

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

August 4, 2021

Minutes of the Board of Education Retreat held on Wednesday, August 4, 2021
at 9:00 a.m. in the Pascack Hills High School Media Center

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Joseph Blundo, Vice President.

Present: Mr. Joseph Blundo, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy – left at 11:42 a.m.
Mr. Michael Fronte – left at 12:05 p.m.
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mr. James Stankus – arrived at 9:02 a.m.
Ms. Debra Stephans
Mrs. Gini Varghese
Mr. Michael Weaver
Dr Daniel Fishbein, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Absent: Ms. Tammy Molinelli, President

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 July 31, 2021.

IV. BOE TRAINING – BOARD MEMBER ETHICS – Rod Hara, Fogarty & Hara, Esqs.

Presentation

Mr. Hara reviewed the presentation with the Board. He was unable to complete the entire presentation due to time constraints. The presentation is attached. Topics included: Role of the Board; Open Public Meetings Act; Open Public Records Act; Code of Ethics; Confidentiality; School Ethics Act; Free Speech and the School Ethics Act; Cases; and Social Media Tips.

V. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Summer Programs (Barry Bachenheimer/Eva Merk) – [Summer Programs Presentation](#)
- ESY
 - Accelerated Learning
 - SAT Prep
 - College Essay Boot Camp
 - ELL Garden Program

- Canvas Camp for Students and Parents
- Online Financial Literacy
- b. New Master Schedule (John Puccio and Charleen Schwartzman) – [New Pascaack Schedule Presentation](#)
- c. Student Achievement / Department Level Metrics (Barry Bachenheimer and Supervisors of Instruction; Aarti Mallya, Mark Russo, Valerie Mattessich, Noemi Rodriguez, Joseph Orlak)

Each supervisor discussed department level metrics to measure student achievement.

Ms. Mattessich indicated they will be identifying 3-4 benchmarks by grade level. Standardized tests, reading comprehension and essay writing will be considered in the English department.

Dr. Russo mentioned core courses (curriculum) and standardized tests as among the benchmark assessments in the Math department. There will be adjustments mid-year and end of year. This will provide programmatic information.

Dr. Mallya discussed that the Science department is looking at laboratory practicals, written and verbal communications starting with biology and then move to physics and chemistry. They want to nurture interest and develop independent research topics.

Dr. Bachenheimer on behalf of Ms. Rodriguez for the World Language department said there is a common assessment for world languages. An integrated performance assessment will be done. There will be assessments for novice and mid-level. For proficiency there is a seal of bi-literacy and approximately 100 students have attained it.

Mr. Orlak indicated the goal for the social studies department is longitudinal learning and transferable skills which is measured over time and goes beyond high school. He mentioned graded assessments on six themes. Remediation is available for those who need it. Social studies electives focus on why, who and how to better serve in the future. They treat students as potential historians.

VI. DISTRICT 2020-2021 GOALS STATUS AND PROPOSED 2021-2022 GOALS

- a. Real World Learning/Civics (Joseph Orlak) – Mr. Orlak mentioned the development of professional skills through experiences. Math and science were included in 2020-2021. The internship program provided greater opportunities for special education students and college readiness for students. The program grew the virtual speaker list and highlighted successes through newsletters. He said over a 4-year average 93% of the students continued in the same “strand”, while 7% learned they did not want to go into that area. Mr. Orlak indicated that Civics has been integrated with Social Studies. They promote active citizenship as they provide tools and opportunities to engage at all levels. Ninth graders learn what student government does and to be a good citizen. Tenth graders are involved in local community attending council and board meetings. Eleventh graders engage in civic action based on their interest. Twelfth graders continue and expand on what they did the previous year. Speakers are brought in.

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- b. Equity and Inclusivity (Mark Russo) – [District Goal M Russo Presentation](#). Dr. Russo mentioned that equity and inclusivity is equal opportunity for all students and this is required by the state. Data is collected through the student climate survey in January which is the federal climate survey. They review data by demographics such as IEP, race and gender. Extra-curricular between the two schools are reviewed by the athletic directors.
- c. Regional Wellness Initiative (Alyssa Merritt / Sean Struncis) – [Regional Wellness Presentation](#). Ms. Merritt works with the K-8 sending districts. There are offerings for students and staff throughout the year. There are community conversations.
- d. Restart and Reopening (Administration) – Dr. Bachenheimer mentioned the Restart and Reopening Committee met several times in 2020-2021. The committee will begin again August 12. He said he is working with administration. He indicated that school guidelines depend on local health guidelines. Currently, our local health officials and school physician recommend masking even if vaccinated. He mentioned that the guideline indicated that vaccinated people who are asymptomatic and have close contact with someone positive, do not need to quarantine. Those not vaccinated and have close contact with someone positive, must quarantine. The length of time to quarantine will be clarified by the guidelines. He said there are areas to eat outside, weather permitting. He mentioned that they have not had conversations about mandatory vaccinations for students. He surmised that staff would be first and that has not occurred.

2021-2022 District Goals:

Real World Learning and Civics

Equity and Inclusivity

Regional Wellness Initiative

Student Achievement/Department Level Metrics

VII. SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT

- a. Process

Dr. Fishbein discussed if the Board would like to employ a search firm then the options are NJ School Boards Association, Regional (NJ/NY/CT) or National with a local representative. He said an RFP would be needed and Mr. Usami has one ready. It's a long process with community involvement, multiple candidate interviews and timelines. Interviews may need to be conducted on Saturdays.

VIII. BOARD GOALS STATUS 2020-2021 AND PROPOSED 2021-2022 GOALS

- a. Equity and Inclusivity (Mark Russo)

This will continue as a District Goal with the Board's support

- b. PVHS Principal Search (Daniel Fishbein)

This goal will be replaced by a Superintendent Search

- c. Communications Committee (Paul Zeller) - [Communications Committee Presentation](#)

Mr. Zeller indicated that the transition of the schools' mascots will continue in the Fall with the consultant.

2021-2022 Board Goals

PVRHSD Superintendent Search

Board Training in School Finance

IX. DISCUSSION

Dr. Fishbein mentioned that committee meetings will be scheduled prior to the board meetings.

a. Policies

- [Policy 0142.1](#) – Nepotism
- [Policy 0164](#) – Conduct of Board Meeting
- [Policy 0167](#) – Comments from the Public
- [Policy 0168](#) – Recording of Board Meetings
- [Policy](#) and [Regulation 7510](#) – Facility Use
- [Policy 2415.05](#) (current) – Student Surveys and Analysis and/or Evaluations
([Proposed 2415.05](#) with changes noted)

b. Vaccinations

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Blundo to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Mr. Stankus seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully,



Yas Usami
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

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