

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

**Pascack Valley Regional High School District**

October 26, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday,  
October 26, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom,  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83202443773?pwd=cHdBeUo0K2FoUHZXNnhES1IyRWtKdz09>

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ms. Tammy Molinelli, President.

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

Ms. Molinelli 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.

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>*

### III. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER

Both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place, and manner in which such notice was provided and 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 29, 2020.

There are two opportunities for the public to make comments, and when meetings are held in a hybrid manner, there are two methods to comment:

1. Persons attending the public meeting, wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, approach the podium and state their name and address.
2. Persons in attendance via the online streaming service, Zoom, may indicate their wish to speak when prompted by clicking the “Raise Hand” button on their screen, or if accessing by phone, by pushing \*9. You will need to unmute yourself to speak by clicking the microphone button on the screen.

### IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Superintendent’s Report: Dr. P. Erik Gundersen – [Report](#)

Ms. Molinelli recognized the work by the staff and the principals. She is always amazed and impressed with their work.

Student Reports: Aria Chalileh – Pascack Hills High School – [Report](#)  
Connor Flinn – Pascack Valley High School - [Report](#)

One Agenda Item

#### 1. Minutes

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

October 12, 2020	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
October 12, 2020	Executive Meeting	8:38 p.m.

Moved by: Scher

Seconded by: Bissinger

**VOTE**

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

**V. PRESENTATION**

2020 Assessment Data Presentation – Dr. Barry Bachenheimer - [Report](#)

Mr. Steinberg asked if the 5% at Pascack Valley included students who took gap years.

Dr. Bachenheimer said he did not have the information at this time, but it's a possibility.

Ms. Molinelli asked if apprenticeships for trades are measured.

Dr. Bachenheimer responded that they are represented in the two-year college group. He added that it's not a large number.

Mr. Fronte asked about a comparison with the state average.

Dr. Bachenheimer indicated that he will provide that information. He added that the schools AP scores typically compares significantly higher that the state and internationally.

Mr. Steinberg asked if the 4's and 5's could be broken out from the 3-5 cluster.

Dr. Bachenheimer said that he will request it.

Mr. Stankus asked how many took the AP exams relative to the enrollment.

Dr. Bachenheimer mentioned that at Pascack Hills about 50% of the eligible students take the AP exams and the percentage is similar if not higher at Pascack Valley. He added that dual enrollment has helped students as they earn college credits attending courses at some colleges/universities.

Mr. Stankus commented that AP courses can make a difference. There are colleges that accept credit(s) for AP courses/exam scores.

**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.

Hillsdale Councilman Chris Roche asked about the Superintendent's report that indicated that Pascack Hills will re-open on November 5<sup>th</sup>. He asked if it's November 9<sup>th</sup> due to Teacher's Convention.

Dr. Gundersen clarified that the 14 days brings the opening to November 5<sup>th</sup>. This allows for sports to take place on that day. Classes will resume on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Roche asked about Bylaw 0131 and Policy 0155.1. He was concerned that 5 days written notice for the public is too long in order to attend a board meeting remotely.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that Bylaw 0131 allows for the Board to adopt a policy after one reading rather than two. He explained that Policy 0155.1 only applies to board members who need to request in writing five days prior to the meeting to attend the meeting remotely. This does not apply to the public who may attend the meeting remotely as they have. However, they may register to attend in-person if they wish. The total number of people will be limited to 25 due to the current law. This includes board members and administrators.

Michael Cuffe, Hillsdale commented that the selection process for the mascots should not be rushed since there is an upcoming election that may bring four new members who may not want new mascots.

Maria Geanopolus of Montvale wanted clarification if she could speak about old business and the mascot.

Dr. Gundersen said the mascot selection process is on the agenda. He added that she might want to wait until after the Athletic Directors' presentation on the mascot. Old business should be done during the second comment period.

Ms. Geanopolus would like all the kids to go to school and see their friends and teachers, and play sports. She supported waiting on the mascot selection process. She wanted to know if the emails sent by the public will be answered.

Dr. Gundersen said that the Board sent a response letter that addressed the decision to retire the mascots. He mentioned that the students are excited about selecting a mascot for both schools. He clarified that tonight is a presentation about the selection process and not about selecting mascots.

Ms. Geanopolus said she attended the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting where Dr. Gundersen was asked if the school organized the BLM march. She said Dr. Gundersen denied it and mentioned that a Pascack Hills alum organized it. She added that that was not correct that it was organized by the district equity team along with a Pascack Hills alum. She asked if he and the school are pushing a political agenda.

Dr. Gundersen responded that Pascack Hills did not organize the march and it was not a school sanctioned event. There may have been members of the equity team, school athletic members and others who attended the march. He added that he attended among others from the district.

Ms. Geanopolus said that she will send another letter.

Beth Glazer of Montvale said that previously it was said that teachers would not teach students who are remote and in-class simultaneously. She asked if this will change. She said that there are some teachers who are conducting classes in this manner. She would like to see more consistency and favors this method of teaching.

Dr. Gundersen commented that based on the student survey they are looking at what is working and what can be improved.

Dr. Bachenheimer added that there is more synchronous learning and they are looking at more streaming.

Mr. Fronte asked if the mascot on the agenda is item 7.4.

Dr. Gundersen said it's the presentation regarding the selection process with the Athletic Directors.

**VII. POLICY**

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 4

**1. BOE Bylaws, Policies, and Regulation – First Reading**

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

<b>Name of Policy or Regulation</b>	<b>Policy/ Reg Number</b>
Administrative Employment Contracts	<a href="#">P 1620</a>
Restart and Recovery Plan	<a href="#">P 1648</a>
Remote Learning Options for Families	<a href="#">P 1648.02</a>
Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction	<a href="#">P 1648.03</a>
Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act (FFCRA)	<a href="#">P 1649</a>
Religion in Schools	<a href="#">P 2270</a>
Athletic Competition	<a href="#">P 2431</a>
Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety	<a href="#">P 2431.3</a>
Adult High School	<a href="#">P 2451</a>
Gifted and Talented Students	<a href="#">P 2464</a>
Student Assessment	<a href="#">P 2622</a>
Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	<a href="#">P 5111</a>
Attendance	<a href="#">P 5200</a>
Immunization	<a href="#">P 5320</a>
Administering an Opioid Antidote	<a href="#">P 5330.04</a>
Seizure Action Plan	<a href="#">P 5330.05</a>
Suspension	<a href="#">P 5610</a>
Expulsion	<a href="#">P 5620</a>
Cooperative Purchasing	<a href="#">P 6440</a>

<b>Name of Policy or Regulation</b>	<b>Policy/ Reg Number</b>
Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification	<a href="#">P 6470.01</a>
School District Security	<a href="#">P 7440</a>
Property Inventory	<a href="#">P 7450</a>
Use of School Facilities	<a href="#">P 7510</a>
Personnel Records	<a href="#">P 8320</a>
Emergency and Crisis Situations	<a href="#">P 8420</a>
Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity	<a href="#">R 2431.1</a>
Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	<a href="#">R 5111</a>
Attendance	<a href="#">R 5200</a>
Immunization	<a href="#">R 5320</a>
Administering an Opioid Antidote	<a href="#">R 5330.04</a>
Seizure Action Plan	<a href="#">R 5330.05</a>
Suspension Procedures	<a href="#">R 5610</a>
Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification	<a href="#">R 6470.01</a>
School District Security	<a href="#">R 7440</a>
Personnel Records	<a href="#">R 8320</a>

**2. Suspension of Bylaw 0131 and Adoption of Policy 0155.1**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, suspend [Bylaw 0131](#) requiring two Board readings to adopt a policy and adopt [Policy 0155.1](#) - Board Member Participation at Board Meetings Using Electronic Device with one reading to have this policy effective for November 1, 2020.

**3. Job Description**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the revision of the job description of Assistant Payroll Manager.

**4. Name Change for Athletic Team**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the naming of the Pascack Valley Regional Swimming and Diving team to better reflect the program.

Moved by: Bissinger                      Seconded by: Stankus

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mr. Blundo indicated that more than 98% of the policies involved minor language changes mandated by the state.

**VIII. EDUCATION**

One Agenda Item

**1. Bedside/Home/Supplemental Instruction**

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve supplemental instruction provided by a board approved home instructor for the following students, for the 2020-2021 school year:

Student ID	Subject	Frequency
#810391		
#810373	Algebra II	1 hour per week
#810743	Algebra II	2 hours per week (Modified from previous)
#810279	English III	1 hour per week
#810108		
#810007		
#810279	Chemistry in the Community	1 hour per week

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve supplemental instruction provided by a board approved home instructor for student ID #807877, as per their IEP, for the 2020-2021 school year, for the following subject and hours:

Subject	Estimated Hours
Reading Instruction	1 hour per week

- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bedside tutoring for student ID #810418 admitted to St. Vincent’s Hospital on October 13, 2020. Services will be provided by the facility at \$45 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week for approximately four weeks.







**2. Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Financial Reports**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s unaudited 2020/21 financial reports, which are in agreement reflecting the district’s financial activities for the period September 2020.

**3. Ratification of Board Secretary’s Monthly Certification – Budgetary Line Item Status**

**RESOLVED** pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that as of September 2020, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

**BE IT RESOLVED** pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2-11(c)4 that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education certifies that as of September 2020, after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial report, in the minutes of the Board each month that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(b).4.

**4. Approval of the Following Reports**

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

a. Cafeteria Account	September 2020
b. e-Learning Account	September 2020
c. Capital Project Account	September 2020
d. Student Government Account – PH	September 2020
e. Student Government Account – PV	September 2020
f. Athletic Account – PH	September 2020
g. Athletic Account – PV	September 2020

**5. Transfers**

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

**6. Donations**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent accept the following donations:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>Club or Group</b>
9/23/20	The Walter Henry Freygang Foundation	\$500	Robotics
9/23/20	Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.	\$500	Robotics

<b>Date</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>Club or Group</b>
10/8/20	The Walter Henry Freygang Foundation	\$500	Robotics

**7. Submission of 2019 – 2022 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public-school facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of Pascack Valley Regional High School District are consistent with these requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education hereby authorize the school business administrator to submit the 2019 – 2022 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Pascack Valley Regional High School District in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

**8. Virtual Machine Agreement with Hillsdale Board of Education**

**WHEREAS**, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education (“PVRHSD BOE”) and the Hillsdale Board of Education (“Hillsdale BOE”) are parties to a computer management services agreement for fiber optic network for the purpose of operating virtual machine environment from November 1, 2019 and ending on October 31, 2024 (“Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Hillsdale BOE is desirous to purchase additional licenses and support on the existing agreement rather than purchasing a standalone agreement with a vendor due to the cost effectiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, PVRHSD BOE and the Hillsdale BOE mutually agree to increase the per virtual machine per month service from \$250.00 to \$275.65 for six (6) virtual machines; and

**WHEREAS**, PVRHSD and the Hillsdale BOE agree to a per virtual machine monthly service of \$250.00 if the Hillsdale BOE utilizes more than six (6) virtual machines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have agreed to incorporate the above terms in the Agreement which is attached hereto.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, PVRHSD BOE at the recommendation of the Superintendent hereby approve the revised terms and conditions of the Agreement beginning November 1, 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board President and Business Administrator are hereby authorized to execute the attached addendum, and any and all other documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the attached Addendum to the Agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

**9. Participation in the New Jersey School Employees Health Benefits Program (SEHBP)**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the participation in the New Jersey School Employees Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to provide health benefits for school district employees for calendar year 2021 at the established rates.

**10. Approve District Purchasing Manual 2020-2021**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the District Purchasing Manual 2020-2021.

**11. Approve the Transfer of Extraordinary Aid for FY 2019-2020**

**WHEREAS**, the Pascack valley Regional High School District Board of Education has received Special Education Extraordinary Aid for FY 2019-2020 in the amount of \$956,863; and

**WHEREAS**, \$956,863 was not appropriated during FY 2019-2020; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(d)6 that allows a district board of education to appropriate surplus generated from any Federal and/or State revenue excluded from the excess surplus calculation in the pre-budget year in accordance with the annual audit program;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the transfer of \$956,863 of Other State Aid Revenue to the district's General Fund account, and appropriate to the following:

- \$500,000 to 11-000-100-566-05-000 Tuition – Private In-State;
- \$50,000 to 11-000-216-320—06-000 OT/PT/Speech Services Pascack Valley;
- \$50,000 to 11-000-216-320-07-000 OT/PT/Speech Services Pascack Hills;
- \$178,432 to 11-000-217-320-06-000 Extraordinary Services Pascack Valley; and
- \$178,431 to 11-000-217-320-07-000 Extraordinary Services Pascack Hills

## **12. School Security Grant**

**WHEREAS**, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has received a School Security Grant allocation through the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act in the amount of \$131,797; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds are to be used for security upgrades related to Alyssa's Law Compliance at Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, if the estimated costs exceed the district's grant allocation of \$131,797, local funds are available to complete the projects;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the submission of the School Security Grant application.

## **13. Bid Rejection – Pascack Hills Parking Lot Stairs**

**WHEREAS**, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education ("the Board") re-advertised for bids for the Parking Lot Stairway Project ("Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, on October 22, 2020, the Board received bids for the Project as set forth in the attached bid tabulation; and

**WHEREAS**, upon review of the bids, the Board intends to reject all bids for exceeding the Board's budget and cost estimates for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board previously advertised for bids for the Project, and on both occasions the Board will now have rejected bids for exceeding its budget and cost estimates; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c), the Board may negotiate a contract after having twice rejected bids for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board at the recommendation of the Superintendent hereby rejects the bids for the Project for exceeding the Board's budget and cost estimates.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Administrator and Architect is hereby authorized to enter into negotiations for the Project.

## **14. Approve the Agreement and Addendum with Ramapo Ice Rinks, Inc (Sport-O-Rama Ice Rinks)**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the agreement and addendum to the 2008 agreement with Ramapo Ice Rinks, Inc.(Sport-O-Rama Ice Rinks) for the 2020-21 school year at the rate of \$545 per hour.



Mr. Paspalas responded that the cooperative teams are referred to as Pascack Regional. The plan is to adopt the regional logo (blue, white and gold).

Mr. Blundo would like one logo and agreement on the colors. He agrees that the two schools' colors should not be considered for the regional teams.

Mr. Buchanan agreed that it's a District message and not a specific school.

Dr. Gundersen said that the students can discuss the regional team logo/colors when they discuss the mascots.

Mr. Steinberg asked if Park Ridge is part of the hockey team.

Mr. Buchanan confirmed.

Ms. Molinelli commented that the students are at the center of the strategy. It's very healthy and important aspect towards moving forward. She added that there is a level of comfort that this has been well thought out by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Fronte requested if a brief synopsis could be presented twice a month, especially to keep the public informed.

Mr. Buchanan confirmed that there will be updates by the students since this is a student driven process.

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Report - [Report](#)

Mr. Stankus was not present for the committee meeting. He reported based on the meeting minutes. He said that Dr. Bachenheimer's report covered much of what was discussed. He mentioned an overview of AP exams, a department by department review, college programs, and curriculum and evaluation revisions.

Equity Committee Report – [Report](#)

Mr. Scher said the committee discussed six topics:

- Vision statement – possibly adding more equity to it

- Faculty training

- Students presented their goals: civil discourse, equity in literature and multi-cultural education and communication

- Community partnership in equity - Unity in the Valley and bring community in for discussion to be part of the partnership

- Mascot transition

- School climate survey findings – 33% of students had issues with how students were treated (equity/bullying)

Mr. Stankus commented that 33% of the students did not experience the treatment, however they saw it happen to someone. This increases awareness and students are inclined to do something about it.

Mr. Scher indicated that the survey reflected female inequity (36%)

Ms. Molinelli commented that this makes students feel uncomfortable. It makes them feel ashamed and wanting to do something about it. Students not only saw the treatment/inequity, but felt it.

#### Policy Committee Report

Mr. Blundo reviewed the highlights: Athletic Directors' report on mascot selection process, reviewed mandated policies for language changes and how a board member may join a board meeting remotely.

Mr. Scher asked if a presenter will have the ability to be remote.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that it's a possibility, however the policy only applies to board members currently. Students may also join remotely.

Mr. Ralph commented that it's more about the technicalities and practicalities. He added that the hybrid meeting is not ideal.

Mr. Blundo said everyone will be masked and the public will not know who is speaking. He would prefer a fully remote meeting, but the state is mandating in-person.

Ms. Bissinger commented that people could raise hands to identify who is speaking.

Ms. Molinelli recommended that the public may contact Dr. Gundersen for the questions in the survey.

Dr. Gundersen said he will provide the survey for anyone who is interested. He added that most prefer the executive summary of the results.

Ms. Molinelli asked about the bees.

Dr. Gundersen said the bees are at an off-campus location. The bees will come in the spring and housed in the enclosure that was built. Honey is available to purchase for staff and students due to limited supply.

## **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.

Hillsdale Councilman Chris Roche accidentally entered comment.

Chris Martin of Hillsdale felt the Board's priorities are misdirected when they are discussing team colors during a pandemic and his kids are not attending school in-person. He mentioned that his wife Kristin Martin is running for the Board. He said Mr. Scher took photos of his home. He said a resident should never be harassed by a publicly elected official. He asked if the public wants this type of person (Mr. Scher) leading the Equity Committee. He indicated Ms. Molinelli was sent an email about this by Ms. Martin and she and the Board has done nothing. Ms. Molinelli has not responded to her



email. He said the Board needs to look out for the public's best interest and not the Board's best interest.

Ms. Molinelli said that Dr. Gundersen shared with Ms. Martin the proper channels to lodge her complaint.

Dr. Gundersen said he informed Ms. Martin to go to the New Jersey School Board Association (NJSBA) website to contact the School Ethics Commission (SEC). A form to file with the SEC can be found on the website.

Mr. Scher mentioned that he contacted the SEC and was informed that unless there is a complaint filed with the SEC there is nothing for him to do. He was informed that there is a 20-day deadline and that time has passed. He added that the photo was of a sign (Save the Indian) in front of the house.

Alan Sav of Hillsdale said that equity is important and it should involve the community and town council. He asked what type of speakers will be brought in and will the speakers address all students or only those who do not feel there is equity. He asked what is the District's definition of equity and what the District will do to bring equity to students.

Dr. Gundersen said he wants students to feel equally part of the Pascack Valley community. It's about creating inclusivity. Students can identify with what they read or from the message delivered by speakers. This is based on the analysis by students, staff and parents from student feedback. He mentioned that equity is not a political topic, rather it's about education. Students need to be able to work with and respect all people.

Mr. Scher commented that equity also involves facilities as the Pascack Hills girls' softball team did not have an on-campus field while the Pascack Valley girls' team did, as well both schools' baseball teams.

Mr. Stankus indicated that there is no guide on equity. This is the reason for a student survey and committees. It's the Board's responsibility to find out.

Mr. Blundo was concerned with civil discourse. He said it could be interpreted as causing a disruption.

Dr. Gundersen said it came from the students. It's how to have civil discourse/discussion.

Mr. Scher added it's how to better have a civil discussion.

Ms. Molinelli said it's about a discussion absence of violence. It will provide skill sets to debate and an understanding and empathy of other viewpoints. It's a way to be heard and to hear others.

Mr. Blundo had concerns about board members and students participating in a committee. He said there is a fine line with the Board engaging with students.

Dr. Gundersen said there will be 3-4 board members along with him and Mark Russo with no students in one committee. Students will be involved in a much larger parent forum where 1-2 board members may be involved.

Jessica Frohlich of Hillsdale asked how Native American students feel about equity/inclusivity.

Dr. Gundersen said he would like to hear from parents of Native Americans and he would encourage them to sign up.

Ms. Frohlich commented that there is no equity in the decision of the selection process plan. It's a small group of students who will come up with a few choices. Her son is not in clubs nor does he play sports, so he cannot be on the committee. All students should be involved in the process. She added why faculty will be on the committee when they do not live in the community. She believes the community should be involved in the process.

Dr. Gundersen said that her son can contact the Athletic Directors about participating.

Michael Cuffe of Hillsdale indicated that he, his wife and daughter are Pascack Valley graduates and his son is currently a student. The PV community means a great deal. He wanted to clarify his previous comment that since the mascot is a major decision why not wait until the new board members are in place. He feels that way about any major decision.

Ms. Molinelli said that the students are making the decision of the future mascots.

Mr. Blundo indicated that the Board has a vote. He agrees with the selection process timeline. The Board vote is the final say and they may vote against the mascot(s).

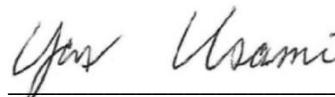
Christina S. had technical difficulties.

Matt Solomon of Montvale commented that there are people who are very pleased with the Board in regards to what is being done for equity. Civil discourse will allow all voices to be heard. He is very appreciative of the Board.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Fronte seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully,



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Yas Usami  
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

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