

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Pascack Valley 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 Mrs. Varghese, Vice President

Present: Mrs. Gini Varghese, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy
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, Isabella Velez - PVHS

Absent: Mr. Joseph Blundo, President
Ms. Elizabeth Calderone
Mr. Pat Luisi

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 August 15, 2022.

IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Superintendent’s Report: Sarah Bilotti - Deferred her report to the budget presentation

Student Reports: Olivia Ge – Pascack Hills High School - [Report](#)
Isabella Velez – 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:

April 17, 2023	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
April 17, 2023	Executive Meeting	7:04 p.m.

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.

Dr. Zahara Khan of Montvale commented that there are conflicts with some dates next year with the Montvale K-8 board meeting and the regional high school board meeting. She asked if something could be done to avoid the conflict since she has a child in K-8 and another in the high school, and she would like to attend both meetings.

Mrs. Varghese indicated that the meetings are recorded and may be viewed.

Dr. Khan said she would like to attend in order to comment or ask a question.

Ms. Bilotti commented that there are factors that complicate the creation of the meeting schedule. She noted that Jill McCabe, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, needs to look at the four sending districts' schedules, the townships' schedules, holidays, and county and state submission deadlines. School districts are busy with budget deadlines in March to May. She said that they try to do their best not to conflict with other districts and townships. Ms. Bilotti mentioned that if anyone has a question or comment on the board agenda, they may direct it to her office and it would be sent to the Board. She added that anyone may send an email to the Board which can be found on the district website. She indicated that they are always mindful of conflicts. She thanked Dr. Khan for her comment.

IX. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1- 4

1. Performance Report 2021-2022

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, publicly acknowledge receipt of the reports and the posting of the 2021-2022 Performance Reports to the district website.

2. National Teacher Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, the week of May 8 through May 12, 2023 has been designated as National Teacher Appreciation Week; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognizes all faculty members from Pascack Hills High School, Pascack Valley High School, the Park Academy program and the Milestones program for their outstanding efforts and for their dedication to the students of our district.

3. Schedule of 2023-2024 Board Meetings

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, adopt the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education meeting schedule for the 2023-2024 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator / Board Secretary distribute the meeting schedule to all locations as listed below:

The Record, Community Life, and Pascack Press

Board Members

Office of the Superintendent

Pascack Valley and Pascack Hills High Schools

Building & Grounds Coordinators & Director of Facilities and Capital Improvement

Cafeteria Managers

Hillsdale Board of Education and Municipal Clerk

Montvale Board of Education and Municipal Clerk

River Vale Board of Education and Municipal Clerk

Woodcliff Lake Board of Education and Municipal Clerk

4. **HIB Reports**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approve action taken pursuant to HIB Reports #245729, and #244962.

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

X. **EDUCATION**

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 3

1. **Overnight Trip**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Pascack Valley Regional High School students involved in advanced video production, students interested in television and film, and chaperone, Michael Sherman, to travel to Los Angeles, California, the capital of the filmmaking world, and witness movies, studios, shows, and historic Hollywood locations from May 27 - 31, 2024.

2. **Out of District Placement**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the out of district placement of student ID #812422 at Paradigm Therapeutic Day School, for the 2022-

4. Disclosure and review of applicants' employment history within the statutory time period.

Consent Agenda for Items 1- 17

1. **Appointment of Business Administrator**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Yas Usami as Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

2. **Tenured Administrator Appointments ***

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of tenured administrators for the 2023-2024 school year.

3. **Tenured Supervisor Appointments ***

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of tenured supervisors for the 2023-2024 school year.

4. **Tenured Teacher Appointments ***

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of tenured teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

5. **Tenured Support Staff Appointments ***

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of tenured support staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

6. **Tenured Non-Bargaining Staff Appointments ***

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of tenured non-bargaining staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

7. **Non-Tenured Administrator Appointments ***

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of non-tenured administrators for the 2023-2024 school year.

8. **Non-Tenured Supervisor Appointments ***

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of non-tenured supervisors for the 2023-2024 school year.

9. Non-Tenured Non-Bargaining Staff Appointments *

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of non-tenured non-bargaining staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

10. Non-Tenured Teacher Appointments *

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of non-tenured teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

11. Non-Tenured Support Staff Appointments *

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of non-tenured support staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

* Salaries will be revised once contract negotiations are settled. The Board of Education received background information concerning all district employee renewals.

12. 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 Adam Ballard, Science Teacher for Pascack Hills High School, effective June 30, 2023.

13. 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
ID # 1838	PHHS Social Worker	<u>Total leave period</u> April 24 - November 17, 2023 Using 37 sick days <u>FMLA</u> August 28 - November 17, 2023
ID # 1564	PHHS Special Education Teacher	<u>Total leave period</u> August 28, 2023 - March 1, 2024 Using 33 sick days <u>FMLA</u> October 16, 2023 - January 12, 2024

		<u>Add'l Leave:</u> (without pay and benefits) January 15 - March 1, 2024
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14. 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# 811346 starting April 24, 2023 for approximately four weeks.

Teacher	Subject	Hours Per Week
Jessica Sachs- Serfess	English	2
Nicholas Scerbo	History	2
Teresa DelGiudice	French	2

15. Substitute Teachers

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 2022-2023 school year:

Name	Position	Type
Andre Dabaghian	Classroom Substitute Teacher	New
Michael Donne	Classroom Substitute Teacher	New
Gerard Fallon	Classroom Substitute Teacher	New
Tyler MacEwan	Classroom Substitute Teacher	New
Michael Siena	Classroom Substitute Teacher	New

16. 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
Gina Celli	PHHS	Track and Field
Alisha Foley	PHHS	Track and Field
Jason Stephans	PHHS	Golf

17. 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 Dana Siletski, Speech and Language Specialist for Pascack Hills High School, effective June 30, 2023.

Moved by: Stephans

Seconded by: Stankus

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

Ms. Stephans abstained to Item 16.

XII. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 13

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 May 1, 2023	\$970,515.04
Payroll as of April 30, 2023	\$2,537,177.02
Total	\$3,507,692.06

**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:

Name	Professional Development or School Trip
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Argine Safari	Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey, Workshop - Maximizing Language Development Across Three Modes
Paul Zeller	NJSBA Leadership Conference, Calming the Waters of Turbulent Seas
Paul Zeller	NSPRA 2023 - All Aboard Destination Success / Mr. Zeller will be presenting, Renaming and Rebranding - Lessons Learned

3. **Award Groundskeeping & Landscaping Services to Landcare**

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education advertised for bids for the Groundskeeping and Landscaping Services (“Services”);

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2023 the Board received one bid for the Services;

WHEREAS, North Jersey Landcare Services LLC (“Landcare”), Moonachie, New Jersey submitted the lowest bid in the amount as follows: \$66,420.00 for 2023-2024 and \$69,435.00 for 2024-2025;

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Landcare is responsive in all material respects; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to award the contract for the Services to Landcare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board at the recommendation of the Superintendent hereby awards the contract for the Services to Landcare for a total contract sum of \$66,420.00 for 2023-2024 and \$69,435.00 for 2024-2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

4. **First Renewal of the 2022-2023 Pomptonian, Inc. Contract**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the first renewal of the 2022-2023 contract with Pomptonian, Inc for Food Service Management Company services at a management fee of \$0.0768 for each \$1.00 of sales for the 2023-2024 school year.

5. **Approve Proposal KSI Consulting Engineers, LLC - HVAC Replacement Room 104 PVHS**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the proposal submitted by KSI Consulting Engineers, LLC, Farmingdale, New Jersey for

- engineering fees HVAC system replacement for Room 104 at Pascack Valley High School in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00.
6. **Dual Enrollment Agreement – William Paterson University**
RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent approve the Dual Enrollment Agreement between William Paterson University and Pascack Valley Regional High School District at the rate of \$100 per academic credit for the 2023-2024 school year.
 7. **Shared Services Agreement – Montvale SLEO IIIs**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Montvale and the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education concerning the hiring and placement of special police officer SLEO IIIs at Pascack Hills High School for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$55,974.24 per year per officer.
 8. **Approve Annual Mold Management Plan**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the annual Mold Management Plan
 9. **Approve Shared Services Agreement - Student Internship Program- Emerson**
RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Shared Services Agreement- Student Internship Program between the Emerson Board of Education (Member District) and Pascack Valley Regional High School District (Host LEA). The Host LEA shall bill the Member District a fixed yearly sum in the amount of \$29,379.00 for up to ten (10) students participating in the program for the 2023-2024 school year. This sum includes a \$10,000 administration fee. Also, each additional student beyond ten (10) participating in the program will be at the rate of \$2,010.00.
 10. **Lease Agreement with United Business Systems –Copiers**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the renewal of the final year of a five-year lease agreement with United Business Systems.
 11. **Computer Solutions Inc. – Contract Renewal 2023-2024**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent approves the renewal agreement for software support with Computer Solutions Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$16,860.00.
 12. **Renewal Application for Instructional Space**
WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of

Education has approved the establishment of the Milestones Program with the goal of developing students' independent living skills and ability to acquire employment; and

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has approved the lease at 63 Patterson Avenue in Hillsdale, New Jersey for said purpose;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approves the renewal application for instructional space for the 2023-2024 school year.

13. **Reject Bids - Corridor Seating Renovations at PVHS**

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education ("the Board") advertised for bids for the Corridor Seating Renovations Project at Pascack Valley High School ("Project");

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2023, the Board received three bids for the Project;

WHEREAS, Skopye, LLC ("Skopye") submitted the lowest bid with a base bid in the amount of \$79,000, alternate No. 1 bid in the amount of \$9,200 and alternate No. 2 bid in the amount of \$14,000 for a total bid in the amount of \$102,200;

WHEREAS, Skopye informed the Board that there was a material mistake in its bid and requested that the Board release Skopye from its bid; and

WHEREAS, the architect has verified that a material mistake was made by Skopye in its bid; and

WHEREAS, the bids submitted by Tri-Plex Industries, Inc. and Lanyi & Tevald Inc. exceeded the cost estimate and budget for the Project

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Board reject the bid for the Project for exceeding the cost estimate and budget for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby rejects the bids received for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to re-advertise for the Project in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c).

Moved by: StankusSeconded 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Martin mentioned that the district molds global and ethical students and that she sees it happening throughout the school. She mentioned that the school is alive with students in the building and they are meeting teachers for help. She commented about Teacher Appreciation Week coming up and she thanked all the teachers for what they do on a daily basis. She noted that “Bring your Child to Work” was a great day. She commended Mr. Cleary with his work with the student volunteers in Camp Raspberry to raise funds for children with autism. She added her appreciation to the teachers who give a lot outside of school.

Mr. Weaver said the district has not missed a beat with curriculum due to Dr. Bachenheimer and he felt the same about Mr. Usami and the budget which has helped meet the educational goals. He added his appreciation for Robert Donahue, Director of Facilities and Capital Improvement. He mentioned despite the delays and rising costs, yet the facilities are maintained to a high degree speaks volumes to the planning and preparation.

Mr. Usami thanked Mr. Weaver on behalf of Mr. Donahue and himself. He added that they have a team who provides excellent support to accomplish the goals for the district.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Usami announced that there will be four seats up for the November 7 school board election. He indicated two seats in Hillsdale (Mrs. Varghese and Mrs. Martin), one seat in Montvale (Mr. Weaver) and one seat in Woodcliff Lake (Dr. Blundy). He indicated that the press release will be on the district website that night and it will include a link to NJSBA for instructions and nominating petitions. Anyone interested may go to the district website or to the NJSBA website. He added that nominating petitions should be

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.