

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Monday, December 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 Mr. Joseph Blundo, Vice President

Present: Mr. Joseph Blundo, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy
Mr. Michael Fronte
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; Evan Scalia – PVHS

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 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:

November 29, 2021	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
November 29, 2021	Executive Meeting	8:11 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Board of Education members individually and jointly thank Mr. Michael Fronte for his contributions and camaraderie over this timeframe and does wish him well in his other endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution recognizing Mr. Michael Fronte be spread upon the minutes of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education.

Mr. Blundo commented that he and Mr. Fronte attended Pascack Valley had some common friends, though he did not know Mr. Fronte. He said Mr. Fronte brought a different perspective to the Board. He mentioned that he stood on accountability and letting the data drive the decision. He mentioned that Mr. Fronte served during the two of the most tumultuous years of the Board. He appreciated him standing up listening to the public and dealing with many emotions. He added that Mr. Fronte will be missed and he would be welcomed to come back.

Mr. Fronte was presented with a plaque.

VII. PRESENTATION

Annual Audit Presentation – Bud Jones of Nisivoccia, L.L.P. – [CAFR](#) and [AMR](#)

Mr. Jones presented the FY 21 audit to the Board. In addition, this was another segment of the Board training in school finance. Mr. Jones reviewed the Introductory section which includes the Letter of Transmittal, organizational chart, roster of officials, consultants and advisors, information about the district, schools, initiatives and status of the initiatives, curriculum and instruction of the programs, special services, and the economic conditions. Next, the financial schedules: A schedule which is accrual basis financials, B schedule which is the governmental funds. He mentioned the unassigned fund balance went from the allowable 2% to 4% due to the pandemic. He mentioned Exhibit J-13 which represents the district's debt position. He said the district is allowed \$250 million in debt and the district currently has about \$14 million. He also reviewed the Auditor's Management Report. He indicated that there are no audit recommendations. He mentioned that there are a few management suggestions that his firm makes to all clients. He commented about reporting of funds, to be careful with the recent influx of federal funds and how they are spent and sick and vacation leave. Mr. Jones thanked the district staff for their professionalism and providing the necessary information for the audit.

Mr. Blundo asked if the district is in compliance since there are no recommendations.

Mr. Jones said that yes based on what they are required to test. It's not everything.

Mr. Blundo asked about the discrepancy from last year's \$2.2 million to this year's \$900,000.

Mr. Jones explained that the calculation changed from a limitation of 2% to 4%.

Mr. Usami commented that the district will add about \$1.1-\$1.2 million to the \$900,000 for the 2022-23 fund balance. That would leave the district close to the 2%.

Mr. Jones added that it is close to the district's budgeting philosophy.

Mr. Fronte commented that this was discussed at a recent Finance Committee meeting.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Citizens are invited to make comments regarding agenda items 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, sign in and state their name, town of residence, and which agenda item(s) they are referencing.

None

IX. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 4

1. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Executive Report

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, affirm the findings of the following harassment, intimidation and bullying incidents:
224896_PVH_11152021 and 224438_PVH_11032021.

2. [2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the 2022-2023 school calendar.

3. Custodian Holiday Calendar 2022-2023

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the 2022-2023 custodian holiday calendar.

4. Cooperative Sports Program Agreement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Cooperative Sports Program agreements for the following sports for the 2021-2022 school year:

Team	Host School	Cooperating School(s)
Gymnastics	Pascack Hills High School	Pascack Valley High School
Ice Hockey	Pascack Valley High School	Park Ridge High School Pascack Hills High School
Swimming	Pascack Valley High School	Pascack Hills High School

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 7

1. Resignation

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, accept the resignation of William Gibney, leave replacement Spanish teacher at Pascack Hills High School effective February 4, 2022.

2. Leave of Absence (Modified)

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

Name	Position	Requests modified from/to:
Lauren Johnson	PVHS Mathematics Teacher	<u>Total Leave Period:</u> From: October 18, 2021 – March 4, 2022 To: October 18 – March 2, 2022 Paid using 28 sick days <u>FMLA/NJFLA</u> From: December 6, 2021 – March 4, 2022 To: December 1, 2021 – March 2, 2022 <u>Leave of Absence</u> From: None To: None

3. 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
Gregory Collier	Renew
Veronica Rivera *	New

* Pending certification as school psychologist

4. Chaperones

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve Margarita Elkin and Ryan Dore, music teachers at Pascack Hills High School to receive chaperone pay of \$80 for two hours of after-school choir and band auditions. Any additional time will be prorated.

5. Co-curricular Clubs

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the Ski Club as a probationary club at Pascack Hills High School for the 2021-2022 school year. The advisor will be an unpaid volunteer, James Soltmann.

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve the following appointments for the Pascack Valley High School theatre program for the 2021-2022 school year:

Drama

Position	Name	Stipend
Drama Director	Thomas Lupfer	\$3,237.50
	Merielle Lupfer	3,237.50
Drama Assistant Director	Melissa Ann Gargiulo	1,760.00
Drama Assistant Director	Robert Lavagno	1,760.00
Drama - Volunteer	Jonathan Melchiorre	None

Musical

Position	Name	Stipend
Musical Director	Thomas Lupfer	\$3,237.50
	Merielle Lupfer	3,237.50
Musical Assistant Director	Melissa Ann Gargiulo	3,520.00
Musical Assistant Director	Michael Mahadeen	3,520.00
Musical Assistant Director	Robert Lavagno	3,520.00
Musical Assistant Director	Michael Mahadeen	1,760.00
	Francesca Silvano	1,760.00
Musical – Volunteer	Jonathan Melchiorre	None

6. Athletic Resignation

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, accept the resignation of Luciano Cofrancesco as assistant coach for the Pascack Valley High School winter track team for the 2021-2022 winter season only.

7. Athletic Appointment

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve William Van Kersen as assistant coach for the Pascack Valley High School winter track team for a stipend of \$5,940, Step 3, for the 2021-2022 winter season only.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approve Pascack Valley High School weight room supervisors on the listing attached for board members for the fall-winter and spring 2021-2022 seasons.

4. Approval of the Following Reports

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approve the following reports:

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

6. Travel Pre-Authorizations

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

Jamie Kornitzer	Amy Maniscalco	Valerie Mattessich
Kate Overgaard	Daniel Pasquale	Megan Pettigano
Jessica Sachs-Serfuss		

7. Acceptance of Financial Audit for Year Ending June 30, 2021

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education accept the findings expressed by the auditing firm of Nisivoccia & Company, LLP as cited in their reports entitled:

- a. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021
- b. Auditors’ Management Report on Administrative Findings – Financial Compliance and Performance Year Ending June 30, 2021
- c. Audit Synopsis

8. Approve Use of IDEA ARP Funds

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent approve the use of IDEA ARP Funds as follows:

Name	Sessions #	Rate/Session
Kate Overgaard	1 Session	\$55.00

Name	Sessions #	Rate/Session
Ken Sarajian	1 Session	\$55.00
Debbie Yao	1 Session	\$55.00
Christine Back	1 Session	\$55.00
Kevin Kibala	1 Session	\$55.00
Dana Corasaniti	1 Session	\$55.00

9. Equipment Disposal

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approve the disposal, donation, sale or recycling of the following equipment.

Item	Tag Numbers
6 Crown Amplifiers located in PV Auditorium	1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163 & 1164

10. Approve Delta Dental

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approve the contract with Delta Dental for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

11. Approve Interstate Waste Services of New Jersey, Inc.

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approve the contract with Interstate Waste Services of New Jersey, Inc. for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

12. Approve Brown & Brown Broker of Record

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) is desirous of appointing Brown & Brown (hereinafter referred to as the “Broker”) to serve as the Board’s Broker of Record for Dental Insurance and to serve as a consultant to the Board on all insurance services for three (3) years, commencing on or about January 1, 2022 and concluding on December 31, 2024, with the option of (2) two (1) one-year renewals commencing January 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, the Broker is desirous of accepting the appointment as the Board’s Broker of Record for Dental Insurance and to serve as a consultant to the Board on all insurance services for three (3) years, commencing on or about January 1, 2022 and concluding on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Broker are desirous of memorializing the terms and conditions of their agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby ratifies and approves the appointment of Brown & Brown as the Broker of Record for Dental

Insurance and to serve as a consultant to the Board on all insurance services for three (3) years, commencing on or about January 1, 2022 and concluding on December 31, 2024 in accordance with the terms of the Professional Services Agreement by way of an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service annexed hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

13. 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 contract to The Parent for route #CDe2122 for the 2021-22 school year.

Route #	Route	Per Diem	Annual Cost
CDe2122	Valley Prg. Norwood Public	50.00	6,800.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract to The Parent for route #LK2122 for the 2021-22 school year.

Route #	Route	Per Diem	Annual Cost
LK2122	Valley-NVC	50.00	9,000.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education renew special education transportation contract 030 to Lenoir’s Transport for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
9111	Windsor Learning Center, Pomp Lks	195.19	45	240.19*	50,439.90*

*Includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education renew special education transportation contract 043 to Lenoir’s Transport for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
1209	Sage Day, Rochelle Pk	179.49	45	179.49	37,692.90

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education renew special education transportation contract 1901 to Lenoir’s Transport for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
1901	Windsor Prep	136.38	45	136.38	28,639.80

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	3,500.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education renew special education transportation contract 083 to Destiny 23 Transportation LLC. for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2103	Chapel Hill Acad.	164.73	40	164.73	5,765.55

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education renew special education transportation contract 071 to American First Choice for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2018	Academy 360 Upper	264.21	45	309.21*	6,802.62*

*includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education renew special education transportation contract 061 to Ombali LLC for 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
1824	SBJC, Maywood	160.79	40	200.79*	3,815.01*

*Includes cost of aide

Mrs. Martin indicated that the teaching assistant will not have access to the IEPs or grading test or assessments.

Mr. Stankus mentioned that it goes through student training, teacher, supervisor.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Blundo mentioned that Park Ridge and Emerson are combining its football teams. He said that there may come a time to look at combining programs. He suggested that it may be time to resurrect the Activities Committee with the athletic directors to have a pulse on what may be coming. The options would be to eliminate a program or regionalize based on the numbers.

Mrs. Varghese asked in what circumstance would lead to this.

Mr. Stankus said it would be based on the program enrollment.

Mr. Weaver said it falls under the umbrella of equity for co-curricular and athletics which was discussed at the Board Retreat. He indicated that there were student concerns about equity with some programs. He commented that he is not sure if enough has been done with this in regards to facilities.

Mr. Blundo said he will push for the Activities Committee. He believes what is being discussed would be better served in this committee rather than the Equity Committee.

Mr. Stankus confirmed that equity was going to be looked at by the athletic directors and added that the committee should be brought back.

Mrs. Varghese asked why the committee was disbanded.

Mr. Blundo indicated that the updates were focused on what occurred with the teams which is what the student reps reported. He said any extra-curricular activity was discussed not just athletics.

Dr. Fishbein suggested that the Activities Committee be an ad hoc committee with a limited term.

Mrs. Varghese suggested each committee should discuss activities.

Mrs. Martin pointed out that the athletic directors couldn't attend all committee meetings. That would be a great burden.

Mr. Blundo suggested having the athletic directors come to a regular board meeting and give a state of the state on extra-curriculars.

Mr. Stankus mentioned that the Curriculum & Instruction and Technology Committee has a larger group who meet twice a year. The larger Activities Committee could hit wellness, finance, equity, etc.

Mr. Fronte thanked the people of Hillsdale for giving him the opportunity to represent them. He thanked past and present board members and district wide employees for their hard work and diligence.

