

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Wednesday, August 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.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 special meeting, one opportunity is provided for citizens to make comments. In order for a citizen to make a comment, they must be physically present at the meeting. Citizens may address general comments on both agenda and non-agenda items 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.

Public Records

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.

Accommodations

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 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Joseph Blundo, President

Present: Mr. Joseph Blundo, President
Mr. Pat Luisi
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Ms. Tammy Molinelli
Ms. Debra Stephans
Mr. Michael Weaver
Ms. Sarah Bilotti, Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Gini Varghese, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy
Mr. James Stankus

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 August 12, 2022.

Ms. Bilotti gave an overview of the agenda and gave a recap of the 2021-2022 Board goals. She mentioned that Dr. Barry Bachenheimer will present the District goals at the August 29 meeting and perhaps the Board could begin to formulate their goals.

IV. PRESENTATION - RETREAT

Summer Programming and Facilities Overview

Ms. Noemi Rodriguez, Supervisor of World Language, Family and Consumer Science and Music, presented her program that featured a Farm to Table Cooking Program with ELL students. ([presentation](#))

Ms. Molinelli asked what languages the students spoke.

Ms. Rodriguez indicated that most are Spanish speaking, but other languages spoken are Korean, French and Telugu.

Mrs. Martin asked if any of the students needed to be transported.

Ms. Rodriguez said that they were offered transportation, but no one needed it.

Ms. Valerie Mattiesich, Supervisor of English, Media Services and Art, presented her program on college essay writing. ([presentation](#)) She indicated that the program is a supplement to what is done during the school year. The program runs for two weeks,

Monday-Thursday for two hours a day. There was some discussion if the district could charge for the course and perhaps run it after school or Saturdays.

Dr. Mark Russo, Supervisor of Math and Computer Science, presented on summer acceleration and SAT/ACT class. ([notes](#)) Dr. Russo noted that the SAT and ACT prep classes are free. He added that the district offers a math center during this school year and they have not determined when it will be offered.

Ms. Mattiesich commented that students go to the writing center during lunch.

Dr. Russo mentioned that the summer acceleration program runs for eight days for two hours a day. He indicated that the program has been successful as it provides small group support to make students more comfortable with math going into the school year. He said students are targeted based on grades and this includes 8th graders who are entering the 9th grade. Dr. Russo commented that if the program is expanded to others, the class sizes will become larger and the program may not be as effective.

Mr. Blundo was concerned how the program may be funded after the grants expires.

Mr. Weaver asked about the cost of the program.

Ms. Bilotti said that administration will provide those figures.

Ms. Molinelli commented that she would like to see the district assist those students who are not college bound. She emphasized that apprenticeships and internships are career builders. She added that a summer program for building careers is essential, college bound or not.

Ms. Mattiesich agreed and said that the guidance and business departments would need to be involved.

Mr. Weaver agreed with Ms. Molinelli. He commented that electricians earn over six figures.

Mr. Blundo agreed and said that the district has done a lot in this area since he has been on the Board. He added that more needs to be done.

Mrs. Martin mentioned that the students need to be aware of the programs.

Robert Donahue, Director of facilities and Capital Improvements mentioned the most successful person he knows is a friend who is plumber who did not attend college. He indicated that he licensed a plumber, electrician and HVAC mechanic with special needs students working with them. He added that an internship program with students working with the licensed professionals would be a great benefit to the students and his department.

Mr. Donahue reported that the district has 21 projects of various sizes in progress. He reviewed the main projects. He mentioned that the toilet rooms are near completion and they look like hotel bathrooms. He said the HVAC units arrived, but the wrestling room unit will not be available until November. The roof projects are delayed due to supply chain issues and will be started after the end of the school year. The Hills track is nearing completion but will not be completed before school starts. The Valley Beautification project bid came in well over budget and will be worked on in stages. The Hills stairs, ramp and railings by the gymnasium will be bid in October and started end of school. The project will take about two months to complete. He mentioned that the drawings for

the Region II office space have been completed and the landlord needs to submit the permits.

Mr. Weaver asked about the Hills grandstand issue.

Ms. Bilotti said that the board attorney could address that in closed session.

Mr. Blundo asked where the district stood with the locker room estimate.

Mr. Donahue indicated that he spoke with the architect and they will have something by the end of the week. He confirmed that there will be options with scope and estimated costs.

Ms. Bilotti mentioned the completion of the two Board goals from 2021-2022. One was to hire a superintendent and the other school finance training. She shared possible goals with the Board. ([slides](#))

Mr. Weaver suggested HIB training would be beneficial since the Board hears HIB cases and then either supports the decision or not.

Ms. Stephans indicated that she liked attending graduation and believes attending events is a good goal.

Ms. Molinelli would like to add career building and supporting programs for non-college bound students to Portrait of a Graduate. Mr. Weaver and Ms. Stephans agreed.

Mr. Matthew Lee, NJSBA field representative reviewed Board Ethics and Self Evaluation. Mr. Lee mentioned that the Self Evaluation is a great tool as a precursor to develop board goals.

([presentation](#))

V. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Citizens are invited to make comments regarding agenda or non-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

VI. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:19 A.M.

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has been formed pursuant to applicable New Jersey Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board is charged with the responsibility of performing all acts and doing all things, consistent with law and the rules of the State Board of Education, necessary for the lawful and proper conduct, equipment and maintenance of the public schools and public school property of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District; and

