valley High School. This change order is a decrease to the allowance balance in the amount of \$4,457.24 . The remaining allowance balance is \$542.76; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this change order has been reviewed and approved by KSI Professional Engineers.

**11. Approve Byram Bus, Inc.**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Byram Bus, Inc. as a vendor for the 2023-2024 school year, at a rate of \$800 for the first four hours and \$75 per hour thereafter for overtime.

**12. Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI)**

**WHEREAS** the District is required, by the New Jersey Department of Education, to participate in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) for the school year 2024-2025,

**WHEREAS** the District is required to notify the Board of Education of the District's participation in SEMI,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District hereby notifies the Board of Education that it will participate in SEMI as required by the New Jersey Department of Education and budget the required amount of \$15,637.

**13. Transportation Joint Services and Agreements between the Pascack Valley Regional High School District and the Northwest Bergen Council – Region I**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approve the Joint Transportation Services and Transportation Agreements between the Northwest Bergen Council-Region I (Host District), an approved Coordinated Transportation Service Agency located in Mahwah, N.J., and the Pascack Valley Regional High School District (Joiner District) for the purpose of shared costs with other districts in transporting our district students to and from non-public schools and the Bergen County Vocational and Technical School campuses, including summer sessions, if applicable, in accordance with the N.J.S.A. Chapter 27:6A-10.1-3; Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 beginning July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

**14. Pascack Valley High School – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report for School Bus Emergency Evacuation Instruction Drill for School Bus Riders for the 2023-2024 School Year**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, pursuant to the Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2), and at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following completed school bus emergency evacuation drill for the **Pascack Valley High School, 200 Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ.**

The **first** of two annual drills **for bus riders** for the **2023-2024** school year was conducted on **Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 7:15 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.** in the **front of the school building.**

**WHEREAS**, the Scholastic Bus Company’s staff of school bus drivers for bus **routes #9, 10, 11, & 12** participated in the school bus emergency evacuation drill; and which included the supervision of **Mr. John Puccio Principal and Ms. Alison Petaccia** Assistant Principal of Pascack Valley High School.

**15. Transportation – Aid-in-Lieu Reimbursement for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2023-2024 School Year for Non-Profit Private School Parents**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, and pursuant to NJ State Administrative Code 6A:27-2.3, approve the first semester (September 2023 – December 2023) pupil transportation aid-in-lieu reimbursement to non-profit private school district parents in the amount for \$136,027.29 of which \$81,485.50 is for high school district parents.

Pursuant to 18A:39-11, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District, on behalf of the Hillsdale, Montvale, River Vale, & Woodcliff Lake Boards of Education, shall provide transportation bids through a (CSTA) Coordinated Transportation Service Agency, invoice the districts, and make payments on their behalf to parents of elementary students attending non-profit private schools in the amount of \$54,541.79

**16. Special Education Transportation - Region II - Quotes**

**RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q232424 to Spring Transportation during the 2023-2024 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q232424	Cranford Achievement Prg.	275	60	275	22,275.00

**RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q232425 to Shaddai Transportation during the 2023-2024 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q232425	Benjamin Franklin MS	210	55	265.00*	22,260.00*

\*includes aide cost

**17. Special Education Transportation - Region II - BID Correction**

**RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2423 to Destiny 23 Transportation LLC for the 2023-2024 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2423	Craig School, Lower	265	50	315.00*	24,255.00*

\*includes cost of aide

**18. Special Education Transportation - Region II - Addenda**

**RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education accept the following special education transportation contract addenda for the 2023-2024 school year.





Mr. Messineo said that could be employed, but the Board would be responsible for any issues. When the general contractor purchases the materials, the general contractor is responsible for everything. He commented that furniture and casework are purchased through state contract to avoid markups from the contractor. He indicated there are multiple mechanical components to the locker room project. Mr. Messineo commented that the general contractor is marking up materials and labor. They will get what they want. He added that electrical has been an issue. New electrical service can take up to one year as they have experienced.

Mr. Weaver asked about space utilization and the potential to use other areas.

Mr. Messineo did not do an overall capacity analysis of the building. They looked at the locker room proper and potential to add additional space. An issue with athletics is that there is quite a bit of plumbing, so utilities could be an issue if it does not exist in a particular area of the building.

Mr. Weaver commented that cost estimates now versus costs in 3-4 years from now.

Mr. Messineo said they are dealing with that currently at Lincoln Park. They had pre Covid costs and now they are dealing with post Covid costs. He mentioned that they do put escalators for projects that will bid two or three years later. He said a mechanical project came in \$300,000 over budget, so they went to bid again with the same scope. The bid came in \$750,000 over budget. They went into negotiations with contractors and the one contractor was willing to drop the bid by \$50,000. They said no and he came back dropping \$300,000 off the cost. The district said no. They went to bid again 6-8 months later and the bid came in \$950,000 over budget. He said the district is a victim of timing. Besides mechanical, prices have stabilized for the most part. Mr. Messineo commented that if this was part of a referendum then the renovations would be eligible for 34% aid and additions may garner 10-15%. He offered his opinion that the Board would need to determine other projects since the locker room project could stand alone in a referendum.

Ms. Bilotti asked philosophically about building up versus building out since the Board purchased property next to Pascack Hills High School.

Mr. Messineo said the architects look at the existing space first. He indicated that they also look at the master plan and if building out makes sense. May want to project seven to eight years to see what that property could be used for.

Ms. Stephans asked if the free standing fieldhouse would benefit students since it's a long walk from the school.

Mr. Strausser indicated that districts use fieldhouses in a variety of ways. It could be sports specific or used whichever team is practicing or playing a game. He said they could leave their equipment and that could be their primary team room.

Mr. Messineo added that this is something that would need to be explored to see if this would work for the district.

Mrs. Martin said the Hillsdale K-8 referendum was shot down and it was for educational use. She said educational needs would need to be in a referendum, not just sports.

Mr. Messineo agreed. He said there should be things that are a need and not a want. He mentioned that they do referenda a lot and since 2019 they have passed 12 out of 13. He commented that it's all about transparency and giving the people what they need and why the Board is doing it.

Mrs. Martin commented that this is only for Hills and there are four towns in the regional.

Mr. Messineo suggested looking at what Valley needs.

Mr. Weaver indicated that there are other projects that have been discussed in a potential referendum. He would like to know what areas could be renovated. He mentioned that this would be pitting one school against the other. It should be what is good for the district. He commented that the last referenda the girls locker room meeting was neglected and that it needs to be corrected in the next referenda which would be part of a bigger plan.

Ms. Bilotti was not clear about the use of other space, if that means moving the locker room or not.

Mr. Weaver indicated that he does not know what room utilization is, so he would leave that up to administration. He mentioned that the previous superintendent provided information on how rooms were utilized. He commented that he would leave it to the architects to determine what space could be utilized around the gym.

Mr. Messineo said renovating would be less costly and affords the district aid. The question is if there is space to do this.

Mr. Donahue said that there are two science rooms, trainer room, storage, and fitness room.

Mr. Messineo said that there could be more of a cost when you factor a location to relocate the two science labs. He indicated that he does not have a full floor plan, so they could do an analysis to see about possibilities.

Mrs. Varghese said she didn't think this is possible if the rooms are being utilized to its fullest.

Mr. Weaver would like to know room utilization of the building. He would like to know all the options. He would like to have every stakeholders' needs met.

Mr. Messineo indicated that he would send a survey to the principals to find out how the rooms are used. He commented that the building capacity in the LRF is something that DOE came up with and it has nothing to do with room utilization in the district.

Mr. Stankus made a motion to get a proposal from Solutions Architects for a room utilization analysis at Pascack Hills. Seconded by Mrs. Huang. All in favor except for Mr. Blundo and Mr. Luisi who were absent for the vote.

Mrs. Martin asked for an update of the 911 access at Valley.

Ms. Bilotti indicated that Mr. Zeller and Mr. Donahue came up with a clever and effective solution by installing a phone box in between the football and baseball field. The box will be weather proof and only dial 911. She said when the box is opened, it will take a photo. There will be a placard inside with the school's address and other emergency information such as the location of the AED. She added that the facility use form will have this information.

Mrs. Martin thanked everyone who made this happen.

Ms. Stephans thanked the administration with how they handled the staff and students regarding the unfortunate tragic death of Joseph McNeice.

Mrs. Huang commented that people who knew Joe McNiece and those who didn't attended the wake. People waited two and half hours to pay their respects.

Mrs. Huang thanked the Board for sending her to her board training. She mentioned that 80 board members attended and she heard about other districts in the breakout sessions. She added that she is glad she is part of the Pascack Valley Regional District.

Mr. Luisi left at 8:44

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Citizens are invited to make comments and are limited to three minutes, according to the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education policy number 0167. Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in and state their name and town of residence.

None

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Martin to adjourn the public meeting at 9:06 p.m. Ms. Stephans seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Moved by: Martin ▾

Seconded by: Stephans ▾

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Blundo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calderone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luisi		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Respectfully,




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Yas Usami  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Notice: With advance notice, we can provide personal assistance for the disabled. Please contact 201-358-7005.