

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

September 13, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pascack Hills High School Auditorium

Meeting Regulations

During this regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, comments are invited. The second opportunity will occur just prior to adjournment, when residents may address general comments to the Board with time limits being at the discretion of the President.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and address. 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.

Comments and questions 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 livestreamed 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.

*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 compete 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 Ms. Tammy Molinelli, Board President

Present: Ms. Tammy Molinelli, President
Mr. Joseph Blundo, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mr. James Stankus
Ms. Debra Stephans
Mrs. Gini Varghese
Mr. Michael Weaver
Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Student Representatives: Hilary Siegel – PHHS
Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Absent: Mr. Michael Fronte
Student Representative: Evan Scalia – PVHS

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Molinelli 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 May 18, 2021.

IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

One Agenda Item

1. Minutes

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

August 30, 2021	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
August 30, 2021	Executive Meeting	8:33 p.m.

lot on the agenda and wondered if there is a lot of rubber stamping and putting the kids and taxpayers at risk. He heard on the first day of school kids being asked what their pronouns are. He said he didn't know if it was a survey, but teachers should not be asking this. It's inappropriate, not inclusive and invasive. He said there was no detail regarding transformers being replaced at Hills for \$400,000. He would like to know if it could have been avoided and why it was done. He asked about a \$5,000 expenditure for a mental health systems consultation. He mentioned that the only information was 3-4 hours over 10 months which seems like a lot of money for that.

Ms. Molinelli said to send questions in writing and they will respond.

Shilamida Kupershteyn of Montvale wanted to know if the survey would be taken during the school day or at home. Ms. Molinelli indicated that it would be during the school day. Ms. Kupershteyn asked if students can opt out of the survey and Ms. Molinelli indicated that students are not mandated to take surveys. Students and parents always have the option to opt out. Ms. Molinelli mentioned that they will share with parents when the survey is going out. Ms. Kupershteyn asked who is sending the survey and who is collecting the data.

Dr. Fishbein commented that depending on the survey, it would be coming from school administration. It is something that is packaged and not created by administration.

Ms. Kupershteyn asked what is the point of the survey. Dr. Fishbein said it's to understand issues that students are facing. He mentioned that political affiliations and such are protected areas. He let Ms. Kupershteyn know the survey may be shared with parents.

Aaron Solomon of Montvale who is a senior has taken all but one of the surveys and he was not asked why he did not take that survey. He indicated that he was told multiple times by the teacher that he did not need to take the survey. He believed on the climate survey that there was an option on each question of "do not have to answer" or "prefer not to say". He said it was not 176 questions and it took him about 5 minutes. He commented that they were told that they did not need to take it that day, they could take it the next day or the next week. He said the most invasive question was his name and it was kept anonymous.

Ben Friedman of Montvale indicated that he appreciates the Board's work as educating kids is a serious business. He would like to be able to see the contents of the survey prior to his child taking it. He would like to see the curriculum because he does not trust what and how it's being taught. Children should be allowed to opt out of taking surveys. It's only the parents' business as to what is going on in their children's heads. He commented that if it's a big problem then it should be discussed at the board meetings and not through a survey when some may be under duress.

Kari Solomon of Montvale asked about the return rate of the surveys. How many students and what is the percentage. Dr. Fishbein said he could get that information on past surveys. Mrs. Martin indicated that this was presented at a past meeting with data analysis and what the data is used for the years the survey was administered. Ms. Stephans wanted to know who received this information. Dr. Fishbein said its internal

and Ms. Molinelli said that the district does not sell information to anyone. Ms. Solomon added that any responsible organization administers surveys to see what the touch points are for their stakeholders. She does not oppose the district administering surveys.

VII. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 2

1. BOE Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations – First Reading

First reading of the following Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education Bylaws, policies, and regulations:

Name of Policy or Regulation	Policy/ Reg Number
Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations	<u>P 0131</u>
Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations	<u>P 2415.05</u>
Career and Technical Education	<u>P 2421</u>
Advanced Placement	<u>P 2429</u>
Assignment of Extra Duties	<u>P 3134</u>
Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member	<u>P 3142</u>
Evaluation of Teachers (M)	<u>P 3221</u>
Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators (M)	<u>P 3222</u>
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals (M)	<u>P 3223</u>
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals (M)	<u>P 3224</u>
Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member	<u>P 4146</u>
Bridge Year Pilot Program (M)	<u>P 5460.02</u>
School District Travel (M)	<u>P 6471</u>
Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member	<u>R 3142</u>
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Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals (M)	<u>R 3224</u>
Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member	<u>R 4146</u>
Bridge Year Pilot Program (M)	<u>R 5460.02</u>
School District Travel (M)	<u>R 6471</u>

2. Abolish BOE Policies

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, abolish the following policy and regulation:

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 interim 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 – 10

1. New Hires

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

Name	Position	Salary	Effective Dates
Binah Ezra	Mathematics teacher, leave replacement, Pascack Valley High School	\$61,150, MA, Step 2, pro-rated, as per PVREA Contract, with benefits	October 18, 2021 through March 7, 2022
Dana McDonough	Part-time job coach, 17.5 hours per week, Milestones Program	\$28.84 per hour as per PVRSSA contract, \$37,733 annually, pro-rated, without benefits	September 13, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year
Alfred Vogl	Custodian, plumber, District	\$66,251 (\$64,118 plus \$2,133 maintenance stipend) pro-rated, as per PVRSSA	September 13, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, modified from

Name	Position	Salary	Effective Dates
		Contract, with benefits	August 30, 2021 agenda

2. 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 requests:

Name	Position	Requests:
Marissa Watters	PHHS LDTC	<u>Total Leave Period:</u> November 8, 2021 – March 27, 2022 Paid using 32 sick days <u>FMLA/NJFLA</u> January 3 – March 27, 2022 <u>Leave of Absence</u> None

3. Additional Hours

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve two additional hours for Zabrina Kearns, teacher/transition counselor at Milestones, to supervise students on internship placement during her lunch, at the additional period rate.

4. Additional Periods (Modified)

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the following additional period assignments for the 2021-2022 school year:

Name	Department	School	Additional Periods
Francesca Silvano	World Language	PVHS	5 periods per week - Full Year
Jimena Ladino	World Language	PVHS	5 periods per week - Full Year effective September 13, 2021

5. Mentor

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the change of mentor for Deena Mahmoud, English teacher at Pascack Valley High School, to Tracy Recine.

6. Substitute Teachers

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the following substitute teachers for the district for the 2021-2022 school year.

Name	Type
Kelly Dunnigan	Renew
Robert Gebhardt	Renew
Agnes Scacchetti	New

7. Intern Placement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve an intern placement for Edward Dahdah, a Ramapo College student, at Pascack Valley High School for the 2021-2022 school year.

8. Co-Curricular Resignation

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, accept the resignation of Kevin Lynch, musical orchestra director for Pascack Hills High School for the 2021-2022 school year.

9. Volunteer

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the following volunteer for the 2021-2022 school year:

Name	School	Activity
Mike Donofrio	Pascack Hills High School	Football Wrestling

10. Independent Child Study Team Neuropsychologist – Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve Steven Myers, Ph.D. to provide the following services and rates for Region II district for the 2021-2022 school year:

Service	Description	Fee
Mental health systems Consultation	Consultation with school teams to develop a tiered systems of mental health support. Consultation is inclusive of regular monthly or bi-monthly meetings (3-4 hours total) over 10 months	\$5,000 per year
Professional development	2-hour professional development workshops	\$500
Mental health assessment including suicide and/or violence risk assessment	Assessment of identified student with significant mental health struggles including parent & school consultation, and brief report	\$500
Intensive family support and coaching	Intensive parent training, consultation, and liaison support for students struggling with significant mental health challenges (60-90 minutes)	\$200 per session
Psychological evaluation	Evaluation tailored to a specific referral question, including a record review, interviews, behavior rating scales, and perhaps intelligence testing. Written report provided	\$500 - \$1,000
Psycho-educational evaluation	An evaluation of academic proficiencies tailored to a specific referral question, including record review, interviews, cognitive and academic testing and a written report	\$1,500 - \$2,000
School neuropsychological evaluation	Comprehensive school neuropsychological assessment tailored to specific referral questions including a written report	\$3,000 - \$4,000
IEP meetings	Attendance at planning, eligibility, or annual review conferences	\$150/per hour meeting

a. Cafeteria Account	July 2021
b. e-Learning Account	July 2021
c. Capital Project Account	July 2021
d. Student Government Account – PH	July 2021
e. Student Government Account – PV	July 2021
f. Athletic Account – PH	July 2021
g. Athletic Account – PV	July 2021

5. Transfers

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

6. Shared Services Agreement – Montvale SLEO IIIs

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Montvale and Pascack Valley Regional High School District concerning the hiring and placement of special police officer SLEO IIIs at Pascack Hills High School for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$52,814 per year.

7. Approval of Change Order 001 TSUJ Corp - Transformer Upgrade at Pascack Hills High School

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve change order 001 submitted by TSUJ Corp of Wayne, New Jersey for the Transformer Upgrade at Pascack Hills High School. This change order is a decrease in the amount of \$10,000 for unused project allowance. Furthermore, this change order has been reviewed and approved by ENV Architects.

Original Contract Amount	\$448,677.00
Previously Authorized Change Order	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$448,677.00
Change Order 001 Decrease (Unused project allowance)	\$10,000.00
Revised Contract Amount	\$438,677.00
\$10,000 Project Allowance Balance	\$0.00

8. Approve the Agreement with Statistical Forecasting, LLC of Dorset, VT

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approves the agreement with Statistical Forecasting, LLC of Dorset, VT. for a demographic study which includes Option 1 with virtual presentation and Option 2, Detailed Housing Analysis in the amount \$13,800.

9. Approve Proposal from LAN Associates of Midland Park, NJ - Egress and Area of Refuge Study

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approves the proposal from LAN Associates of Midland Park, NJ in the amount of \$3,000 for an egress and area of refuge study for Pascack Valley and Pascack Hills High Schools.

10. Approve the Proposal from Solutions Architecture, LLC of Verona, NJ - Toilet Room Renovations

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approves the proposal from Solutions Architecture, LLC of Verona, NJ in the amount of \$30,600 for services related two Toilet Room Renovations each at Pascack Valley and Pascack Hills High Schools.

11. Special Education Transportation – Region II

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2121 to Sunny Transportation during the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2121	Cresskill MS – Step by Step	220	40	260.00	20,020.00*

*includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2122 to We Care School Transportation during the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2122	New Alliance Academy	350	50	350.00	19,950.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract SQ21227 to Shaddai Transportation Inc. during the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
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SQ21227	Valley Norwood Public	155	45	200.00*	3,800.00*
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*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 SQ21228 to We Care School Transportation during the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
SQ21228	Paradigm	219	45	219.00	2,847.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 084 to Destiny 23 Transportation Inc. for 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2201	Valley-ACCESS	198	50	248.00*	44,640.00*
2207	New Bridge 1:1	235	40	275.00	49,500.00*

*Includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 085 to Shaddai Transportation Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2202	Midland Park HS; BCSS SHIP	195	60	195.00	35,000.00
2209	Nova N. Emerson JrSr	185	55	185.00	33,300.00
2211	BOCES	245	60	245.00	44,100.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 086 to We Care School Transportation for 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2205	SBJC – Maywood	315	65	380.00*	68,400.00*
2208	Visions @ Paramus HS	318	65	383.00*	68,940.00*
2210	New Beginnings/ Glenview/Gramon	299	59	358.00*	64,440.00*

*Includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2204 to Pro Trans School Transportation for 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2204	Career Crossroads	210	50	210.00	37,800.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2206 to NJ Transportation for 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2206	Academy 360 Upper	299	35	334.00	60,120.00*

*Includes cost of aide

budgeted with Capital Reserve and maintenance projects will draw from Maintenance Reserve. He added that they will identify capital projects for the 2022-2023 budget.

Ms. Molinelli announced that the Board will conduct interviews with search firms on October 11. The search firm will be identifying prospective superintendents for the district. The search firm will reach out to the community for feedback. After the election, the new Board will have a list of superintendent candidates to interview.

Mr. Weaver commented that he is a new high school parent and has a middle school and two elementary school students. He mentioned that there tends to be a focus on the negatives, but it's time to spend time focusing on the positives. He said based on central office, building administration, teachers, coaches, club advisors, and parents he has spoken to in the community bringing all the children back into the building and what that has meant to the children. He mentioned children at games and coaches encouraging them to attend other teams' games. He commented that it has been a great back to school experience for his children, especially high school. He praised administration, faculty and staff in how they've gone above and beyond welcoming the students into the building. He said as a parent it is beyond words and appreciated.

Ms. Molinelli thanked Mr. Weaver for his comments.

Mrs. Martin asked if Back-to-School will be in-person or remote.

Dr. Fishbein indicated that it is scheduled to be in school, but may be limited to one parent per child. He thought a note would go out tomorrow.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Citizens are invited to make comments and are limited to five 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 and state their name and address.

Carolee Adams of Montvale indicated that she will send her questions in hopes of sharing the responses at the next meeting. She mentioned that Friday, September 17 is Constitution Day and she wanted to know what the high schools are planning to honor it. She suggested the National Constitution Center could help if plans have not been made. She also mentioned that September 17 is Citizenship Day which honors native born and naturalized citizens. She indicated that the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education announced that the HESPA will be administered again. She asked Dr. Fishbein if he can comment on the timeline and the consistency so that NJ does not lose another 10 years. Dr. Fishbein said that the testing will take place sometime in May and he understands that it's a new test compared to what they've had in the past. He commented that data can only be compared to other districts since it's a new test. Ms. Adams thanked the Board for their work since their work is in education and they do not receive a salary. She indicated that the Montvale K-8 has a new budget agenda due to the influx of students with the new housing development. She suggested that the K-8, regional and municipality work together to come up with the same demographic answer. She commented that her grandson is attending a prestigious gifted and talented school in

NY and the classrooms have no windows. She said our students are fortunate to have classrooms with windows.

Eli Moallem of River Vale thanked the Board. He indicated that it is very helpful when he can see and hear the Board discuss topics even if he does not like it. He mentioned that board leadership has taken the most Draconian view regarding the Governor's mask mandate throughout the pandemic. He said it leaves the district to legal exposure. He said people do not know what the process is and there are no provisions for kids suffering from hypercapnia or have been provided the definition of excessive heat. He said the Board and administration is supporting a vaccine which is not really a vaccine since it has a short and spotty track record. He asked if the Board has thought about what they would do if there is a flu outbreak and potential liability. If they don't have certain measures to protect students like they have with COVID which has been proven less dangerous than the flu to kids, this could be an issue. He commented that the Board believes they are protected from an unconstitutional government made up rule to force health decisions on individuals. He heard from another regional high school curriculum person at a board meeting indicate that the equity, diversity and inclusion requirements are not required this year. He wanted to know if this correct and if has been implemented regardless. He asked where he could find the full curriculum. He mentioned that he found information on a website (schooldigger.com) and often times he does not trust information online. He said in 2019, Pascack Hills ranked 24th and Pascack Valley ranked 60th. The cost per pupil for Hills was \$16,800 and \$13,929 at Valley. He asked why the disparity between the two schools. He thanked them for clarifying the survey questions, but still wants to know if the very intrusive questions will be asked regardless if parents are asked. He added that everyone on the Board should know why the transformer was needed.

Mr. Stankus said his opinion is that he is in favor of the vaccine mandate for high school students. He said as board members they follow the state guidelines and of the health department. He commented that they do not have an agenda to push a mask or vaccine mandate. He mentioned that the virus puts a strain on the community and the hospitals. He indicated that it has been seen in our community at various times. He mentioned that the Board has done the right thing. He said our schools were operating hybrid while other schools were shutting down. He said he takes issue with the comment that they are pushing an agenda on mask and vaccine mandates.

Dr. Blundy indicated that one can go to the website and follow Curriculum to Program of Studies where there is a link to the Program of Studies 21-22. It has descriptions of every course for each department. She added that it's 65 pages.

Mr. Blundo mentioned that there is a Buildings and Grounds Committee with the director of the department and they meet to review all the project expenses. Then the committee gives a report to the full board before a vote is taken. He clarified that they did not vote on the expense of the project as that had already been done. It was for a reduction to the contract since the \$10,000 allowance was not needed. He said the project had been approved because of the age and to support all the technology in the building.

Mr. Weaver indicated that they are fortunate to receive a weekly briefing along with the agenda that further describes what is on the agenda. He added that he believed the

transformer has been in every briefing since he has been on the Board. He said there are routine matters on the agenda, but there are some that need more description which they receive from central office.

Mr. Blundo mentioned that Robert Donahue, the director who is a licensed architect previously said publicly that the basic infrastructure that the public does not see needed to be updated and these projects are on a rolling basis. He indicated that these upgrades to the 50-year-old buildings have been done without going for a referendum instead it has been through fiscal planning.

Shilamida Kupershteyn of Montvale commented that historically leaders have not made the best decisions. She indicated that the parents here do not believe the Board has an agenda, rather it's a greater agenda occurring in the world and that is why she is attending the meetings. She respects Mr. Stankus' agreeing on the vaccines, but she does not. She wanted to make sure that this is not an agenda occurring in the school. She indicated that there were emails from the Board promoting the safety and efficacy of vaccines, and not giving the other side of vaccines which has repercussions. She commented that the Board does not need to follow the rules when a mandate is established. She said historically a lot of leaders did a lot of bad things and she believes this is going on now. She mentioned that children need to learn to stand up and fight back, otherwise we're heading to a very bad world. She asked about quarantining for individuals who have had COVID and has immunity and if that is in policy. Dr. Fishbein indicated that it is within 3 months of being infected then the individual does not need to quarantine, otherwise the individual needs to quarantine. He said he would make sure this is added. Ms. Kupershteyn indicated that some people are not aware they are positive because they are asymptomatic. She asked if someone unvaccinated got an antibody test then how would the timeline be determined. She indicated that the CDC said that vaccinated people can get the virus and spread it, so she feels there is segregation between vaccinated and unvaccinated. She mentioned that with other vaccines if you show titers from an antibody test then the individual would not need the booster. She believes that should be the same logic for COVID as the antibodies could last much longer than 3 months. Dr. Blundy indicated that science is working on the range of antibodies/titers in the scenario that Ms. Kupershteyn raised. Ms. Kupershteyn said the problem with science is that they said to wear the mask then not wear it and get the vaccine and then not get it, so science is not the most reliable source. She hopes as a community we can come up with some things to do.

Ms. Molinelli understood Ms. Kupershteyn's frustrations. She mentioned that they need to follow the state guidelines and the medical information they are provided. She said they do what is best for the district and the community.

Ms. Kupershteyn indicated that there are other school districts going against the mask and vaccine mandates. She mentioned Middletown and she said she could provide a list.

Dr. Fishbein indicated that Middletown did and were told to stop and the kids are wearing masks in school. Ms. Kupershteyn said that if more school districts defied the mandate(s) then that would help.

Mrs. Varghese was not aware of any science backed organization that said not to vaccinate. All have said to vaccinate. Ms. Kupershteyn did not agree. Mrs. Varghese appreciated Ms. Kupershteyn's comments, but she mentioned that they need to do what is right for the greater district.

Ben Friedman of Montvale cited the only study that the CDC did on a school district was in Georgia of 97,000 students. He said it was published in May, but only a few news outlets picked it up. The study indicated that masking then unvaccinated teachers and improved ventilation with more fresh air associated with lower incidence of the virus in schools. The study cast doubts on distancing, hybrid models, classroom barriers, HEPA filters, and masking students. The measures were each found statistically significant benefit. He referred to a broadcast on CNN that the FDA and New Medical Review reported that evidence does not show boosters are needed for the general public. He stated that all of us are being lied to. He mentioned that the UK, Ireland, Scandinavia, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Italy have exempted kids of different ages for mask wearing. He commented that the flu is 100 times deadlier than the virus, so why not mask for the flu. He said the vaccine was not made for a child and could give a negative reaction to a child. He cited number of deaths and complications due to the vaccine. He cited an Israeli study that came out in August that over 150,000 people who had COVID are three times more immune than the Pfizer vaccine used in Israel. He commented that this is the science that is not talked about. He said the government cannot mandate medical procedures on people without a choice.

David Steinberg of Woodcliff Lake said he is very upset over what occurred at the board meeting two weeks ago. He heard people speak about divisive policies and then compare them with what occurred in Nazi Germany. He could not understand how they could compare them. He said the only person who spoke against it was a student. He asked Dr. Fishbein if this is taught in the Holocaust program and would a teacher be reprimanded if a teacher makes this type of comparison. Dr. Fishbein said it would be inaccurate to make such a comparison and the teacher would be reprimanded. Mr. Steinberg was disgusted with the people who spoke and the people who clapped. He said it's alright to come to the board meeting to disapprove about the mask wearing or go to a protest rally outside of the Governor's office, but people who were in the Holocaust had no outlet to complain. He said it was appalling and that no one spoke up about the comparison. He indicated that he would like the next superintendent who will stand up to the public. He said complaining is fine, but not crossing the line out of context. He addressed Mr. Stankus if he teaches it in his classroom and if Mr. Weaver would hire a teacher who would teach this.

Mr. Weaver wanted to comment on what Mr. Steinberg said since he was addressed. Mr. Steinberg wanted Mr. Weaver to address it after he was done speaking and Mr. Weaver wanted to address it at that moment since he was addressed and the Board would extend Mr. Steinberg's time. There was an exchange as Mr. Steinberg continued with his comments. Upon completion Mr. Weaver said he would not give the courtesy to respond since Mr. Steinberg left the podium. Mr. Weaver commented that Mr. Steinberg came with one purpose and that was to address the people in the public. He said that unfortunately community members have come to use Boards of Education to have

arguments with each other over the last 18 months. He said that they are not a political organization. The Board of Education is responsible for policies and implementing mandates that come from the state. He stated that people need to bring their passion and direct it towards Trenton. He indicated that he does not bring his work into board meetings, so a person from the public does not have the right to talk about him or his private business.

There was a disagreement as to Mr. Steinberg having more time to comment.

Mr. Weaver commented that no one in the audience thanked the teachers or the administrators for all that they've done to get students back into the buildings. He urged people to focus on the positives as that is what the children need most.

Carolee Adams of Montvale thought she was complimentary of the schools. She indicated that the subject of booster shots is new to all and evolutionary. Thus, what is fact today may not be fact tomorrow as experienced. She commented that she did go to Trenton numerous times representing a group of mothers who were opposed to a mandated Hepatitis B vaccine. This was not successful because the pharmaceutical companies in the state are extremely powerful. She saw politics being played due to the influence of big pharma. She said its important to hear both sides and not make it political.

Ms. Molinelli commented that it has been a difficult couple of years. She said the Board is non-political and that they don't make judgement/value calls, they vote on policy. She has done her best to allow the public to have a voice. They've done their best to answer questions that are factual in nature and they cannot bring their personal views. She asked that everyone respect each other. She said the Board is an organization that makes business decisions at these meetings. They do the best they can. She appreciated everyone coming and sharing their perspectives.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Weaver to adjourn the public session at 9:08 p.m.
Mr. Stankus seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully,



Yas Usami
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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