

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Monday, November 21, 2022 at 7:00 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 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Joseph Blundo, President

Present: Mr. Joseph Blundo, President
Mrs. Gini Varghese, Vice President
Mr. Pat Luisi
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mr. James Stankus
Ms. Debra Stephans arrived at 7:04 p.m.
Ms. Sarah Bilotti, Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Student Representatives: Olivia Ge - PHHS, Isabella Velez - PVHS

Absent: Dr. Kelly Blundy
Ms. Tammy Molinelli
Mr. Michael Weaver

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Blundo led all those present in a salute to the flag.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:04 p.m.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Pascack Valley High School, 200 Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ, for the purpose of recessing to a closed Executive Session.

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that circumstances exist for such an Executive Session; and

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

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

I have been witness to so many amazing things these past two weeks I don't know where to start - First, a team of teachers and administrators visited Stevenson and New Trier High Schools outside of Chicago, they are pretty universally regarded as the top public high schools in our nation. It's hard for us to find an example of that next step, and even in visiting them, out of the 10 or so modules we learned about, at least 5 we are already doing or are doing better, which was very affirming. That said, we are going to focus on two primary takeaways with regard to advisory periods and assessment. We have a meeting tomorrow to discuss this with our admin team and will then meet with the whole team to prioritize goals and envision what we could learn and apply here at PVR.

Second, I had the pleasure of attending both Hills and Valley's fall plays, Valley put on Museum and Hills did a comedic version of Pride and Prejudice. They were both so enjoyable, we have such impressive students and theater coaches, it was also evident how hard our parents worked to support the programs and the students. There were so many teachers in the audience at all of the shows, it was a strong showing of support from our staff.

On an informal note, I attended a staff gathering of Valley staff on Thursday that was one of the first informal social events since Covid and it was so heartening to see everyone getting along and still talking about their professional passions, even in a social setting, which was very cool. I love how our staff truly loves what they teach.

There are so many amazing things happening at both Hills and Valley - this morning there were rocket launches at Valley as well as a spirit week, but I'll let the student reps get into those details.

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:

November 7, 2022	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
November 7, 2022	Executive Meeting	7:43 p.m.

Moved by: Stephans

Seconded by: Martin

VOTE

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

VI. **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Mrs. Varghese read the resolutions and Mr. Blundo and Ms. Bilotti handed out the certificates.

2022 All-National Mixed Choir

WHEREAS, Riley Haworth, a senior at Pascack Hills High School, has been selected as a member of the 2022 All-National Mixed Choir. Riley received the invitation to audition because she is a member of the 2022-2023 All-State Mixed Choir. The audition process was virtual and involved singing scales, required solo, and optional sole. Riley did very well in all aspects of this intense process.

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

2022-2023 Bergen County Choir

WHEREAS, the following students from Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools have been accepted to the 2022-2023 Bergen County Choir:

Reina Aliko – PH	Gabrielle Brayman – PV	Caitlin Buckley – PH
Nicole Choi – PV	Alexander DeBiasio – PV	Hadyn Hopper – PH
Matthew Kovacs – PV	Zachary Ligasan – PH	Kareena Shah – PV

Ariel Sharon – PH		
-------------------	--	--

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.

Governor’s School of New Jersey Program in Engineering and Technology

WHEREAS, Kareena Shah, a senior at Pascack Valley High School, was nominated for the Governor’s School of New Jersey Program in Engineering & Technology held this past summer at Rutgers University. The Governor’s School of New Jersey is an intensive residential summer program that brings together some of New Jersey’s most talented and motivated high school students. Kareena, along with her teammates, developed a novel project to realize widespread access to effective drone delivery systems. Her work led her research paper to be published in the MIT IEEE Xplore Digital Library.

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

2022 Fritz Jonach Upstander Award

WHEREAS, Kareena Shah, a senior at Pascack Valley High School, is the recipient of the 2022 Fritz Jonach Upstander Award. Fritz Jonach, a dedicated humanitarian, teacher, and coach from Millburn High School was an active member of the Kean University Diversity Council. Kareena’s dedication to the Asian Cultures Club and efforts in promoting social justice and equity at PV are outstanding.

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

National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (NISCA) All-American Team for Diving

WHEREAS, Veronica Fyfe, a senior at Pascack Valley High School, has been selected to the NISCA All-American Diving Team. This is the first time in Pascack Valley High School history that we have a student that made the All-American Diving Team.

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

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,

1. Services Provided by Bergen County Special Services

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve additional speech therapy services for the 2022-2023 school year from Bergen County Special Services for student ID# 813010 as per student’s IEP:

Service	Dates	Frequency	Cost/Session	Total
Speech	9/1/22-6/30/23	1 x week for 38 weeks	\$65	\$2,470

2. Out-of-district Placement

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# 811109 as per student’s IEP to BOCES - Rockland Career & Tech., shared time program starting September 6, 2022 for the 2022-2023 year for the total cost of \$13,447.12.

3. New Tuition Student

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve new student ID# 811371, from Hasbrouck Heights to Park @ PVR with a start date of August 31, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.

4. New Tuition Student Attending Park Academy – Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve new student ID# 813118, eighth grade from Montvale School District to Park Academy for the 2022-2023 school year.

Moved by: Stephans

Seconded by: Stankus

VOTE

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

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,

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- 9

1. 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 Erica Schwartz, Spanish Teacher for Pascack Valley High School, effective December 23, 2022.

2. 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# 811658 as per student’s IEP starting October 31, 2022 for 5 weeks.

Teacher	Subject	Hours Per Week
Heather Ocampo	Algebra II	2
Deborah Ragone	English III	2
Deborah Ragone	US History II	2
George Scillia	Conceptual Physics	2
Melissa Velez	PE 11 / Health 11	2

3. **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
Brett Cotton	Classroom Teacher Substitute	New
Bryan Hacken	Classroom Teacher Substitute	Renewal

4. **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
Joe Acuna	PVHS	Indoor Track
Brett Cotton	PVHS	Boys Basketball
William Schwartz	PVHS	Wrestling

5. **Co-curricular Appointments**

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

Advisor	Position	School	Amount
Teresa DelGuidice	French Honor Society	PVHS	\$765
Deena Mahmoud	Camp Raspberry	PVHS	\$1,530
Luisa Sanchez	Camp Raspberry	PVHS	\$1,530
Julianne Downes	Camp Raspberry	PHHS	\$1,530
Paul Hildrum	Academic Decathlon	PHHS	\$1,325
Christopher Volk	Academic Decathlon	PHHS	From \$2,640 To \$1,325

Corin Gamgort	Yearbook	PHHS	From \$2,736.67 To \$4,105
Allison Schultz	Yearbook	PHHS	From \$2,736.67 To \$4,105

6. Co-curricular Appointments - Resignations

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept with regret, the resignation of Alexa Petzold as the PHHS Yearbook Co-Advisor for the 2022-2023 school year.

7. ABA Behavior Consultant - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Lisa McKay as an ABA Behavior Consultant for Region II at an hourly rate of \$58 for the 2022-2023 school year.

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Caitlin O'Brien as an ABA Behavior Consultant for Region II at an hourly rate of \$50 for the 2022-2023 school year.

8. Independent Speech Therapist - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Sydney Lima as a Speech Therapist at the rate of \$450 per evaluation, \$87 for group sessions, and \$77 per hour for individual sessions and attendance at meetings for the 2022-2023 school year.

9. Physicians - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Joseph Holahan, MD to provide Pediatric Development Evaluations at a rate of \$450 per evaluation for the 2022-2023 school year.

Moved by:

Stankus

Seconded by:

Stephans

VOTE

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yas Usami". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Yas Usami
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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