

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

August 17, 2020

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, August 17, 2020
at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom,
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83202443773?pwd=cHdBcUo0K2FoUHZXNnhES1IyRWtKdz09>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Ms. Tammy Molinelli, Board President.

Present: Ms. Tammy Molinelli, President
Ms. Janet Bissinger, Vice President
Mr. Joseph Blundo
Mr. Michael Fronte
Mr. Kenneth Ralph
Mr. Arnold Scher
Mr. James Stankus
Mr. David Steinberg

Absent: Mr. Brian Hallowell

Also present: Dr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Molinelli led all those present in a salute to the flag.

Special Note: N.J.S.A. 10:4-8b authorizes local units to conduct public hearings through the use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms in certain circumstances. Therefore in light of the public health emergency, the board of education will hold its regular meeting entirely online via Zoom. The district website contains information on public participation.

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.

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, Montvale, NJ 07645.

*Copies of all public meeting agendas are online on the district website:
<http://www.pascack.org>*

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON AUGUST 17, 2020 AT 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to enter into an executive session at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 7:00 p.m. via online streaming service, for the purpose of recessing to a closed Executive Meeting.

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

WHEREAS, the Board has found the action described below to be necessary and proper;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board on the date indicated above that:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action on the Executive Session herein set forth.
2. The subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 1. Contract negotiations.
 3. The Board will return to the Regular Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
 4. Official action may or may not be taken when the Board reconvenes to Public Session.

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to reconvene into the public meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The public session resumed at 7:31 p.m. via Zoom

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 11, 2020.

IV. 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 and state their name and address.

Comments after Presentation

V. PRESENTATION

Presentation on Restart and Recovery Plan – Dr. P. Erik Gundersen and Dr. Barry Bachenheimer

Dr. Gundersen and Dr. Bachenheimer presented the District's Restart and Recovery Plan. A Restart Committee consisting of administrators, staff, students, board members, and school physician was formed shortly after school closure in March. There were sub committees covering instruction, facilities, health and wellness, technology and communication, and operations. There were three goals in mind: the health and safety of all students and staff; high academic expectation for all students; and meaningful connections between students and adults who support them. A hybrid plan was developed with two cohorts alternating each day for in-person instruction in the morning. The cohort not in school will work asynchronously on class assignments in the morning. After lunch both cohorts will meet remotely with teachers. Students have the option of all remote instruction. This plan is not an ideal educational situation for the students, however it is the best plan under the circumstances.

Each of the chairs of the sub committees gave a report. Director of Facilities and Capital Improvements Robert Donahue of the Facilities sub committee mentioned moving night shift staff to day for cleaning and disinfecting, PPE for staff, hand sanitizers and wipes in classrooms, and one-way stairways. Pascack Hills Nurse Rose Welyczko of the Health and Wellness subcommittee indicated that the district nurses follow CDC guidelines, local health department, school physician, and the Board of Education. She said the guidelines are fluid and they work with families as a team. She emphasized proper mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing and sanitizing, and urged parents to monitor their children's health. Director of Technology and Communications Paul Zeller of the Technology and Communications subcommittee focused on parents and staff contacting tech support, scheduling laptop repairs, phone system upgrade that enables a tech to be reached if the tech is working remotely, an enterprise license of Google Meet which

provides Zoom like features, use of apps, process of laptop distribution, researching and testing educational platforms, and communicating more often to parents via email and texts. Dr. Bachenheimer of the Operations sub committee discussed Grab and Go lunches, transportation, PPEs, and procedures to switch from all remote learning to the hybrid schedule.

Mr. Steinberg asked what the process is if a student has symptoms of COVID.

Dr. Bachenheimer responded that the student should stay home if the student does not feel well and contact a health professional. If this occurs at school then the nurse will consult with the local health official.

Mr. Scher asked how a sick student from COVID comes back once the student is healthy.

Dr. Bachenheimer responded that the student would need to wait until the first of the month.

Mr. Scher asked if the district will reverse their stance to allow fully remote students to participate in extra curricular activities since the Governor has allowed it.

Dr. Gundersen said if the student is sick then the student will not be allowed to participate. Otherwise, the district will adhere to the Governor's order.

Mr. Scher thanked the committee.

Mr. Blundo asked what clean more means and if classrooms would be cleaned between periods.

Mr. Donahue said that cleaning would be shifted to the day emphasizing the bathrooms, hallways, stairways and touch points. He indicated that they do not have the manpower to clean the classrooms between periods. He and Dr. Gundersen mentioned that wipes and hand sanitizers will be available in all rooms and a student may elect to wipe his/her desk and seat.

Public Comments

Ms. Debbie Horn President of PVREA spoke on behalf of the association. She was impressed with the work of the administrators. She was proud to serve on the committee and the teachers are eager to see students. Ms. Horn had questions about day-to-day procedures, health and safety concerns, enough ventilation, cleaning of rooms/buildings, isolation rooms, details of PPEs, plans on resources for hybrid and remote instruction, how to move about the building, number of students in a room, and time for teachers to learn procedures.

Ms. Hana Shapiro of River Vale asked if the teachers have a say if they teach hybrid or remote.

Dr. Gundersen said teachers are expected to come to work. If CDC requirements are met then reasonable accommodations are made for the teacher. The local health department or the state is the one who guides the district. The nurses are in contact with local health officials.

Ms. Karen Bade of Hillsdale said her college student received an email about possibly working as a substitute teacher. She asked why the big need for subs.

Dr. Gundersen responded that the pool of substitutes are generally retirees who are older and may not be willing to sub. The district needs a certified adult for supervision in a classroom for a teacher who is teaching remotely. He added that parents will be informed of which teachers will be teaching remotely.

There was technical difficulty with a call from Sharon who was asked to call again at the second opportunity for comments.

VI. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 3

1. Restart and Recovery Plan 2020-2021 with Addendum

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Restart and Recovery Plan for Reopening of School 2020-2021.

2. **Sidebar for PVREA Contract**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the sidebar to the agreement with the Pascack Valley Regional Education Association regarding changes to additional compensation for coaches if athletics are impacted by COVID-19.

3. **Reinstate Athletic Positions**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve reinstating the following positions for co-curricular and athletic activities for Pascack Hills High School for the 2020-2021 school year:

Position
Assistant Cheer Coach, Fall
Head Cheer Coach, Winter

Moved by: Bissinger

Seconded by: Scher

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ralph	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fronte	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hallowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steinberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molinelli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mr. Fronte abstained on all.

Mr. Ralph abstained on #2.

Mr. Stankus said the Restart Plan is what it is for the times that we are in under the current circumstances. Guidelines keep changing. He indicated that he is voting for the plan which is the best plan for what is known right now. Science is still developing and there is no 100% guarantee. He is a parent and he takes it seriously.

VII. HUMAN RESOURCES

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 2

1. New Hires

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Anne Catalano, part-time job coach for Pascack Hills High School, effective August 31, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$28.03, without health benefits, for the 2020-2021 school year.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Zabrina Kearns, special education teacher / transition coordinator for the Milestones Program, effective August 31, 2020, at an annual salary of \$78,500, MA, step 8, with health benefits, for the 2020-2021 school year.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Andrea Kesselman, instructional assistant for Pascack Valley High School, effective September 1, 2020 at the hourly rate of \$28.03, with health benefits for the 2020-2021 school year.
- d. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Alyssa Merritt, Regional Instruction and Curriculum Coordinator for the district, effective August 17, 2020, at an annual salary of \$83,000, with health benefits, for the 2020-2021 school year.
- e. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, modify the approval of Daniel Pasquale 4/5ths music teacher at Pascack Valley High School, effective **August 31, 2020**, at an annual salary of \$54,400, BA, step 7, with health benefits, for the 2020-2021 school year.

VIII. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 2

1. Approval of Change Order 001 Hellas Construction, Inc.

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve change order 001 submitted by Hellas Construction, Inc., of Austin, Texas. This change order is a decrease in the amount of \$29,532.00 for work at Pascack Valley High School for the removal of the proposed trench drain project. Furthermore, this change order has been reviewed and approved by Architect Robert E. Donahue, LLC.

Original Contract Amount	\$677,285.00
Net Change by Previously Authorized Change Order(s)	\$0
Subtotal	\$677,285.00
Decrease by Change Order 001	-\$29,532.00
Revised Contract Amount	\$647,753.00

2. Reduction in State Aid

WHEREAS, New Jersey School Districts were notified by Governor Murphy’s Office on July 10, 2020 as to their revised 2020-2021 state aid allocations; and

WHEREAS, Districts must reduce their budgetary basis state aid revenue and receivable for 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, the revised allocation for the Pascack Valley Regional High School District is a reduction of \$166,666 in state aid; and

WHEREAS, Districts experiencing a reduction in state aid have the following options by Board resolution as follows:

1. Use unassigned general fund surplus to maintain budgeted appropriations; or
2. Request Commissioner approval to withdraw from emergency reserve; or
3. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d), withdraw from maintenance reserve to cover budgeted required maintenance costs; or
4. Reduce appropriations for 2020-21; or
5. A combination of 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to address the state aid reduction of \$166,666; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d) to withdraw \$166,666 from maintenance reserve to cover budgeted required maintenance costs and using said funds to balance the 2020-2021 budget.

Moved by: Bissinger

Seconded by: Scher

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ralph	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fronte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hallowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steinberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molinelli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mr. Ralph reviewed what was discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting. The discussion focused on the reduction of state aid and the recommendation to withdraw funds from Maintenance Reserve which was approved.

Mr. Steinberg asked if the borrowing of funds by the Governor would restore the reduced state aid.

Mr. Usami responded that it could, but the guidance is to proceed and act if aid is restored.

Mr. Scher asked if the funds could be returned to Maintenance Reserve.

Mr. Usami said that districts should be allowed to return the funds from where it was taken.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Negotiations Committee Reports

Ms. Bissinger reported on the Sidebar Agreement for the coaches' stipends which was approved.

Mr. Scher asked about the status of the projects.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that all are on schedule except the Pascack Hills electrical which impacts the HVAC system in the gym.

Mr. Stankus raised the topic of in-person board meetings. He would like a remote option for board members and the public, especially those among the public who are older.

Dr. Gundersen said that county guidance has been to have in-person meetings since students will return to school. He said there could be technical issues to have a hybrid meeting. He added that he will need further guidance from the county and this change would need to be addressed with the Policy Committee.

Mr. Blundo would like to get a committee meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Steinberg asked about transportation contracts.

Mr. Usami plans to have contract renewals at the CPI on the August 31 agenda.

Mr. Blundo asked if the capacity will be reduced including sports.

Mr. Usami said they are seeing who is opting out and then seeing if the routes need to be balanced to avoid large numbers. He said that athletics will probably double the buses used as the Athletic Directors are contacting the bus companies.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Scher commented about the importance of athletics for students. However, he suggested scrimmages to maintain team building rather playing other schools. He is concerned about the risk of playing other schools.

Dr. Gundersen responded that the NJSIAA oversees athletics and there are stringent guidelines and protocols to follow. Schedules have been altered to reduce travel time. He added that there are no guarantees of safety.

XI. 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.

Ms. Kristin Martin of Hillsdale asked about SAT and ACT.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that October 3 (he believed) SAT is open to all and the ACT will only be for district students. Details to follow.

Sharon of Hillsdale asked if a sick child needs to wait until the first of the month to return to in-school instruction.

Dr. Gundersen responded that if it's COVID related then yes, otherwise it's treated the same as regular illness.

Mr. John MacEwen of Hillsdale asked about Bergen County Academies transportation.

Mr. Usami responded that the schedule is set and the renewal will be on the August 31 agenda.

Mr. Michael Cuffe of Hillsdale asked about why the district athletes were not working out in July when other schools were. He asked if it was due to the coaches not having a contract or an administrative decision. He wanted to have a plan for workouts communicated to the parents.

Dr. Gundersen said the July workouts were voluntary sessions and they were delayed due to staffing, logistics and health and safety protocols. He indicated that voluntary workouts may begin tomorrow, but that is a coach's decision. Dr. Gundersen said that there have been communications regarding athletic workouts. He added that workouts stop August 28 and may not resume until September 14.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Mr. Scher 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.

