

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

March 22, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, March 22, 2021
at 7:30 p.m. in the Pascack Valley High School Cafeteria and Zoom Webinar –
<hyperlink to follow>

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.

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>*

The Vision of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District:

To create a culture of innovation, inquiry, and individuality that promotes achievement and choice by cultivating the skills needed to compete and collaborate as ethical and responsible global citizens

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

Present: Ms. Tammy Molinelli, President
Mr. Joseph Blundo
Mr. Michael Fronte
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mr. James Stankus
Mrs. Gini Varghese
Mr. Michael Weaver
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: Ms. Janet Bissinger, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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, October 23, 2020, and March 18, 2021.

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

Monthly Reports

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

March 8, 2021	Regular Minutes	7:30 p.m.
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Moved by: Blundo 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"/>	Molinelli	<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"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	<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"/>	Weaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

V. 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.

Shirell Gross of River Vale appreciated the students’ selection of mascot and thanked them for their efforts. She indicated that the leaders of their communities have requested an investigation and that does not reflect well on their communities. She mentioned that people she knows who were planning on looking into moving into the communities have decided not to pursue it based upon the mayors’ letter. She commented that although she and Dr. Gundersen have not always agreed on issues, she has never taken for granted his service to the community and efforts to support all children. She commented that many parents support the efforts and they feel saddened by what has transpired. She said the Board acted with integrity and above board. She mentioned that the past Board was unanimous in support of the students and the present Board supported them 5-4. She indicated that she would love to hear how diversity and inclusion will be incorporated into the curriculum since the state passed the diversity and inclusion curriculum. She

supported the Board and Dr. Gundersen for their efforts and service. She thanked Ms. Molinelli for her service.

Richard Svorec of Hillsdale said people need to realize that he/they are against the process and not looking to reinstate the mascot. The majority believed process was dishonest and sneaky. He indicated that based on the mayors' letter Dr. Gundersen hand picked the students to speak. He mentioned that his wife raised her hand (virtual) twice and both times it was lowered. He added that many people did not have an opportunity to speak. He asked for those members who were on the Board at the time. If they were involved in the scheme or if Dr. Gundersen pulled the wool over their eyes. If it was the latter, how do they feel now. He mentioned that his kids and their friends said they had no idea about the committee or how to provide feedback. He indicated that the Hawks is Hillsdale and that the students said they voted for the least worst, Panthers. He understood that seniors wanted a mascot, but what about the others. He reiterated that the selection was the least worst choice.

Carolee Adams of Montvale said she would like Dr. Gundersen's statement available. She commented about the policy (1905) regarding student surveys, analysis or evaluations. She indicated the PPRA law referenced in the policy is insufficient because it is not fully supportive of NJ statute. She said the district does not indicate that at least two weeks prior written consent from parents is needed to administer the survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation. The district could be subject to a fine. She presented an example of this occurring in Ridgewood. She asked if parents are able to see the climate survey. She asked that the policy be adjusted to conform to NJ law before the second reading.

Dr. Gundersen thanked Ms. Adams. He indicated that the district utilizes a policy development consulting firm, Strauss Esmay for policy review to ensure that the policies conform to federal and state laws, as well as case law. He will check with Strauss Esmay to confirm that the policy is compliant with law. He added that the content of the climate survey does not require parent consent. However, he mentioned that all surveys are available for parents to view and this year's survey was available and there was a parent survey.

Eli Moallem of River Vale commented that the whole mascot process was mismanaged. He believed that the kids, parents and board members all knew it. He indicated that what Dr. Gundersen has said was disingenuous and condescending and that is causing the problems. He mentioned that there has been a lot time spent on personal social injustice issues. He indicated the cost of \$300,000 to change the mascots and implications of a black panther. He commented about an elitist attitude seems to disregard the people who the Board represents. He disagreed with the reference to a small vocal minority or something to that effect by the Board. He commented that he and his family have been offended, as well as a majority of others. He said even the mayors have weighed in. He believed that the district will never move forward as long as Dr. Gundersen is superintendent. It's time for a change.

Jessica Frohlich of River Vale commented that if all students were to be included then Native American students should have been included, especially her son. She indicated

Consent Agenda for Items 3 – 4

3. Board Policies and Regulations – First Reading

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

Name of Policy or Regulation	Policy/ Reg Number
Board Member Resignation and Removal	P 0145
Board Member Participation at Board and Committee Meetings Using Electronic Device	P 0155.1
Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency	P 0164.6
Family Leave	P 1643
Every Student Succeeds Act	P 2415
Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities	P 2415.02
Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations	P 2415.05
Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints	P 2415.20
Independent Education Evaluations	P 2468
Employment of Support Staff Members	P 4125
Administration of Medical Cannabis	P 5330.01
Political Contributions	P 6360
Lead Testing of Water in Schools	P 7425
Student Records	P 8330
Recruitment by Special Interest Groups	P 9713
Earned Sick Leave Law	R 1642
Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints	R 2415.20
Administration of Medical Cannabis	R 5330.01

VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 6

1. Resignation

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Sandor (Alex) Toth, Maintenance Coordinator for the Pascack Valley Regional High School District effective April 19, 2021.

2. New Hire

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Yani Orozco as part-time day custodian for Pascack Valley High School, effective March 23, 2021, at the annual salary of \$31,161, prorated, without health benefits.

3. Change of Position

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Sanja Jackson, temporary lead evening custodian, from March 23, 2021 through a date to be determined, at her usual salary plus an additional annual stipend of \$2,073, prorated.

4. Substitute Teacher/Custodians

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Abigail Aska as a new substitute teacher for the district.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Nicholas Leal, leave replacement custodian for Alexander Amar, from March 23, 2021 through a date to be determined, at the hourly rate of \$20, without health benefits.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following new substitute custodians for the district:

Alex Agnelli	Justin DiTursi
Alberto Jimenez	Scott Keena
John Wescott	

5. Extra-curricular Appointment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Josh Wilson as a Pascack Hills High School weight room supervisor for the 2020-2021 school year.

6. Volunteers

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

Name	School	Activity
Jonathan Bielan	District	Technology
Brian Schneider	Pascack Hills	Wrestling
Michael Worthington	Pascack Hills	Wrestling

Moved by: Blundo Seconded by: Martin

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Blundo	<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"/>
Blundy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	<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"/>	Varghese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dr. Gundersen commented on the resignation of Alex Toth. He mentioned that Mr. Toth was primarily responsible for the maintenance of the HVAC system. He indicated that Mr. Toth was instrumental in keeping the system running after the major overhaul of the system. He mentioned that he made sure old and new systems were running efficiently. He added his thanks to Mr. Toth.

Mrs. Martin thanked the community volunteers who help the schools.

IX. FINANCE

Consent Agenda Items 1 – 11

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 March 22, 2021	\$1,440,382.75
Payroll as of March 15, 2021	\$1,579,382.65
Total	\$3,019,765.40

2. Use of Title III Funds under ESEA

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teachers to provide translation services to facilitate communication between the District and students or parents using Title III funds under ESEA at a rate of \$65 per hour:

Frank Andrisani	Teresa DelGiudice	Elyse Marie Elisano
Christine Gorman	Jimena Ladino	Vanessa Martinez
Argine Safari	Erica Schwartz	Francesca Silvano
Patricia Sularz	Vicky Weiss-Adler	Debbie Yao
Jane Yearn		

3. Award of Contract – Trafera Holdings, LLC

WHEREAS, The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education is permitted to join national cooperative purchasing agreements under the authority of N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2(b)(3); and

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education hereby authorized membership in the TIPS National Purchasing Cooperative on March 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education believes that Trafera Holdings, LLC will meet its needs with the required equipment and service at a reduced cost to the Board; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Pascack Valley Regional High School Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, awards the contract to Trafera Holdings, LLC under the National Purchasing Cooperative, The Inter local Purchasing System (TIPS) under Contract # 200105 for the purchase of laptops for Park Academy not to exceed \$10,535.00.

4. Award of Contract – BlueAlly Technology Solutions

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the awarding of a contract which followed the E-rate bidding process conducted by E-rate Elite Services, Inc. to BlueAlly Technology Solutions in the amount of \$181,540.14 for network switch environment to support wireless network at Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools.

5. Award of Contract – Turn-key Technologies, Inc.

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the awarding of a contract which followed the E-rate bidding process by E-rate Elite Services, Inc. to Turn-key Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$269,568.80 for wireless network at Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools.

6. Approve General Services Contract with Camden County Educational Services Commission

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the General Services Contract with Camden County Educational Services Commission.

7. Approve the Services of Lori Perlow

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the services of Lori Perlow through the General Services Contract with Camden County Educational Services Commission to guide the school committees in the process of developing new mascot logos including, but not limited to the design of the logos and branding guide for how to use the logos in an amount not to exceed \$11,926.25.

8. Coronavirus Response & Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA) – Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the acceptance of the Coronavirus Response and Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA) - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) in the amount below:

ESSER II	Learning Acceleration	Mental Health Supports & Services
\$183,836	\$25,000	\$45,000

9. Transportation Joint Services and Agreements between the Pascack Valley Regional High School District and the South Bergen Jointure Commission

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education approve the Joint Transportation Services and Transportation Agreements between the South Bergen Jointure Commission (Host District), an approved Coordinated Transportation Service Agency located in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J., and the Pascack Valley Regional High School District (Joiner District) for the purpose of shared costs with other districts in transporting our district students to and from non-public schools and the Bergen County Vocational and Technical School campuses, including summer sessions, if applicable, in accordance with the N.J.S.A. Chapter 27:6A-10.1-3; Chapter 53, P.L.1997 beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

10. Transportation Joint Services and Agreements between the Pascack Valley Regional High School District and the Northwest Bergen Council - Region I

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education approve the Joint Transportation Services and Transportation Agreements between the Northwest Bergen Council Region I (Host District), an approved Coordinated Transportation Service Agency located in Mahwah, N.J., and the Pascack Valley Regional High School District (Joiner District) for the purpose of shared costs with other districts in

transporting our district students to and from non-public schools and the Bergen County Vocational and Technical School campuses, including summer sessions, if applicable, in accordance with the N.J.S.A. Chapter 27:6A-10.1-3; Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

11. Special Education Transportation – Region II

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2109 to Galaxia Express during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2109	Sage Day, Rochelle Pk	174	40	174.00	15,660.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2110 to Shaddai Transportation Inc. during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2110	Nova N. Emerson JrSr	195	65	195.00	17,550.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2111 to 4 Diamond Transportation LLC during the 2020-2021 school year.

Rte #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2111	Rockland BOCES, W. Nyack , NY	360	60	360.00	19,440.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2114 to We Care School Transport during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2114	Cornerstone Day School	277	55	277.00	19,390.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2115 to N&Y Transportation Inc. during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2115	Craig School, Lower	264	0	264.00	19,536.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2116 to Sunny Transportation LLC. during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2116	Rockland BOCES; One Way AM	92	20	92.00	5,060.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2101 to Sunny Transportation for 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2101	Jessie George	139	30	169.00*	13,351.00*

*Includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 082 to Galaxia Express for 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2102	Benway School	161	0	161.00	12,075.00
2106	Sage Day, R.P	139	0	139.00	10,008.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 083 to Destiny23 Transportation LLC for 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2103	Chapel Hill Acad.	162	40	162.00	11,826.00
2104	BOCES	182	40	182.00	3,640.00
2105	Shepard Prep	162	40	202.00*	15,150.00*

*Includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education accept the following special education transportation contract addenda for the 2020-2021 school year.

Transporter	Contract	Rte #	Route	Per Diem Increase/ Decrease	Adjusted Per Diem Cost
American First Choice	071	2021	YCS Sawtelle, Montclair	269.00	583.33
Gentle Ride	1630	1630	Valley Access	60.00	217.56
Gentle Ride	063	1910	Paradigm	60.00	231.52
Lenoir's	030	9111	Windsor Lrn.Ctr	60.00	296.20
Lenoir's	030	9111	Windsor Lrn.Ctr	65.00	361.20
Lenoir's	043	1209	Sage Day, Rochelle Pk	30.00	236.51
N&Y	067	2005	Forum to Perform Care	105.00	211.78
N&Y	067	2005	Forum to Perform Care	40.00	251.78
N&Y	Q2107	Q2107	Craig School Lower, Mountain Lakes	60.00	309.00
ProTrans	2008	2008	New Beginnings	220.00	443.74
Rinaldi	1803	1803	Meadowbrook, LLD	131.56	301.29
Shaddai	070	2011	Calais, Whippany	30.00	213.06
Star	2007	2007	Phoenix Center	165.00	418.23
Star	072	2017	Woodridge Transition Ctr.	225.00	453.82
Star	072	2017	Woodridge Transition Ctr.	225.00	678.82
Valley	4505	5006	Park Academy	55.00	203.42
Valley	1504	1504	Fieldstone MS, Montvale	141.25	334.57
We Care	067	1917	Holmstead	41.00	193.68

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2117 to Shaddai Transportation Inc. during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2117	Midland Park HS; BCSS SHIP	149	45	149.00	9,685.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2118 to Shaddai Transportation Inc. during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2118	Westwood PreK	145	35	180.00*	10,620.00*

*includes cost of aide

Moved Fronte Seconded by: Stankus

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Blundo	<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"/>
Blundy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	<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"/>	Varghese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mr. Weaver asked about the services of Lori Perlow. He asked if the company is creating the mascot.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that Ms. Perlow works for the Camden County Educational Services Commission and specializes in school public relations, branding and logo development. She will work with the designers to create a minimum of three different logos based on feedback from a committee of students, staff and a board member for each school. Once the logo designs are determined then it will go out to a vote among students and staff.

Mr. Weaver reinforced that the firm's role is to guide in the creation of the image. He asked if that is needed. He mentioned that there are talented and artistic students in the district and asked if they should be solicited for images.

Dr. Gundersen said image ideas will be solicited from students. He mentioned that Mr. Zeller, Director of Technology and Communications believes it is absolutely vital to use this firm's services in order to avoid different interpretations of the logo which will be represented throughout the district.

Mr. Fronte asked that the fee is not to exceed, so it may be less.

Dr. Gundersen confirmed.

Mr. Weaver commented that he will approve the services with the understanding that students are going to be a big part the process. He asked that before any further expenditures are made that the Finance Committee meet to discuss with two new members who are in other committees that may be invested in the mascots in some way.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that student ideas on what the logo will look like will be solicited and appreciated by the committee and consultant.

Ms. Molinelli commented that Mr. Weaver's suggestion of discussing further with the Finance Committee is a good one. She indicated that anyone interested in being a part of the Finance Committee is welcome and should contact her or Dr. Gundersen.

Mr. Fronte as the chair of the Finance Committee agreed that a meeting should take place to review the financing of the logos and that a threshold should be set.

A meeting in the next week or two will be scheduled.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Policy Committee Report

Ms. Bissinger was the chair of the committee. It was decided to table the report until the next meeting.

Mr. Weaver asked about student attendance policy regarding the four schools and the home-schooling piece since he did not see it.

Dr. Gundersen said that it was discussed and there were no changes.

Health, Wellness and Safety Committee Report

Dr. Blundy is chair of the committee and she was absent. It was decided to table the report until the next meeting.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mayors Joint Letter

Ms. Molinelli commented that 74% of the student body is excited about the new mascot and the mayors want to default back to the old mascots is uncomfortable. She said the Board put forward the best interest of students when they retired the mascots. She indicated that she was uncomfortable with the letter and found it inappropriate.

Mr. Blundo commented that the four mayors sent the letter and the Board needs to respond. He indicated that if the Board does not want an investigation then they should respond and if they want to ask questions then ask questions. He realized how difficult it would be to have eight opinions in a response. The response should be based on a majority.

Ms. Molinelli said that Dr. Gundersen replied to the letter with his statement. She welcomed her colleagues' opinion on the subject. She said the reply was factual with historical information and it was appropriate.

Mr. Weaver indicated that Mr. Blundo sent a question to ask the board attorney.

Ms. Molinelli confirmed that the board attorney was contacted as well as Matt Lee, the NJSBA rep.

Mr. Weaver asked what was the day of the consultation and the legal response from the board attorney.

Ms. Molinelli said she believed the subject is encroaching on personnel issue and that should be discussed in closed session.

Mr. Weaver and Mrs. Martin agreed.

Dr. Gundersen commented that he and Ms. Molinelli are authorized to contact the board attorney. He said so on two occasions, but did not recall when. Based on the information the board attorney has on the subject including the OPRA request materials, the board attorney advised him that he would be able to respond.

Mr. Weaver asked if it's the Board's role to investigate correspondence such as the mayors' letter.

Dr. Gundersen said that the attorney indicated that the mayors have no legal authority to demand an investigation by the Board.

Mr. Weaver asked if there are any issues regarding ethics it would be under the purview of the School Ethics Commission.

Dr. Gundersen responded affirmatively.

Mr. Blundo commented that he is not ready to say to launch an investigation. He indicated that if any member would like to look into it further then it could be discussed in executive session. He and probably others would like to digest what occurred tonight and then if they wish then request an executive session.

Ms. Molinelli indicated that any member has the opportunity to enter into an executive session as long it meets the qualifications.

Mr. Blundo wanted to make sure that a member could request an executive session on this matter two weeks from now.

Ms. Molinelli repeated what she said previously. She commented that she does not recommend or support an investigation.

Mr. Weaver wanted clarification for the public. He indicated that the Board has no authority to investigate an ethical issue. This would be handled by the School Ethics Commission. The Board has the responsibility with the evaluation of the superintendent, but this is not what this is about.

There was a dialogue between Mr. Weaver and Ms. Molinelli about executive session. Discussion about the performance of personnel would be done in executive session.

Dr. Gundersen mentioned how Ms. Bissinger's seat will be filled. He indicated that there will be information on the district website homepage. He mentioned that there will be information for Montvale residents regarding information, qualifications and deadline to apply. There will be an interview date. The interviews will take place in public, the

Board will deliberate in closed session and voting will be conducted in public session. The appointed candidate will serve until the end of Ms. Bissinger's term (December 2021).

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.

Carolee Adams of Montvale requested that the person who could not be heard be given the opportunity to speak again. She requested that Dr. Gundersen's statement be made available to the public. She indicated that she understood that a group of board members may speak with Matt Lee, the NJSBA rep. She mentioned that someone made comments about her using vile language the last time she spoke. She said she did not hear the comments, but others have informed her. She asked that this person be given the opportunity to apologize to her at the next meeting before she pursues it further.

Rich Svorec of Hillsdale was perplexed why no board member at home mentioned that he could not be heard. He commented that there is a lot of unhappy people. It's not that they want the Indian back, it's the unfair way it happened. He indicated that Dr. Gundersen's speech sounded like he spoke for the whole Board. He asked if he does speak for the whole Board. He said it appears that Dr. Gundersen is running the meeting and not the Board. He mentioned following COVID guidelines and how other schools are bringing back students. He indicated that if there is a positive case in a classroom that the classroom is shut down and the remainder of the school is open. He said he has spoken to other teachers and that is the way they operate. He said everyone wants the kids back in school. He realizes the safety issues, but he knows they can come back. He commented about the test scores and how they matter. He indicated that they moved to Hillsdale because of the schools, especially the high school. He said that people look at the test scores. They matter.

Eli Moallem of River Vale commented that Ms. Molinelli indicated that the mascot case is closed even though the four mayors have objected which he said is disrespectful, non-inclusive and doesn't provide equity to all the stakeholders. He said the former Board is gone and she is out of touch. He asked how much of their money is the Board willing to commit to this endeavor. He believes there could be other costs associated with this like legal challenges from those who have deep pockets. He said this should stop. He added that it's not a small majority and he will fight for the Indian. He said it was a mistake from the beginning.

Ms. Molinelli mentioned that the Board has approved the mascots and the Finance Committee will look into the cost associated with the mascots. She indicated that mayors are in separate governing bodies and have no authority over the elected members of a board of education.

Mike Beahm needed to update his Zoom or call in due to technical difficulties.

Kirstie Levine of River Vale commented that the mayors wanted to send a message to the Board that they are fully aware of the communities' concerns. She applauded them for trying to bridge a gap. She mentioned that the administration and Board have created a divisive environment in the past year. Board and administration wanted equality and inclusion and it's the opposite. She commented that the leader has messages that undermine the process and it's not ethical. She said there is a large portion of the four towns that are upset over the process. The complaint is about the process and the actions the leader of the district has taken. She wants her kids to do things in an ethical way and she does not believe that is what they are being taught. She was shocked that Dr. Gundersen was the one who contacted the attorney. She mentioned that she is an attorney and if there was a complaint against her she would not be the one contacting outside counsel. She was appalled that tax dollars were wasted to contact outside counsel on this matter.

Ms. Molinelli said the exact protocol was discussed earlier.

Ms. Levine suggested that the possibility of the new board members contacting the attorney to go over the process. A superintendent who sent emails to teachers saying let's have a meeting with less than four board members, so it does not need to be public. To obtain the names of the students to call on in the meeting and steer it this way.

Ms. Molinelli said this is not appropriate for public. She asked that Ms. Levine put it in writing and send it to her.

Ms. Levine said she has sent emails to Ms. Molinelli and she has not responded.

Ms. Levine asked if Ms. Molinelli would respond to her email and Ms. Molinelli said she would read it.

Ms. Molinelli indicated that the policy is that individual board members do not respond to the public due to diverse perspectives on many different issues.

Mr. Beahm could not be connected via Zoom and was asked to call in.

Gia Guzman of Hillsdale sent an email that indicated her appreciation of the Board listening to the students and moving in an ethical manner. She commented that people who have commented are being disingenuous and she is offended by the comments from the some of the callers. She mentioned that those callers with others are in screenshots with a special interest group called, "Save the Indian". She indicated that Ms. Martin and Mr. Weaver were among those in the screenshots. She indicated that any ethics investigation should include the two board members who are part of the special interest group. She indicated that the mayors are also a part of the special interest group. She said that the mayors have zero authority. She (an attorney) has confirmed this with other attorneys in the prosecutor's office. She indicated that her group is tired of the talk and want to move on. She indicated that the students did the right thing. She wants to hear about diversity and inclusion. She said they have the mayors to put together a committee for diversity and inclusion and some have refused. She thanked Ms. Molinelli and said that people should not be speaking to her the way have done.

Mr. Weaver cautioned the last caller about making slanderous comments. He said that he follows several Facebook groups who post information about the communities including the one Ms. Guzman had referenced and the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Alumni page which gives the pulse of the community whether they agree with the statements or not. He indicated that he does not post to those sites and he cautioned Ms. Guzman to be careful about making accusations about his social media involvement and challenged her to send him the screenshots to his district email address.

Kari Solomon of Montvale thanked the Board for their decision to change the mascots. She indicated that it took courage to change a mascot that was at best inappropriate and at worst racist, and the other mascot which was not used for the girls' sports teams. She felt that it was students' voices that matter, but the Board has heard from a disproportionate amount of people opposed with the decision. She wanted the Board to know that there are a lot of parents who support the decision. She mentioned that she has two students at Pascack Hills and she has not heard much outrage from them or the students about the decision. They want to get back to normal like hugging their friends, graduation and prom. She commented that the Board has served an important lesson which is just because it has doesn't mean it should be. That continual assessment and improvement is a good thing and when we know better, we do better.

Mayor Ruocco of Hillsdale wanted to clarify that he signed the letter to investigate the process of the June 22 decision to remove the mascots. He was concerned over the deficiencies of the process and not the decision. He thought the process was prejudicial and biased. He commented on what Councilman DeRosa had said that a teachable moment was lost. He mentioned that most of the messages they received in support of the change called them racists and bigots creating division within the community, creating a haven for white supremacists, arming the self-esteem of indigenous people, and being responsible for a disproportionate murder rate of indigenous women. He added that they were accused of supporting an image akin to what a noose is to African Americans. He found this particularly disgraceful as he is part of a bi-racial family. He commented that it did not matter to him that the mascots were changed, rather the way it was done. He believed the validation and support of the coordinated and sanctioned efforts of the 40 or so speakers exposed the Board in terms of politics. He indicated that the meeting where the decision was made seemed staged and disregarded the views of a significant portion of students, alumni and parents. He mentioned in 2018 and 2019 students said they were afraid to express their views on social and political matters in class for the fear of being ostracized and criticized. These students were republicans, conservatives, libertarians, and liberals in the classical sense. He mentioned this to Dr. Gunderson and he minimized it by saying that the Board and administration had striven to make all students feel welcomed. He does not believe this is true and the Board needs to look at this. He is not looking to reverse the decision; however, he wants to make sure that gathering information is transparent in the future.

Chiara Tansky of Woodcliff Lake said she did not find either mascot offensive. She mentioned that in the two hours of the meeting she had not heard anything about the effectiveness of the instruction or how they students will be brought back. She commented cohorts have separated friends and IEPs didn't matter anymore. Students are

attending twice a week sometimes three times from 8-12 and then lunch and on the computer. They are not really attending school. She commented that the entire meeting has been about changing mascots and not teaching the students. She wonders if anyone here would be ethnically offended about the mascots. She mentioned that taxpayers will need to pay for the change when the funds could be used towards helping the students who need it. She mentioned kids who are sexually abused at home, drug abuse, suicide, other things they're dealing with, and not being with their friends. She mentioned that other schools are in school all the time. She is offended that the focus is on mascots. She said the district has the kids frightened to do anything. She said the mascot issue should have been shelved with people locked down not able to do anything.

Jennifer Falkoff of River Vale commented that students were not given voting options like none of these, not appropriate time or table it. They could only vote on the three mascot options. She did not feel the data was accurate. She believed that the option of none of these or do not want to change would have changed the current situation. She referenced the Finance Committee meeting to discuss finances of the mascot change. She asked if it's possible that there could be a decision to table the changes financially.

Ms. Molinelli indicated that the committee will look at the cost and come back to the Board.

Jeanne Tamagny of River Vale expressed her gratitude to the Board for staying with their goal of inclusivity and equity throughout the district. She thanked the Board for removing a racist mascot that does not represent the values of the school or district. She noted that after 16 years of discussion and debate the time for change was now. She mentioned that there are many students and parents who will be future members of the Pascack Valley High School community see this as an important step towards inclusion for all. She commented that the mayors' letter was nothing more than political pandering. She said the two bodies are separate and have no authority over each other.

Chris Martin of Hillsdale commented that the Board would be well served to cut off people who use names of others. It's not a place to denigrate people. She mentioned that the Board would be best served if they answered emails. He believed that since the mascot issue is over that there will be fewer emails and the Board would be able to address them.

Arnold Scher of Hillsdale commended the administration regarding the mini retreat that was conducted earlier. He mentioned the time put in by the administrators and supervisors towards education and instruction. He wanted the public to know this has been going on. He indicated that the district name is Pascack Valley Regional High School District and this is not inclusive. He suggested Pascack Regional District with each of the schools. He mentioned that there was construction of bee hives and was pleased to see that was moving forward. He congratulated Mr. Blundo on appointment to vice president. He mentioned that he hoped everyone listens to each other and move to what is best for the student body.

Liz Santos of Hillsdale sent emails to the Board and the Mayor and Council in support of the mascot decision. She commented if the Mayor and Council sometimes put something

forward for a vote spontaneously. She believed that occurred when the One Spirit Club came to speak with the Board. The Board listened and then moved to vote. She referenced the person who spoke about getting the kids back to school when others have. She asked if there is a difference between high schools and elementary and middle schools.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that they are awaiting additional information from the state health department regarding the CDC 3 feet distancing guideline. CDC guideline indicated that if the school is in a high transmission area which we are then it remains at 6 feet. School districts are to follow the recommendations of the state health department along with the local health officials. He added that students transferring from class to class does complicate things. He indicated that once regulations allow for students to come closer in a safe manner then the district will head in that direction.

Mike Beahm of River Vale said he supports the Mayors' letter. He indicated that he grew up in River Vale and lives in River Vale and he has never heard anything derogatory/negative comments about the mascot names. He added that he was not happy with the process.

Mrs. Martin acknowledged the volume of letters from both sides. She commented that they are aware there is a divided community and the recent election reflected it. They are very sensitive to the issue and they want to find a way to get everyone back together. She indicated that she was and still is concerned and wanted to hold back on the change. She mentioned the importance of questioning and ensuring transparency and a Board willing to look into things. She indicated that she appreciated the letters from both sides, but did not appreciate people like Ms. Guzman calling out people for being on certain webpages when she is a leader of a very confrontational special interest group. She added that Ms. Guzman supported people on the Board and that she should be careful making statements. She summarized that they are listening and wanting to do the best for students and wanting to move on.

Mr. Blundo encouraged people to look at the mini retreat. He commended the extensive work the administration has done evaluating results from in-person versus remote versus blended and how they will be applied in September. He mentioned that educating the students has not gone by the wayside. He said it is really going on. He commented that as a former mayor that mayors do not have any jurisdictional rights over a school. However, as leaders they are looked upon to comment and have the right to express their opinion. The Board can take that into consideration if they want to move forward or not. He indicated that board members may have different ideas on how to move the district, however everyone's goal is to have the best district for the community and more importantly for their children.

Mrs. Varghese commented that the letter from the mayors was not appropriate. She indicated that they could have voiced their opinions as private citizens, instead they used their elected positions. She mentioned the mayors' letter referencing emails circulated on social media a site that is known for highly skewed viewpoints. She mentioned after the decision last year, there were posts for their members to visit board members' homes, their parent's homes and to harass their children. She said there were apparently posts

that alluded to violence toward board members and the superintendent. She went on to say that active members on this site included business owners, teachers, law enforcement, elected officials including board members of various districts, and self-purported religious people who get their information from this social media page. She believed that when you permit you promote. She hoped that no one would promote hatred and animosity. She commented that if one immerses oneself repeatedly to such harmful, dialog that one becomes desensitized to it. She indicated that everyone should be cautious about what has been said about the Board and superintendent. The changes that are being promoted may directly impact the children's education in the future. She said that under Dr. Gundersen's leadership that he and the district have been recognized locally and nationally. She added that there is always room for improvement and changes in board operation. Improvements have been made and she asked that the public allow the Board to do their work. She indicated that if people don't like the decision the Board made it doesn't mean they have not listened. She mentioned that people should be careful where they get their information. If it's through social media then they should think twice about the validity. She said it's time to focus on what matters like getting students back in school full time and improving their mental health which has suffered during the pandemic.

Mr. Fronte commented that he is saddened by the total lack of civility. He mentioned that he has thick skin, however it is not right when his wife and children are threatened in public. He indicated that social media gives anyone the platform to be the village idiot. He mentioned that he is an Indian from 1983 as well as his wife and kids. He understood the decision and supported a very important social issue and other issues. He said he stands behind that decision and allowing the kids to decide on the new mascot. He commented that parents' actions influence their children on what kind of adult they become. He mentioned that he has made mistakes as a parent as all parents have. However, it's the lack of civility that is problematic. He added that they care about what people say and write. They listen and read and they make decisions.

Eli Moallem of River Vale indicated that private, charter and Florida schools among others are open. He said that they do not see the effects that the Board is claiming. He commented that the district seems to be following a different set of rules and if there were any issues at other schools then it would be known. Students and parents want to get back to normal and the Board does not allow it by following their guidelines. He commented that a board member can say people can act like idiots on social media then he can say people on the Board can act like pirates. He said the Board is ruling with a heavy hand. He mentioned that the Board indicates that they are listening, but they disrespect them in the same comment. He said the Board may be listening, but certainly not hearing them. He wanted the Board to get their children back in school instead spending time on the mascot issue. He indicated that the mayors represent the community and they should not be shut down. He suggested the possibility of privatizing the schools and holding the mayors accountable. He indicated that the Board has provided political speak as he has not seen any fire or passion about the kids. He commented that the Board has imposed their values on people's families. He added that

there will be push back and he said that his kids will wear the Indian every day in school if he has a choice in the matter.

Kirstie Levine of River Vale mentioned that the number one priority is to get the kids back into school. She commented that academics is very important and she didn't know why the mascot issue was ever brought up during a pandemic. This could have waited.

Karina Downey of Hillsdale indicated that she is Hispanic and so are her kids. She mentioned that she's a member of PV Core, the special interest group referenced by Mrs. Martin. She commented that they have experienced racism in the community and in high school. She asked Mrs. Martin if she was calling brown kids from Hillsdale as special interest. She indicated that the group that was trying to save the Indian that Mrs. Martin had participated is a special interest. Kids who are experiencing racism are not special interest.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Blundo to adjourn at 10:22 p.m. Mr. Stankus 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.