

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Pascack Valley High School Cafeteria**

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
Mrs. Gini Varghese, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy
Ms. Elizabeth Calderone
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mr. James Stankus
Ms. Debra Stephans arrived at 7:38 p.m.
Mr. Michael Weaver
Ms. Sarah Bilotti, Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Student Representatives: Olivia Ge - PHHS, Isabella Velez - PVHS

Absent: Mr. Pat Luisi

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 15, 2022.

IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Committee Reports: Finance and Facilities - None

Superintendent's Report: Sarah Bilotti - I want to thank Dr. Bachenheimer and Ms. Mattisich, Mr. Orlak and Ms. Safari for putting together a curriculum update that they will be presenting in a few minutes. We do have a series of updates scheduled for the next few meetings designed to highlight the new or innovative curriculum items we have for this and next year.

Princeton was on site last Monday to observe Ms. Ricca and meet with a panel of teachers and students about her classroom work. The observer was very impressed with the poise and maturity of our students and with Ms. Ricca's instructional program. We are very hopeful that she will progress as an award recipient, regardless, making it into the top ten is a very prestigious honor for her and for our district.

Lastly, We did realize the unfortunate confluence of the Spring SAT test, the time change, and the 11th Grade State Testing. Unfortunately, the state's window for testing is so small this was our only option, but I did make a note to bring this up to our state organizations as input - for our 11th graders, this was a lot to ask and we recognize that.

VI. **PRESENTATION**

English, Social Studies, Business. Barry Bachenheimer, Val Mattessich
World Language Update Joe Orlak, and Argine Safari

Ms. Stephans asked who comes up and develops the courses and if textbooks or other resources are used.

Mr. Orlak indicated that there is a template and they need to meet certain criteria such as state learning standards, types of assessment, resources which can be online or hard resources. The curriculum is developed by the business teachers with his guidance. He mentioned that it's a three year process. Mr. Orlak said that textbooks are used, however periodicals like Harvard Business Review among others are used.

Dr. Bachenheimer added that a representative from CAPS wrote to him that he was very impressed with the program and the leadership. The representative believed the program to be one of the best in the country.

Mrs. Martin thanked the supervisors and Dr. Bachenheimer for an impressive presentation. She is proud to serve on the Board and proud to have her children exposed to all of the programs.

Mr. Blundo commented that this is his favorite time when he hears about all the wonderful programs and especially the enthusiasm that each of the supervisors displayed. Mrs. Martin added that the internship program has grown exponentially and is grateful that it has provided an opportunity for all students to participate.

VII. **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.

Ms. Carolee Adams of Montvale spoke about Policy 5722, student journalism. She mentioned a Senior Day where they were able to ask questions. She referenced Mr. Jasper's class where the students asked the seniors questions. One question was the kind of advice for the students. Some recommended traveling. Ms. Adams, who was editor for her school paper, advised the students to get information from more than one source and it should be different sources. She wondered if the policy was triggered by the new state bill about civil literacy. She asked if the policy is new or revamped.

Ms. Bilotti indicated that the policy is related to a different legislation, Public Law 2021, Chapter 309 18A:36-45 which is meant to expand the rights of student journalism. It specifically does not want schools to impose undue burden on student journalists. This will allow students to write about anything unless there is a concern about danger to themselves or others.

VIII. **MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:19 p.m.**

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Opening Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10-4-12) permits the exclusion of the public ("Executive Session") from a meeting of the Board in certain circumstances; and

Luisi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blundo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

IX. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1-3

1. Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Statement of Assurance for the 2023-2024 school year for the Comprehensive Equity Plan and will continue to fully implement the NJDOE approved 2019-2022 Comprehensive Equity Plan through the 2023-2024 school year.

2. HIB Reports

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approve action taken pursuant to HIB Report # 242422 and HIB Report #241082.

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 interim superintendent, adopt the following policies and regulations:

Name of Policy or Regulation	Policy Reg Number
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION	P 0143.2
QUORUM	P 0163
BOARD OF EDUCATION WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY	P 1511
EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT	P 2415
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES	P 3270
CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY	P 5513
CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY	R 5513
SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUED STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS	P 5517

2. Home 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 # 811647 provided by Silvergate Prep. Billing is \$55 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week. The start date is February 21, 2023 and will continue for a minimum of six weeks.

3. Out-of-district Placements

a. RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve an out-of-district placement for student ID# 812420, at Fusion Academy beginning February 28, 2023, through June 30, 2023, as per student’s IEP. The prorated tuition cost for the 2022-2023 school year will be \$46,548.

b. RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve an out-of-district placement for student ID# 812473 at New Bridges beginning March 6, 2023, through June 27, 2023, as per student’s IEP. The prorated tuition cost for the 2022-2023 school year will be \$30,739.50.

Moved by: Martin

Seconded by: Stephans

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	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calderone	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"/>	<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"/>					

Mrs. Martin said she is excited about the trips.

XI. 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,

March 13, 2023

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 1-11

1. **Change of Position**

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:

Name	Position	Account Number	Salary	Effective Date
Florian Caco	From: PHHS Night Custodian To: PHHS Night Lead Custodian	NA	\$67,471 prorated, plus night crew, night lead, and black seal stipends, with benefits as per PVRSSA	On or about March 14, 2023
Jamie Taylor	From: District General Secretary for Internships (10 mos.) To: PVHS Main Office Executive Secretary (12 mos.)	11-000-240-105-06-000	\$65,236 prorated, with longevity. Upon tenure (2 years) 5% annual stipend for office manager, with benefits as per PVRSSA	On or about September 1, 2023

2. **Co-Curricular Appointment**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of

March 13, 2023

Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following co-curricular appointment for the 2022-2023 school year:

Name	Position	School	Amount
Kelly Tengco	Assistant Musical Director	PHHS	\$1,760

3. Athletic Appointment

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 2022-2023 school year:

Name	Team	Position	Stipend/Step
William Siegenthaler	PHHS Baseball	Assistant Coach	\$3,555 (50%) / 3
Steve Casamento	PHHS Baseball	Assistant Coach	From: \$7, 110 (100%) / 3 To: \$3,555 (50%) / 3

4. Resignation - Adjustment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, adjust the previously approved (February 27, 2023) resignation for William Lynn. Resignation adjusted to be effective as of June 30, 2023.

5. Leave (Modified)

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

Employee ID #	Position	Request modified from/to:
2190	PHHS Science Teacher	From: Total FMLA/NJFLA Leave Period Revised: February 13-17, 2023 and March 6-8, 2023 (8 days) To: Total FMLA/NJFLA Leave Period Revised: February 9-17, 2023, March 6-8, 2023, and April 11-14, 2023 (14 days)

6. Leave Replacement (Modified)

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board

March 13, 2023

of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, modify the previously approved (February 6, 2023) effective date for the following individual as long-term leave replacement for employees #1950 and #1838:

Name	Position	Salary	Effective Date
Stephanie Abatayo	PVHS and PHHS School Social Worker, long-term leave replacement	\$54,775 BA Step 1, prorated with health benefits	From: March 23, 2023 - November 19, 2023 To: March 14, 2023 - November 19, 2023, with 1 retro day - March 13, 2023

7. Chaperones

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following chaperones for the Pascack Hills High School junior prom on March 17, 2023:

Marcia Forte	Vanessa Martinez
Brooke Schwartzman	Chris Volk

8. Home Instructor

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Nicole Martino as a home instructor for the district for the 2022-2023 school year.

9. Substitutes

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following individuals as substitute for the 2022-2023 school year:

Name	Position	Type
Jeff Ennis	Substitute Custodian	New
Isabella Bussanich	Substitute Teacher	New

10. 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 # 811656. as per student's IEP, for the 2022-2023 school year, starting February 28 - June 30, 2023:

Name	Subject	Hours per week
Deborah Ragone	English III	Two hours per week
Deborah Ragone	US History II	Two hours per week
Deborah Ragone	Financial Literacy	Two hours per week
Joseph Belger	PE/Driver's Ed.	Two hours per week

11. Region II - Independent Evaluator - Amendment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, amend the name of the previously approved (February 6, 2023) Speech Language Therapist from Ronnit Rich to Lets Schmooze LLC.

12. Leave of Absence

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
2203	Program Coordinator - Park Academy	<u>FMLA</u> From March 14, 2023, to on or about April 13, 2023

13. Leave Replacement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, appoint the following individual as leave replacement for employee ID # 2203:

Name	Position	Salary	Effective Date
Caroline Gangi	Lead Teacher In Charge - Park Academy	Prorated stipend, \$2,000 annual	From March 14, 2023, to on or about April 13, 2023

14. Interim Supervisor of Park Academy

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, appoint the following individual as Interim Supervisor of Park Academy:

Name	Position	Stipend	Effective Date
Brittany Punim	Interim Supervisor of Park Academy	\$55 per hour, prorated additional period	On or about February 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

Moved by: Martin

Seconded by: Stephans

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	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calderone	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"/>	<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"/>					

XII. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 11

1. Approval of Bills

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

Budget Expenditures as of March 13, 2023	\$3,017,329.73
Payroll as of February 28, 2023	\$1,728,544.04
TOTAL	\$4,745,873.77

2. Approval of 2023-2024 Tentative Budget

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School approves the tentative 2023-2024 school year budget as follows:

General Fund	\$	62,663,024
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Special Revenue Fund	\$	771,682
Debt Service	\$	2,059,800
Total	\$	65,494,506

The amount to be raised by taxation is:

General Fund	\$	54,333,549
Debt Service	\$	2,059,800
Total	\$	56,393,349

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tentative 2023-2024 school year budget includes a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$1,678,300 for capital projects, a Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$280,000 for required maintenance activities and a health care cost adjustment permitting the tax levy to increase above 2% in the amount of \$669,215.

3. **Travel Pre-Authorizations**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve travel expense pre-authorizations for the following:

Danielle diQuintal	Jimena Ladino	Vanessa Martinez
Silma Panarello Siempira	Patricia Sularz	

4. **Donation**

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

Date	Donor	Amount	Club or Group
3/6/23	Orange & Rockland	\$10,000	Robotics Team

5. **Transportation Joint Services and Agreements between the Pascack Valley Regional High School District and the South Bergen Jointure Commission**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education approve the Joint Transportation Services and Transportation Agreements between the South Bergen Jointure Commission (Host District), an approved Coordinated Transportation Service Agency located in Hasbrouck Heights, 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

6. **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 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

7. **Grant - Climate Awareness**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State FY2023 budget includes a \$4.5 million allocation to support climate awareness for New Jersey Schools, in the form of education grants to schools;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education accepts the grant allocation to the District of \$6,600 and authorizes the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Assistant Business Administrator, or Business Administrator to complete the grant application and ensure the funds are appropriately used

8. **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 2023-2024,

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 \$16,019.

9. **Special Education Transportation - Region II – Contract Transfer**

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education Transfer special

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yas Usami".

Yas Usami
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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