

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Pascack Hills High School Auditorium**

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 Mr. Joseph Blundo, President

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

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Blundo 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. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Finance Committee Report - James Stankus

Mr. Stankus said the committee met with the auditors on December 11 and the auditors will give an overview tonight. He indicated that it was a productive meeting and the report was positive.

Student Reports: Olivia Ge– Pascack Hills High School - report
Madeline Gibbs– Pascack Valley High School - report

V. MINUTES

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

October 30, 2023	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
October 30, 2023	Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
November 20, 2023	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
November 20, 2023	Executive Meeting	8:10 p.m.

Dr. Blundy's resolution was moved to the beginning
Mr. Blundo thanked Dr. Blundy for her consistent concerns for student wellness. She always wanted to know how topics related to school would affect student wellness. He added that Dr. Blundy came aboard during an unprecedented time with many challenges.

Dr. Blundy's statement:

As I sit here today, at the end of my term with the Pascack Valley Board of Education, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated individuals. As John Dewey once said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." And what a lively journey it has been!

Reflecting on my time here, I am reminded of the incredible resilience and commitment of our administration. You have been the captains steering this ship through both calm and stormy seas, and your leadership has been nothing short of inspirational. To our teachers, the heart and soul of our schools, you have not only taught our students but also illuminated their paths with wisdom and compassion. It's true what they say, "A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others."

I want to congratulate Stephanie Huang as an incoming board member. I am sure it will come to no surprise to her and all of you that I offer this piece of advice: Never underestimate the power of a healthy mind and body in education. Encourage and support initiatives that foster health and wellness because a well student is a well learner. Remember, in the quest for knowledge, a sound mind and body are your best allies.

And to our students, the reason we are all here, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. May your journey through education and life be as fulfilling and enlightening as mine has been.

Thank you, one and all, for this incredible journey. As I step down, I do so with a heart full of gratitude and a spirit eager to see the wonderful things you will all continue to achieve.

Thank you.

Photo was taken with Dr. Blundy's family when she received her recognition plaque.

VII. **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Governor's School of New Jersey

WHEREAS Amanda Polyniak, a senior at Pascack Valley High School, completed the Governor's School of New Jersey Program in the Sciences this past summer. This is a three-week residential program, where each student completes three core courses, one laboratory, and one group project all in the sciences. On the final day, the groups presented their projects. Amanda worked on a biochemistry project, entitled "Exploring the Kinetics and Inhibition of Yeast Aldo-Ketoreductases."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize and commend Amanda for her outstanding achievement.

AP Scholar with Distinction

WHEREAS Toluwani Bosede and Alexander DeBiasio, seniors at Pascack Valley High School, are Advanced Placement Scholars with Distinction. These students received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more on these exams.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize and commend Toluwani and Alexander for their outstanding achievement.

AP Scholar with Honor

WHEREAS the following students from Pascack Valley High School are Advanced Placement Scholars. These are students who receive scores at least 3.25 on all Advanced Placement Exams taken and scores 3 or higher on four or more of these exams:

Dylan DerSimonian	Kieran Doody	Amanda Polyniak
Ming-Lang Qin	Jillian Suarez	Koichi Tazaki
Isabella Velez		

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize and commend these students for their outstanding achievement.

AP Scholar

WHEREAS the following students at Pascack Valley High School are Advanced Placement Scholars. These are students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams:

Sophia Bovino	Nicole Choi	Leesung Dang
Luke Dargan	Sophia Kolax	Carly Malamut
Ethan Perlman	Maya Schlessinger	Nathaniel Veit
Isaiah Wescott	Juan Zapateiro	

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend these students for their outstanding achievement.

National Merit Scholars - Commended Students PVHS

WHEREAS about 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2023 competition by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Toluwani Bosede	Alexander DeBiasio	Kieran Doody
Ming-Lang Qin	Koichi Tazaki	Isabella Velez

Isaiah Wescott		
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend these students for their outstanding achievement.

Bergen County Band

WHEREAS Caroline Veit, a sophomore at Pascack Valley High School, has been selected to play first chair trombone, and Eddie Grcic, a junior at Pascack Valley High School, has been selected to play first chair tuba with the Bergen County High School Band.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend Caroline and Eddie for their outstanding achievement.

Bergen County Choir

WHEREAS Ashlyn Choi and Matthew Kovacs, both sophomores at Pascack Valley High School, have been selected to be part of the Bergen County High School choir.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend Ashlyn and Matthew for their outstanding achievement.

First Team All Bergen County

WHEREAS the following students were selected to the First Team All Bergen County:

- Amanda Polyniak - Girls Soccer (3rd time)
- Tara Stewart - Girls Soccer
- Steven Gifford - Boys Soccer
- Kevin Regula - Football
- Patrick Kurtz - Cross-Country and Bergen County Cross-Country Division B Champion
- Hope Gasperino - Gymnastics
- Kiera Jennings - Gymnastics

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize and commend these students for their outstanding achievement.

Super Football Conference Steve DeGregorio Young Man of the Year

WHEREAS Tyler Duffy, a senior at Pascack Hills High School, and Colin Foley, a senior at Pascack Valley High School, are recipients of the Super Football Conference Steve DeGregorio Young Man of the Year award. This award was established in 2017, New Jersey's Super Football Conference (SFC) is the largest high school football conference in the United States, with 111 public and non-public teams in seven counties. Based on various attributes that were core to Steve DiGregorio, the award emphasizes community service, selflessness, leadership, academic standing, and a positive attitude.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize and commend Tyler and Colin for their outstanding achievement.

Bergen County Boys Soccer Coaches Association Unsung Hero Award

WHEREAS, Ethan Perlman, a senior at Pascack Valley High School, received the Bergen County Boys Soccer Coaches Association Unsung Hero Award.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend Ethan for his outstanding achievement.

**Garden State Press Awards
Trailblazer - PHHS**

WHEREAS, The Trailblazer, the Pascack Hills High School student publication, was recognized for the following at the Garden State Student Press Awards:

Media Awards:

Olivia Ge and Kaitlyn Verde, Editors-in-Chief, awarded First place: Social Media Presence

Individual Awards:

Paige Geanopulos - Third place in In-Depth Reporting: "Mahsa Amini's death: The state of Iran and its online discussion."

Ethan Kaufman - Fifth place in Review Writing: "Every Lana Del Ray Album Ranked."

Thomas Samouhos - Eighth place in News Writing: "Turkey-Syria earthquake brings forth global response."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize the staff of the Trailblazer for their outstanding achievements.

**Garden State Student Press Awards
The Valley Echo - PVHS**

WHEREAS, The Valley Echo, the Pascack Valley High School student publication, was recognized for the following at the Garden State Student Press Awards:

Overall Online Excellence

Maya Schlessinger, Carly Malamut, Sophie Kolax, Staff Editors, awarded Third Place

Multimedia News

Third place: Megan Austin

Multimedia Sports

Honorable Mention: Ethan Perlman

Social Media Presence

Maya Schlessinger and Carly Malamut, and Sophie Kolax, Staff Editors, awarded Second Place

Newswriting:

Division A: Third Place

Sophie Kolax and Carly Malamut "The legacy of Zack Latteri lives on at benefit basketball games on Sunday."

Feature Writing

Division A: Third Place

Maya Schlessinger “PV Senior Treshan Nilaweera self-publishes a fantasy novel.”

Review Writing:

Division A: Second Place

Sophie Kolax, Carly Malamut, Gabrielle Rothenberg, and Maya Schlessinger “Meet Me at Midnight: A review of Taylor Swift’s newest album, ‘Midnights.’”

Division A: Fifth Place

Megan Austin “The Super Mario Bros. Movie: bringing the game to life.”

Division A: Sixth Place

Sophie Kolax “The Inheritance Games Series: A terrifically twisted and tricky trilogy.”

Timely Sports

Aidan Burke and Timothy Ngai awarded third place.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend the staff of The Valley Echo for their outstanding achievements.

VIII. PRESENTATION

Annual Audit Report - Brian Gibbons, Auditor, NISIVOCCIA LLP

Mr. Brian Gibbons thanked Mr. Usami and his staff for making the audit run smoothly year after year. He reviewed the audit and highlighted revenues and appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. [Audit Synopsis](#).

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Citizens are invited to make comments regarding agenda items 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, town of residence, and which agenda item(s) they are referencing.

None

X. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1-3

1. Safe Reopening Plan - Updated

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the biannual re-approval of our District’s Safe Return Plan (attached)

2. HIB Reports

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approve action taken pursuant to HIB Reports:

- a. HIB Incident #254048 PHH (attached)
- b. HIB Incident #252654 PHH (attached)

3. **BOE Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations – Second Reading and Adoption**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, adopt the following bylaws, policies and regulations:

Name of Policy or Regulation	Policy/Reg. Number
Sick Leave	P 1642.01
Sick Leave	R 1642.01
Religion in the Schools	P 2270
School Threat Assessment Teams (M)	P 2419
School Threat Assessment Teams (M)	R 2419
Examination for Cause	P 3161
Examination for Cause	P 4161
Attendance (M)	P 3212
Attendance (M)	R 3212
Attendance (M)	P 4212
Attendance (M)	R 4212
Right of Privacy	P 3324
Right of Privacy	P 4324
Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)	P 5111
Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)	R 5111
Education of Homeless Children and Youths	P 5116
Education of Homeless Children and Youths	R 5116
Food Services (M)	P 8500

Moved by: Blundy Seconded by: Martin

VOTE

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

Mr. Weaver abstained to Items 2 and 3.

XI. EDUCATION

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 2

1. Out-of-district Placements

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve out-of district placement for student ID# 812475 at Fusion Academy, per student’s IEP. Tuition cost for course, Community of the Minds, Semester 1, is \$4,603 with a start date of October 17, 2023 through January 30, 2024.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve out-of district placement for student ID# 812420 at Fusion Academy, per student’s IEP. Tuition cost is \$50,290 for the 2023-2024 school year starting on November 30, 2023.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve out-of district placement for student ID# 812781 at Homestead School, per student’s IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year with a start date of November 20, 2023. The prorated tuition will be \$45,289.32.
- d. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve prorated tuition of \$5,577 from Barnstable Academy for student ID# 812776 to support an additional class, per student’s IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year. The effective start date is November 22, 2023 through June 14, 2024.
- e. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve out-of district placement from part-time to full-time at Cosmo Beauty Academy for student ID# 811335, per student’s IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year starting January 2 through April 30, 2024 at the cost of \$1,760 per month for five months.

Consent Agenda for Items 1-20

1. **New Hire**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following individual to the position indicated:

Name	Position	Account Number	Salary	Effective Date
Cassandra Leibfried	PHHS / PVHS Special Education Teacher	11-213-100-101-06-000	\$150 per day Once CEAS Certification, Students with Disabilities, is obtained, compensation will be \$59,275 prorated, MA Step1, tenure track, with health benefits	On or about February 1, 2024

2. **Resignation**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept with regret, the resignation (attached) of Christie Rossig, Pascack Valley Student Assistance Counselor, for the purposes of retirement, effective June 30, 2024.

3. **Leave of Absence**

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
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 - March 25, 2024 Using 28 sick days FMLA/NJFLA: January 2, 2023 - March 25, 2024 Leave of Absence: None</p>

- 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
1561	PVHS English Teacher	<u>Total Leave Period:</u> March 16, 2024 - June 13, 2024 Using 33 sick days <u>FMLA:</u> May 13, 2024 - June 13, 2024 <u>Leave of Absence:</u> None

4. **District Retiree Leave Replacement - Rate of Pay**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a new rate of pay for district retirees who cover leave replacement assignments. The new rate will have a per diem amount of \$500. The previous per diem rate was \$400.

5. **Substitute Nurse Rate of Pay**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a new rate of pay for substitute nurses. The per diem rate will be \$300. The previous per diem rate was \$217. Additionally, the half day rate will be \$150, and an hourly rate of \$42.80 can be utilized when an assigned substitute nurse works beyond the half day hours.

6. **Leave Replacement**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Kelly Weckstein (attached) as leave replacement for the Library Assistant at PVHS while employcc ID# 1471 is on leave from on or about January 15-May 31, 2024.

7. **Leave Replacement - Revisions**

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the change of Cassandra Leibfried's assignment to cover employee ID# 1564 to end on or about February 1, 2024. Cassandra was previously board approved on September 26, 2023 to cover until March 1, 2024.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Lois Jasper as leave replacement coverage for employee ID# 2384 from December 8, 2023 to January 8, 2024. The extended assignment was previously board approved on November 20, 2023 at a per diem rate of \$400. The new district retiree leave replacement rate of pay should be applied with a per diem rate of \$500 for the timeframe, December 8, 2023 to January 8, 2024.

8. Summer Employment - Adjustment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the adjustment to a previously board approved resolution on June 5, 2023 for Jay Uhl, the Pascack Hills High School computer science teacher, to work on building the district master schedule and identifying a roaming matrix for room allocation for 20 hours at the professional development rate of \$51 per hour.

9. 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 assignments while employment ID#1323 is on leave until April 1, 2024:

Name	Subject	Timeframe	Total Pay
Mark Russo	Geometry	11/13/2023-4/1/2024 (19 weeks)	\$5,225
Mark Russo	Intro to Computer Science	11/13/2023-11/29/2023 (2 weeks, 3 days)	\$745
Christina Rossi	Algebra 2	11/30/2023-4/1/2024 (16 weeks, 2 days)	\$4,530
David Giraldo	Geometry	11/13/2023-4/1/2024 (19 weeks)	\$5,225

- 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 employment ID#1905 is on leave from January 12, 2024 to February 5, 2024, 3 weeks and 1 day.

Name	Subject	Total Pay
Kenneth Sarajian	US History 1	\$890
Connor Quinlan	Financial Literacy	\$890
Joseph Orlak	Financial Literacy	\$890

10. Supplemental Instruction

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve supplemental instruction for student ID# 811661, per student's IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year starting December 7, 2023 to January 31, 2024.

Name	Subject	Frequency
Amy Maniscalco	English IV	2 hours per week
Al Coleman	PE/Health 11	1 hour per week
Stephanie DiGiacopo	Ceramics	1 hour per week

Heather O'Campo	Statistics 1	2 hours per week
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- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve supplemental instruction to prepare students for the required Accuplacer exam during the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Number of Sessions	Total Amount
Michelle Gaeta	10	\$510
Brian Koch	10	\$510
Alexandra Pfliging	10	\$510
Tracy Recine	10	\$510

11. Co-curricular Resignation

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the following co-curricular resignation:

Activity	Name	Position
Spring Musical Assistant Director	Patrick Brennan	Co-Advisor

12. Co-curricular Appointment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following co-curricular appointment:

Activity	Name	Position	Stipend
Spring Musical Assistant Director	Nick Bernard	Co-Advisor	\$1,750

13. Athletic Appointments

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve revision to a previously approved board resolution for Charleen Schwartzman as the PHHS Head Girls Golf Coach for the 2023-2024 school year. Stipend from \$7,524 to \$7,525 (step 3).
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Vicky Patel as a PHHS assistant wrestling coach for the 2023-2024 season. Mr. Patel will work 2 days per week during the season at a prorated step 1 coaches guide per diem rate of \$109.

14. **Volunteers**

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

Name	School	Activity
Kerry Sidrow	PVHS	Winter and Spring Track Seasons
Carl Von Tobel	PVHS	Spring Track
Michael Finamore	District	Ice Hockey

15. **Chaperones**

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Al Cann as a chaperone for previously board approved (March 13, 2023) overnight trip to Galapagos Islands from February 17-25, 2024, due to increased student interest.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Elizabeth Egan to chaperone the PV Winter Concert event on 12/14/2023.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Ryan Dore to chaperone the PHHS Tri-State Induction Ceremony event on February 13, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and the PHHS Talent Night event on April 16, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- d. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve chaperones for after school choir and band auditions and rehearsals. Chaperones will be paid \$80 for two hours and additional time will be prorated.

Name	Event	School	Date	Timeframe
Meghan Magnus	Bergen County Choir Auditions	PVHS	11/2/2023	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Craig Yaremko	Bergen County Band Auditions	PVHS	11/28/2023	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Craig Yaremko	Region Band Auditions	PVHS	1/6/2024	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Meghan Magnus	Region Band Auditions	PVHS	1/6/2024	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Craig Yaremko	Bergen County Band Auditions	PVHS	1/8/2024	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Meghan Magnus	Bergen County Choir Auditions	PVHS	1/12/2024	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Craig Yaremko	Bergen County Band Auditions	PVHS	1/16/2024	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Craig Yaremko	Bergen County Band Auditions	PVHS	1/18/2024	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Craig Yaremko	Bergen County Band Auditions	PVHS	1/20/2024	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ryan Dore	Bergen County Band Auditions	PHHS	11/28/2023	3:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Ryan Dore	Region Band Auditions	PHHS	1/6/2024	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ryan Dore	Region Jazz Auditions	PHHS	3/18/2024	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Margarita Elkin	Bergen County Choir Auditions	PHHS	1/6/2024	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Margarita Elkin	Bergen County Choir Rehearsal	PHHS	1/12/2024	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Margarita Elkin	Region Choir Rehearsal	PHHS	1/31/2024	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Margarita Elkin	All-State Choir Rehearsal	PHHS	2/17/2024	12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

16. 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 district for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Position	Type
Margaret Conway	Substitute Nurse	New
Brianna Musco	Substitute Classroom Teacher	Renew
Lauren Morrissey	Substitute Classroom Teacher	New

17. Home Instruction

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID# 811513, per student's IEP, for the 2023-2024 school year with a starting date of December 12, 2023 for 60 days.

Name	Subject	Frequency
Nicole Olshalsky	PE/Health 12	2 hours per week

Vani Apanosian	World Literature	1 hour per week
Heather O'Campo	College Algebra	1 hour per week for 15 weeks

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID# 811915 for Stats 1 / College Algebra from Heather O'Campo 1 hour per week from December 4-January 22, 2024.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID# 812309 starting December 4, 2023 to January 22, 2024:

Subject	Frequency	Instructor
Spanish IV	2 hours per week	Dorely Leal-Drago
Algebra II w Trig.	2 hours per week	Heather O'Campo

18. ABA Behavior Consultants - Region II

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

Last Name	First Name	Hourly Rate
Hassan	Nadia	\$50
Maskin	Sarah-Kate	\$56
McSpirit	Laura	\$57

19. ABA Instructional Assistant - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Judi Catherwood as an ABA Instructional Assistant for Region II at the hourly rate of \$34 for the 2023-2024 school year.

20. New Hire

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following individuals to the position indicated:

Name	Position	Account Number	Salary	Effective Date
Melissa Incandela	District Payroll Manager	11-000-251-100-02-000	\$85,000, prorated, with benefits, tenure track	On or about January 22, 2024

a. Cafeteria Account	October 2023
b. e-Learning Account	October 2023
c. Capital Project Account	October 2023
d. Student Government Account – PH	October 2023
e. Student Government Account – PV	October 2023
f. Athletic Account – PH	October 2023
g. Athletic Account PV	October 2023

5. **Transfers**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve transfers for the month of October 2023.

6. **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
Barry Bachenheimer	AI K12 Deeper Learning Summit
Sarah Bilotti	NJASA TECHSPO 2024
Jordan Kapp	University of Vermont and Middlebury College Tours and Rep. Visits
Natalie Macke	National Science Teaching Association - National Conference Presenting on data science and remote sensing applications that focus on supporting equity and inclusion in the classroom.
John Puccio	Future of Education Technology Conference
Argine Safari	NJMEA Conference Presenting on a multi-year project integrating a major, original musical work with strong community outreach and community building. Presenting on AI in Music Classroom.
Yas Usami	2024 Leadership Forum
Maria Valentino	NJASA TECHSPO 2024

7. **Rescind Resolution - Capital Reserve Withdrawal - Structural Repair in Room 107**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, rescind resolution Finance Item 9 on November 20, 2023, the approval of Capital Reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$78,000.00 to fund the Structural Repair in Room 107 at Pascack Valley High School.

8. **Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal - Structural Repair in Room 107**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a Maintenance Reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$78,000.00 to fund the Structural Repair in Room 107 at Pascack Valley High School.

9. **Acceptance of Final Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2023**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the findings expressed by the auditing firm of Nisivoccia & Company, LLP as cited in their reports entitled:

1. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
2. Auditors' Management Report on Administrative Findings – Financial Compliance and Performance Year Ending June 30, 2023
3. Audit Synopsis

10. **Corrective Action Plan**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Corrective Action Plan based on the audit recommendation below:

RECOMMENDATION NUMBER	CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUIRED BY THE BOARD	METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION
2 Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting	The District will ensure that all payroll deductions and withholdings are calculated accurately, remitted to the proper agencies in a timely manner and all proper supporting documentation is maintained.	The business office will review payroll deductions and withholdings are done properly and review proper documents are maintained.	Assistant Business Administrator

11. **Amendment to the Long Range Facility Plan - 201 West Grand Ave, Montvale**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the amendment to the Long Range Facility Plan to purchase property located at 201 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, New Jersey for the proposed parking lot.

12. **Amendment to the Long Range Facility Plan - 63 Patterson St, Hillsdale**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the amendment to the Long Range Facility Plan to purchase property located at 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, New Jersey for the 18-21 year old program.

13. **Edwards Engineering Group Proposal - Artificial Turf & Track Drainage**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the proposal submitted by Edwards Engineering Group (L2A Company), Englewood, New Jersey for engineering services in the amount of \$21,080.00 plus reimbursables for the Artificial Turf and Track Drainage Improvements.

14. **Rescind Resolution - Finance Item 15 on November 20, 2023**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, rescind resolution Finance Item 15 on November 20, 2023, the approval of the submission of an application to acquire land at 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, NJ and a Project Application to the NJDOE.

15. **Submission of Application to the NJDOE for Approval of the Land Acquisition at 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, NJ**

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education (“Board”) has entered into a contract to purchase property located at 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, New Jersey (“Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Board contains contingency for obtaining government approval to purchase the property;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the submission of applications and documents that are required by the applicable government entities to review and/or obtain the requisite approval to purchase the property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board, at the recommendation of the superintendent, authorizes the submission of an application to the NJDOE for approval of the land acquisition at, 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, NJ, Lot 8, Block 1101 and authorizes the submission of a Project Application to NJDOE;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President, Superintendent of Schools and Business Administrator are authorized to sign the applications and issue letters on behalf of the Board.

16. **Approve Special Counsel, Park Academy**

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education requires the professional services and

WHEREAS, the nature of the services to be performed meet the definition of “professional services” set forth in the Public School Contract Law, and

WHEREAS, funds are available to obtain such professional services, and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contract Law N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-5 authorizes the awarding of contracts for professional services by resolution of the Board of Education without publicly advertised competitive bids.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent authorize the award of professional services appointment to Schenck Price Smith & King, LLP, Florham Park, New Jersey as special counsel for Park Academy to provide legal services as per the following hourly rates: \$180.00 for partners and counsel; \$175 for senior associates; \$170 for senior associates; \$170 for junior associates; \$135 for paralegals and law clerks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a brief notice of this action shall be printed once in *The Record* as required by law, within ten (10) days of its passage, stating its nature, duration, service, and amount and that the resolution and contract are on file in the office of the Board of Education in the following form: This resolution and contract is on file and available for public inspection at the Board of Education's office, located at 28 West Grand Avenue, Suite 2, Montvale, NJ.

17. IDEA FY 2023-2024 Amendment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the submission of the IDEA, Part B grant amendment for 2023-2024 to include 2022-2023 carryover funds of \$51,421 to be set aside for non-public schools.

18. Accept ESEA 2022-2023 Carryover Funds

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the 2022-2023 carryover amounts as follows, allocated in the 2023-2024 ESEA application:

Title	Public	Non-public	Total Carryover
Title I-A	\$4,982	\$0	\$4,982
Title II-A	\$15,710	\$0	\$15,710
Title III Immigrant	\$2,288	\$0	\$2,288

19. Independent Child Study Team Therapy Evaluations and/or Services - Joint Agreement Between Region II and Non-Member District

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 the Non-Member District, Wanaque Public Schools for Independent Child Study Team Therapy Evaluations and/or Services for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

20. Approve Change Order 001 Teo Technologies, Inc. - A-Wing HVAC Replacement at Pascack Hills

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve change order 001 submitted by Teo Technologies, Inc. of Franklin, New Jersey for the A-wing HVAC Replacement at Pascack Hills High School. This change order is a decrease in the amount of \$10,000, to refund the balance of the unused contingency amount. Furthermore, this change order has been reviewed and approved by KSI Consulting Engineers.

Original Contract Amount	\$310,000.00
Previously Authorized Change Order	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$310,000.00
Decrease by Change Order 001 Unused Contingency	-\$10,000.00
Revised Contract Amount	\$300,000.00

21. Special Education Transportation - Region II - Quotes

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q232418 to Horizon Transportation during the 2023-2024 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q232418	NJEDDA	375	75	450.00*	22,050.00*

*includes aide cost

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q232419 to Sunny Transportation during the 2023-2024 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q232419	Bergen Ctr. For Child Dev.	179	40	219.00*	22,338.00

*includes aide cost

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q232421 to First Student, Inc. during the 2023-2024 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q232421	Bancroft, Mount Laurel	539	0.00	539.00	22,099.00

22. Special Education Transportation - Region II - Parent Contracts

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract to The Parent for route #AC2324 for the 2023-24 school year.

Route #	Route	Per Diem	Annual Cost
AC2324	Holmstead School	50	6,650.00

Moved by: Martin

Seconded by: Blundy

VOTE

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

XIV. **OLD BUSINESS**

Monthly Suspension Report - Attached

Mr. Weaver referenced a Board Goal about member attendance at committees. He asked about the role of a committee member since there has not been clear direction. He indicated that some committees meet less frequently and wanted to know the expectations of how often committees should be meeting. He mentioned that the Equity Committee has met once or twice in about two years. He commented that other district committees may meet once a month or every other month. He indicated in the past a schedule of committee meeting dates would be in the Friday Briefing.

Ms. Bilotti commented that the goal is one that the board members created. She indicated that the members could discuss that amongst themselves. She mentioned that the summer retreat did not have robust attendance and perhaps a winter retreat could be in order to discuss goals and set expectations.

Mrs. Martin said that different committees have levels of meeting frequency such as the Negotiations Committee which could have many meetings one year and very little in the next year. She mentioned the meeting day should be examined. Mondays seem to be good since board members reserve that day for board meetings.

Mr. Blundo said he agreed with Mr. Weaver. He indicated in the past, the administration scheduled the meetings and would bring in experts in the topics to be discussed. He commented that in past retreats, they were heavily attended that lasted the entire day and they got a lot accomplished. He mentioned that lately it's been difficult to get a quorum due to members' schedules and the retreats are squeezed in for an hour or so before or after a board meeting. He said that this is not substantial. He would like to get back to substantial retreats where they would receive a presentation from curriculum or technology.

Mr. Stankus added that in the past there were joint board meetings with the sending districts which were productive.

Mr. Blundo indicated that meetings in general were affected by Covid. He commented that a positive was that committee meetings could be held via Zoom.

Ms. Calderone asked if retreats could be held on weekends since it is difficult for her to miss work.

Mr. Usami indicated that he pre-dated Mr. Blundo and the retreats were held on Saturdays starting in the morning to sometime in the afternoon.

Ms. Bilotti said that is typical.

Mr. Blundo added that the superintendent search meetings were held on Saturdays.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Calderone mentioned that she has heard grumblings about the traffic during drop off in the mornings at Hills. She indicated that with all the building developments it will get worse. She asked about considering staggering times by grade.

Ms. Bilotti indicated that at a recent meeting with the Montvale Planning Board, they are considering making changes for traffic flow by the high school. She said the Planning Board asked if the Board would consider conducting a traffic study at Hills. She mentioned that our civil engineer referred another engineer who specializes in traffic studies who happened to be at the borough hall that evening. He indicated that he would focus on the spike(s) in traffic to see about opportunities to reduce traffic.

Mr. Blundo indicated that he is in his last term and he does not wish to be president, so he asked that he not be nominated at the reorganization since he will not be present.

XVI. 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.

Ms. Zahera Khan of Montvale brought some holiday treats for the Board. She mentioned that she is Muslim Indian American. She indicated that her two children attended or attend school in the district. She said she is involved heavily volunteering in the schools and the community. She referenced a letter sent out by Ms. Bilotti in October regarding the war in the Middle East. Ms. Khan commented that it is not inclusive to all students in the community. She said the letter was divisive and uniformed. She mentioned that it was offensive that the word Muslim or Palestine was not mentioned. She said she was appreciative that Ms. Bilotti spoke to Jewish faith leaders and the Bergen County educational community, but she should have done the same for the Palestinian, Arab, Muslim communities and faith leaders. She appreciated Ms. Bilotti condemning acts of hatred and terrorism, but they also would like to see the condemning of the genocide of Palestinian children who are being murdered. She asked the Board if they read the letter then how could they be alright with it. Ms. Khan mentioned the sharp rise in bias incidents against Muslims in the U.S. She said simply not knowing is unacceptable. She commented that Governor Murphy declared January as Muslim Heritage Month and on January 7 the first Muslim Heritage Expo will be held. There will be literature at the Montvale Library as well.

Ms. Sabreena Karim of Woodcliff Lake is a Muslim Indian American who has two children in Dorchester. She said she was shocked and saddened by Ms. Bilotti's letter. She said she spoke with Ms. Bilotti and mentioned that she would have preferred no email at all. She indicated that Ms. Bilotti did not have any Christian or Muslim faith leaders, so Ms. Karim introduced Ms. Bilotti to two leaders and Ms. Bilotti did not reach out to either. She indicated that the letter was not inclusive and she wished Ms. Bilotti condemned the hate speech against Palestinian Christians and Muslims. She appreciated that Ms. Bilotti condemned antisemitism, but she wanted to see anti Muslim bigotry or Islam phobia. She cited anti Muslim hate crimes throughout

the U.S. She agrees that schools do not need to weigh in on international events, however if it is done then it's imperative to consider all people affected by such international events. She asked that an inclusive statement be made to all students with an updated statement for peace and love for all. Also, to mention their community by name and to acknowledge their pain.

Ms. Bushra Sheikh of Woodcliff Lake is a Muslim Indian American who has two graduated children from Hills and two children in elementary school. She cited the extensive number of hate crimes fueled by Islam phobia. She made a request to Ms. Bilotti that all lives matter equally. She urged Ms. Bilotti to send a revised letter stating opposition to anti semitism as well as Islam phobia. She mentioned condemning attacks on civilians in Israel, but to include attacks in Gaza. She commented that Ms. Bilotti's position carries leadership and influence. She asked that Ms. Bilotti leverage her influential position to advocate justice and to condemn violence impartially.

Mr. Blundo said he will not comment on the letter as board president. The Board is here to educate all children. He thanked the people who commented.

Dr. Blundy thanked the three people for coming as it takes a lot of courage and strength to speak. She asked for more information about the Muslim Heritage Expo in January.

Mr. Weaver thanked the three people for coming and reiterated getting more information about the January 7 Muslim Heritage Expo. He asked for the time and location of the event. He commented that he would like to attend if he is able.

Mr. Stankus thanked the three people. He said the voice of the public is very important. He mentioned that it is of utmost importance to hear various viewpoints and the Board takes it to heart.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Blundy to adjourn the public meeting at 8:53 p.m. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Moved by: Blundy Seconded by: Martin

VOTE

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

Respectfully,



Yas Usami
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

