

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

November 16, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday,
November 16, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

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 in a hybrid manner. The district website contains information on public participation.

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. Michael Fronte
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

Absent: Mr. Joseph Blundo
Mr. Brian Hallowell

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 and minutes 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 and October 30, 2020.

There are two opportunities for the public to make comments, and when meetings are held in a hybrid or remote 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

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 26, 2020 | Regular Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------|

VII. EDUCATION

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 4

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 student ID #809735, as per their IEP, for the 2020-2021 school year beginning October 20, 2020, for the following subject and hours:

| Subject | Estimated Hours |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Computer Science | 1 hour per week |

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bedside tutoring for student ID #810931 who was admitted to Saint Claire’s Hospital, Denville, NJ on October 4, 2020 for five days and received services at the rate of \$55 per hour.
- c. **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 one hour per week for following students for the 2020-2021 school year, beginning November 9, 2020:

| Student ID | Subject |
|---|-----------------------|
| #811500, #811626 | Algebra I |
| #809996, #810078, #810082, #810089, #810117, #810294, #810321, #810405, #810418, #811376, #811686 | Algebra II |
| #810108, #810391, #810423, #810868, #810898, #810903, #810990, #811030, #811089, #811102, #811376, #811400 | Chemistry |
| #809215, #809291, #809319, #809342, #809512, #809525, #809545, #809561, #809599, #809647, #809999, #810036, #810286, #810293, #810321, #810337, #810834, #810867, #810871, #810883, #810898, #810908, #810947, #810987, #811010, #811026, #811027, #811030, #811047, #811055, #811080, #811091, #811454, #811478, #811515, #811594, #811634, #811658, #811913, #811919, #811934, #811938, #811945 | English |
| #809315, #809341, #809352, #809804, #810014, #810110, #810309, #810311, #810312, #810337, #810393, #810741, #811032, #811045, #811102, #811202, #811317, #811510, #811653, #811664, #811695 | Executive Functioning |
| #810883, #810908, #811030, #811061, #811913, #811935, | Geometry |
| #810293, #811934 | Physics |

2. Out-of-district Placement

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a change in out-of-district placement for student ID #809780 to Bancroft School for the 2020-2021 school year, starting on November 18, 2020, as per the student's IEP, for the prorated tuition of \$51,346.76.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a change in out-of-district placement for student ID #811928 to Paradigm Therapeutic Day School, Midland Park, NJ for the 2020-2021 school year, starting on November 16, 2020, as per the student's IEP, for the prorated tuition of \$52,956.80.

3. Nursing Services

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve nursing services provided by Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing services for student ID #811968 attending the CTC Academy, Oakland, NJ for the 2020-2021 school year for the total cost of \$73,688.

4. Physicians and Providers for Evaluations

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

Psychiatric Evaluations

| Name | Rate Per Evaluation |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Natasha Baron, M.D. | \$550 |
| Derek Berberian, M.D. | 550 |
| Morton Fridman, M.D. | 550 |
| Nancy Tancer, M.D. | 550 |

Clearance Letters

| Name | Rate Per Evaluation |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Natasha Baron, M.D. | \$250 |
| Derek Berberian, M.D. | 250 |
| Nancy Tancer, M.D. | 250 |

Neurological Evaluations

| Name | Rate Per Evaluation |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Damon M. Fellman, M.D. | \$450 |
| Joseph Holahan, M.D. | 450 |

IX. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 10

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 November 16, 2020 | \$2,462,395.77 |
| Payroll as of October 31, 2020 | \$1,912,019.06 |
| Total | \$4,374,414.83 |

2. IDEA FY 2020 – 2021 Amendment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the submission of the IDEA, Part B grant amendment for 2020-2021 to include carryover funds of \$8,558.00 to be set aside for non-public schools.

3. Revised 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 which was revised from October 12, 2020.

4. Life Time, Inc. Facility Rental Agreement & Addendum, Corporate Partnership Agreement & Addendum

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the agreement and addendum with Life Time for pool usage for the 2020-2021 year.

5. Agreement and Addendum Barbara Green Estate Management, LLC – Storage Building

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the agreement and addendum with Barbara Green Estate Management, LLC for the lease of a building for the purpose of storage for \$2,500 per month.

6. Affirmative Statement for Membership in the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education for the 2020-2021 School Year

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent affirms its membership in the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education for the 2020-2021 school year, and commits its full support and financial participation in the Council.

7. Affirmative Statement for Membership in the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education for the 2021-22 School Year

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent affirms its membership in the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education for the 2021-22 school year, and commits its full support and financial participation in the Council.

8. Independent Child Study Team Evaluations Joint Agreement Between Region II and Non-Member Districts

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 the Non-Member Districts for Independent Child Study Team evaluations for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Allendale | Cliffside Park | Cresskill | Demarest |
| Dumont | Englewood | Franklin Lakes | Glen Rock |
| Mahwah | Midland Park | Northern Highlands | Northern Valley |
| Oakland | Oradell | Ramsey | Ridgewood |
| River Edge | Rochelle Park | Saddle River | South Hackensack |
| Teaneck | Tenafly | Upper Saddle River | Waldwick |
| Wall Township | West Milford | Woodcliff Lake | Wyckoff |

9. Award Bid for Pascack Hills Parking Lot Stair Replacement

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

WHEREAS, on each occasion, the Board rejected bids for the Project as exceeding the cost estimates and budget for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board authorized the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Architect to negotiate a contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5; and

WHEREAS, all bidders who submitted bids for the project on the second occasion were advised of the Board’s intention to negotiate and were afforded a reasonable opportunity to do so; and

WHEREAS, negotiations were conducted with all interested contractors; and

WHEREAS, Tri-Plex Industries, Inc. (“Tri-Plex”) submitted the lowest negotiated bid price for the Project, including a base bid in the amount of \$89,700, together with Scope Modification No. 1 (reduce maintenance bond to 1 year), a deduction in the amount of \$1,000, Scope Modification No. 2 (performing work during regular business hours), a deduction in the amount of \$1,000, and Scope Modification No. 3 (provide alternate handrail design), a deduction in the amount of \$4,200; and;

X. OLD BUSINESS

Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee Report

In absence of Mr. Hallowell, the chair of the committee, Dr. Gundersen gave a report. He mentioned that the Wellness Center has been functioning during the COVID era. He said that Dr. Myers, School Psychologist has worked on strategies to engage students on proper therapies and the use of outside sources. He mentioned that Jennifer Zimmerman, the Student Assistance Counselor has focused on the Week of Respect, Red Ribbon and the Hills Valley Coalition to assist with student wellness. Alyssa Merritt, the Regional Curriculum and Instruction Coach is working with the principals and curriculum personnel of the K-8 sending districts on wellness initiatives for student and staff to improve social and emotional learning experiences.

Ms. Molinelli asked about the principal search and the mascot selection process timelines.

Dr. Gundersen said the two Athletic Directors are leading the mascot selection process and either they or committee members (students) will speak to the Board at the December board meeting. A recommendation will come to the Board in January. He reported that the Pascack Valley principal search process will begin in December. He will establish protocols and procedures with the Board. The search process will run from late January to early March. This is a similar timeline as last year.

Ms. Molinelli asked about the status of the bees.

Dr. Gundersen reported that some board members received their honey.

Mr. Steinberg said the honey is very good and he is looking forward to more next year.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Scher said that the Pascack Valley High School Theater will perform Brothers Grimm from November 19-21. This will be streamed online. Mr. Scher noticed that some districts have upgraded their field lights to LED. He asked about the possibility to do the same in the district and if Mr. Donahue, Director of Facilities and Capital Improvement could be consulted on the subject.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that the parking lot lights are LED. He commented that the field lights are older and other districts may have recently upgraded their fields along with the lights. He added that he will confer with Mr. Donahue as he is always looking for cost savings.

Mr. Scher mentioned that since there are no concession sales that assists the graduating class, would the district be inclined to assist.

Dr. Gundersen said he will ask the principals if the senior classes are in dire need of fundraising.

Mr. Scher commented that the new board should consider changing the district name to Pascack Regional to be inclusive of both Valley and Hills.

Mr. Stankus raised a concern about the increase in COVID cases as the state average is 39.7 cases per 100,000 and Bergen County is 35 cases per 100,000. The Harvard Global Health Institute recommends schools going virtual if over 25 cases per 100,000. He cited that the state average was 18 cases/100,000 on November 1st. This could potentially double the hospitalization to 5,000 in the next two weeks. He understands that decisions to go virtual is coordinated with the Board of Health and orders by the Governor. He believes that local, county and state officials should safeguard our community. He added that the schools are doing well as they have been following the guidelines.

Mr. Steinberg thanked the teachers and staff for showing up and working.

Mr. Scher likened the schools to be more like a dimmer than a light switch. He said the district has done a good job during this time. The district has dimmed when necessary.

Mr. Stankus said the district has done a remarkable job with technology, keeping the schools open, contact tracing, and social distancing. He mentioned that the students follow the guidelines when they are in school. He added that the district has done all that can be done and everything right.

XII. 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.

Councilman Chris Roche of Montvale wanted to know what Montvale could do.

Mr. Stankus said it's more at the state and county level to do something to stem the increase in hospitalizations that affect the community hospitals.

Mr. Roche said he will check with the mayor. He asked about the possibility of live streaming classes.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that streaming has been going on for a while. He mentioned that all classes have the ability to live stream, however some classes are more conducive to live streaming than others. This is determined by the teachers.

Mr. Scher said that Montvale put out a video regarding the census in 16 different languages. He suggested a PSA on social distancing in those different languages.

Chloe Djedji, a student from Montvale thanked the four non-returning board members. She asked if they believe they were not re-elected due to the mascot decision.

Ms. Molinelli responded that Chloe may reach out to each board member. She suggested entering her contact information in the chat function to share with those board members.

Dr. Gundersen responded that Chloe could reach out to him and he would assist her in contacting those board members.

Ms. Molinelli commented that it has been a long 2 ½ months and it has been difficult on the community, students, teachers, leaders, and board members. She said the school district and community are remarkable. She urged everyone to work together to serve the community. She added her gratitude to everyone.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Mr. Fronte 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.