

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

**Pascack Valley Regional High School District**

October 12, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday,  
October 12, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom,  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83202443773?pwd=cHdBZWUoK2FoUHZXNnhES1IyRWtKdz09>

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Brian Hallowell, Board Member.

Present: Mr. Joseph Blundo  
Mr. Michael Fronte  
Mr. Brian Hallowell  
Mr. Kenneth Ralph  
Mr. Arnold Scher  
Mr. James Stankus  
Mr. David Steinberg

Absent: Ms. Tammy Molinelli, President  
Ms. Janet Bissinger, Vice President

Also Present: Dr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent  
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Student Representatives: Aria Chalileh– PHHS; Connor Flinn – PVHS  
Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

**II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**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.



Mr. Blundo commented that the district is good at targeting parents and students with information. The idea is to try to reach others in the community. He said the postcards will have links to obtain information.

Mr. Hallowell said he endorses scaling back the number of newsletter mailings to one or none due to the cost. He believes it's a good idea to provide video highlights rather than having to watch an entire meeting. He asked who will do the work?

Mr. Zeller responded that he has and will do so, but long term he cannot since he has full time position.

Mr. Scher asked if there is a public relations department.

Mr. Zeller said that each school has someone who receives a stipend to provide some content, but not on the scale they envision.

Mr. Hallowell asked if there will be a club related to this. He added that there must be students interested in advertising or marketing. He would like to see this extended in the future.

Mr. Zeller mentioned that with Samantha's help this will be extended for the next 7-8 months. He would like to see this sustained over time. He added that he does not know where it will go, but student involvement will be critical.

Dr. Gundersen said that the Board and administration has focused on an enhanced communication structure. He mentioned that Samantha is very proficient in social media and she has been an asset. He added that budget discussions will be underway with Mr. Zeller and Mr. Usami for staffing possibilities.

## **VI. 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.

Anthony DeRosa the liaison to the Board for the Hillsdale council said the change in communications is a great first step. Now the public will know in advance the meeting topics and when the meetings will take place. He thanked the Board and said that the Borough can share the Board's information on their website.

Dr. Gundersen said it is a goal of the Board to push out information and have the four towns push out communications to their communities.

## **VII. POLICY**

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 3

### **1. Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the 2020-2021 Updated (2019) Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the Pascack





Name	Position	Requests:
Jenna Howard	PHHS Guidance Counselor	<u>Total Leave Period:</u> January 11, 2021 – June 30, 2022 Paid using 33 sick days <u>FMLA/NJFLA</u> March 1 – May 28, 2021 <u>Leave of Absence</u> May 31, 2021 – June 30, 2022

**5. Substitute Teachers/Home Instructors**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following substitutes and home instructor for the 2020-2021 school year:

Name	Position	Type
Brendan Bonner	Substitute Teacher	New
Veronica Connor	Substitute Teacher	New
Kelly Dunnigan	Substitute Teacher	New
Karen Elder	Substitute Teacher	New
Yvette Kohn	Home Instructor	Renew
Michael Main	Substitute Teacher	New
Timothy Serbe	Substitute Teacher	New
Laura Stiles	Substitute Teacher	New

**6. 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 for the 2020-2021 school year:

Club or Activity	Advisor	School	Stipend
Chinese Honor Society	Deb Yao	PHHS	\$1,530.00
Marching Band Assistant Director	Megan Alston	PVHS	3,825.00
Marching Band Assistant Director	Abigail Aska (split) Adria Warfield (split)	PHHS	1,912.50 1,912.50
Drama Assistant Director	Kevin Lynch	PHHS	3,520.00
Drama Assistant Director	Jonathan Melchiorre (split) Melissa Gargiulo (split)	PVHS	1,760.00 1,760.00

**7. Volunteers**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following volunteers for the 2020-2021 school year:

Name	School	Activity
Dana Amato	Pascack Valley	Girls Basketball
Peter Bilash	Pascack Valley	Girls Basketball
Kerry Dressel	Pascack Valley	Girls Basketball

Moved by: Blundo

Seconded by: Stankus

**VOTE**

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steinberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

Dr. Gundersen thanked Jane Rodes for her contributions as an instructional aide to the students who need it most. Dr. Gundersen thanked Diane Montemurro for her many years of accurate and timely work in the payroll department. He added that for both of them it's good news, but not for the district as they will be sorely missed.

**8. Support Staff Member Suspension and Termination**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the termination of staff member ID #2300, effective October 27, 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education authorizes the continued suspension, with pay, for staff member #2300 through October 27, 2020.

Human Resource item #8 voted on after Executive Session.

Moved by: Scher

Seconded by: Stankus

**VOTE**

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steinberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

**X. FINANCE**

Consent Agenda for Items 1-17

**1. Approval of Bills**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bills as follows:

Budget Expenditures as of October 12, 2020	\$2,500,603.50
Payroll as of September 30, 2020	\$1,634,239.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,134,843.03</b>

**2. West Bergen Mental Healthcare**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the agreement between Region II and West Bergen Mental Healthcare for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

<b>Assessment completed by:</b>	<b>Rate</b>
LCSW, LPC or Psychologist	\$157
Advanced Practice Nurse	\$210
Psychiatrist	\$329

**3. Donation**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, donate \$500 each to the Parent Faculty Association (PFA) of Pascack Hills High School and the Parent Faculty Organization (PFO) of Pascack Valley High School.

**4. E-Rate Elite Services, Inc. - Funding Year 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the agreement between E-Rate Elite Services, Inc. and Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education for the Funding Year 2021.

**5. Revised Nonpublic Nursing Allocation for the 2020-2021 School Year**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the revised Nonpublic Nursing Allocation in the amount of \$51,816.00 for the 2020–2021 school year.

**6. Accept Italian American Committee on Education Grant**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the Italian American Committee on Education Grant awarded to Francesca Silvano and Angie DeLima in the amount of \$4,000 each.

**7. Corona Relief Fund Grant Allocations**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the State of New



Jersey Department of Education Corona Relief Fund Grant Allocation for the 2020-2021 School Year in the amount of \$55,043.

**8. Nonpublic Digital Divide Grant**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the Nonpublic Digital Divide Grant for St. Joseph's Regional High School in the amount of \$17,183.

**9. Revised Extraordinary Aid for 2019-2020**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the revised Extraordinary Aid for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$956,863.

**10. Nonpublic Security Allocation for the 2020-2021 School Year**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the Nonpublic Security Allocation for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$88,900.

**11. Agreement to Provide Services and/or Equipment Under the Nonpublic School Security Aid Program for the 2020-2021 School Year**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the agreement to provide services and/or equipment under the Nonpublic Security Aid program for the 2020-2021 school year.

**12. Standard Operating Procedures Manual**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the attached Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual for the 2020-2021 school year.

**13. Reject Bids – Pascack Hills Parking Lot Stair Replacement**

**WHEREAS**, the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education advertised for bids for the Parking Lot Stair Replacement at Pascack Hills High School Project ("Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2020 the Board received bids for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the bids exceeded the cost estimates and budget for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board will be rejecting all bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby rejects all bids received for the Project for exceeding the Project cost estimates and budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to re-advertise for the Project.

**14. Transfer of Capital Reserve**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the transfer of Capital Reserve Funds between capital projects as follows:

From	Pascack Valley H.S. Gym/Weight Room AC Project
To	Pascack Hills H.S. C-Wing AC Project
Amount	\$334,750.00

From	Pascack Valley H.S. Track Project
To	Pascack Hills H.S. C-Wing AC Project
Amount	\$15,216.72

**15. Special Education Transportation – Region II Renewals**

**RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education renew special education transportation contract 066 to 4 Diamond Transportation for the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
1911	New Bridges	181.81	40	221.81*	35,489.60*

\*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 P404 Scholastic Bus Company for the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
0452	EPIC	188.31	30	218.31*	39,295.80*

\*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 019 Valley Transportation for the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
7831	Bleshman	232.17	22	254.17*	40,667.20*

\*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 1905 to We Care Transportation for the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
1905	New Bridges	226.43	48	274.43*	43,908.80*

\*Includes cost of aide

**16. Transportation Renewal Contract for Home to School Transportation – Public High Schools For the 2020-2021 School Year**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following transportation renewal contract for the 2020-2021 school year with the Scholastic Bus Company, Fair Lawn, NJ as stated below:

School (Public School-Home to School)	Route	Contract Renewal 2019-2020	Contract Renewal 2020-2021	1.7% Maximum CPI Increase 2020 vs. 2021
Bergen County Academies, Hackensack, NJ	BA08	139.38 per diem 25,088.40 annual	141.75 per diem 25,515.00 annual	1.7%
Bergen County Academies, Hackensack, NJ	BA09	139.38 per diem 25,088.40 annual	141.75 per diem 25,515.00 annual	1.7%
Bergen County Academies, Hackensack, NJ	BA10	139.38 per diem 25,088.40 annual	141.75 per diem 25,515.00 annual	1.7%

**17. Public School – Joint Transportation Agreement**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Pascack Valley Regional High School District (Host District) and the Park Ridge Board of Education (Joiner District) with the purpose of share cost in transporting students on Route BA10 to the Bergen Academies in Hackensack, NJ for the 2020-2021 school year.

Moved by: Scher

Seconded by: Fronte

**VOTE**

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steinberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

Mr. Steinberg asked about Items 9 and 11 and if the increase in Extraordinary Aid had any effect on State Aid.

Mr. Usami said that state aid was not affected and the Governor's budget had an increase in Extraordinary Aid. All school district received an increase. Mr. Usami indicated that the state provides funds for nonpublic schools for security, nursing, textbooks, etc.

Dr. Gundersen added that the funds come to the public school as the funds cannot go directly to the nonpublic school. Mr. Usami said that the public school makes the purchases for the nonpublic school.

Mr. Scher asked if the increase in Extraordinary Aid and reduction in State Aid offset.

Mr. Usami said he thought the increase in Extraordinary Aid is about \$87,000 and the reduction in State Aid is about \$287,000.

Mr. Blundo asked if there are any restrictions how the Extraordinary Aid funds may be used.

Mr. Usami said typically the funds are appropriated into special education accounts. However, they may be transferred from those accounts or appropriated into other accounts.

Mr. Scher asked when the rebid for the Pascack Hills Parking Lot Stairway Project will take place.

Mr. Usami indicated that the notice will be in the paper tomorrow and the bid opening will take place on October 22. Mr. Hallowell added that the bidding will be opened to site contractors which will hopefully result in more bid submissions.

## **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Building & Grounds Committee – report**

Mr. Scher asked if there are more roof projects.

Mr. Hallowell said not on the short-term calendar.

### **Communications Committee**

Mr. Blundo indicated that the presentation covered what was discussed. He added that the committee supports Mr. Zeller's efforts.

### **Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee**

Mr. Stankus said he was not in attendance. Mr. Scher said that Dr. Bachenheimer will be presenting at the next board meeting.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that Dr. Bachenheimer's secretary will release the minutes of the meeting.

### **Equity Committee**

Mr. Scher indicated that they had the meeting earlier this evening. He will provide a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Scher asked if there has been any development from Montvale for an SRO at Pascack Hills.

Dr. Gundersen said he has not discussed this with Montvale in years. He will follow up as the SRO operates differently than the SLEO III's. SRO's are structured with an educational component.

Mr. Scher asked if there has been an uptick in the Wellness Center.

Dr. Gundersen said there has not been a noticeable uptick in the building since on a given day less than half of the student population is present. There has been remote activity at the center. Overall, it's about the same as last year.

Mr. Scher commented that the bees have produced honey.

Dr. Gundersen said that Mr. Usami has been working with the beekeeping club regarding the honey. He added that the bees are off site and they will re-locate to the school in the spring.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **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.

Kristin Martin, Hillsdale said she sent an email on October 5 in regards to an ethics complaint against Arnold Scher for improper behavior (slander, bullying). She asked how the board handles ethics complaints.

Dr. Gundersen said that ethics complaints should be lodged with the Ethics Board. He advised Ms. Martin to visit the New Jersey School Boards Association website to see how to contact the School Ethics Commission.

Chris Martin, Washington Ave., Hillsdale said it's a good idea to have open lines of communications using social media. He wishes it could have been done earlier. He asked if there is an HIB policy for board members. He said citizens deserve better treatment.

Dr. Gundersen said the board president should be notified and then it's up to the board president to take appropriate action.

Laura Csatay, 610 River Vale Rd, River Vale commented that the current schedule will not allow students to complete the curriculum for AP and honors classes. She said teachers and students are confused and students will be self-teaching.

Dr. Gundersen asked Ms. Csatay to contact him and he will connect her to the proper individuals. He mentioned that the administrative team will present what Phase 2 may look like which includes the possibility of increased contact time. They have taken feedback from the survey into consideration. They are looking to improve the system and remain open.

## **XIV. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Hallowell to enter into an executive session at 8:38 p.m. Mr. Steinberg seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet 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:

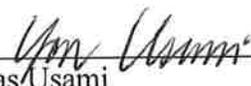
1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action on the Executive Session herein set forth.
2. The subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  1. A personnel matter
3. Official action may or may not be taken when the board reconvenes to Public Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Blundo to reconvene into the public meeting at 8:54 p.m. Mr. Fronte seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.  
The public session resumed at 8:54 p.m. via Zoom.

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Blundo to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Steinberg 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.