

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

May 10, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at
5:30 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

Present: Ms. Tammy Molinelli, President
Mr. Joseph Blundo, Vice President
Dr. Kelly Blundy
Mr. Michael Fronte
Mr. James Stankus
Ms. Debra Stephans
Mrs. Gini Varghese
Mr. Michael Weaver
Dr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Student Representatives: Connor Flinn – PVHS
Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Absent: Mrs. Kristin Martin
Student Representatives: Aria Chalileh– PHHS

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MAY 10, 2021 AT 5:30 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Fronte to enter into an executive meeting at 5:38 p.m. Dr. Blundy seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Pascack Valley High School, for the purpose of recessing to a closed Executive Meeting.

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has been formed pursuant to applicable New Jersey Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board is charged with the responsibility of performing all acts and doing all things, consistent with law and the rules of the State Board of Education, necessary for the lawful and proper conduct, equipment and maintenance of the public schools and public school property of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Opening Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10-4-12) permits the exclusion of the public (“Executive Session”) from a meeting of the Board in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that circumstances exist for such an Executive Session; and

WHEREAS, the Board has found the action described below to be necessary and proper;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board on the date indicated above that:

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

A motion was made by Mr. Blundo to reconvene into the public meeting at 7:33 p.m. Mr. Fronte seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The public session resumed in the Pascack Valley High School cafeteria.

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 May 8, 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

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:

April 26, 2021	Regular Minutes	6:00 p.m.
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April 26, 2021	Executive Minutes	6:12 p.m.
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Moved by: 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"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<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"/>					

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.

Carolee Adams of Montvale commented that there are two policies regarding school surveys. Policy 2415.05 follows federal law and Policy 9560 follows the state law which was identified by Phil Nicastro of Strauss Esmay. The state policy is more inclusive. Ms. Adams would like teachers to inform students/parents that students do not need to take surveys according to Policy 9560. She asked the Board to revisit the federal policy 2415.05.

Ms. Molinelli indicated that Strauss Esmay is the district's contracted policy expert, however the policy in question was pulled for further discussion by the Policy Committee.

Debbie Horn of Bloomfield who is a social studies teacher at Pascack Hills, debate coach and association president thanked everyone who made the extra effort to thank the teachers in a variety of ways during Teacher Appreciation Week. She commented that she was shocked to hear that the Board was going to vote on merging cohorts at tonight's meeting since the Restart Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow. They were not aware that the Board would vote on this until Friday. She stressed that the committee meeting is the place to discuss the impact of merging cohorts. Members consist of school staff, students, parents, and board members. She added that if the Board votes before their voices could be heard then the Board is disregarding the process and saying that those people's voices do not matter.

VI. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 2

1. Course Title Changes

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the title changes for the following courses:

Mr. Blundo asked if the board meeting schedule start time is changing from 7:30.

Ms. Molinelli indicated that it will remain the same.

VII. EDUCATION

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 2

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 bedside tutoring for student ID #809510 admitted to High Focus Center, Cranford, NJ on April 29, 2021 through a date to be determined. Services are being provided by LearnWell billed at \$50 per hour of instruction and a preparation fee of 33%, for 10 hours 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 #810325 admitted to Veritas Collaborative in Durham, North Carolina on April 26, 2021 through a date to be determined. Services are being provided by the facility at no cost to the Pascack Valley Regional High School District.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID #810931 beginning May 1, 2021 through a date to be determined for Physical Education/Driver's Education.
- d. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bedside tutoring for student ID #811571 admitted to High Focus Center, Paramus, NJ on April 28, 2021 through a date to be determined. Services are being provided by LearnWell billed at \$50 per hour of instruction and a preparation fee of 33%, for 10 hours per week.
- e. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bedside tutoring for student ID #811927 admitted to New Pathways Counseling, Pinebrook, NJ on May 3, 2021 through a date to be determined. Services are being provided by the facility at \$600 for 10 hours per week.
- f. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bedside tutoring for student ID #811928 admitted to New Pathways Counseling, Pinebrook, NJ on May 3, 2021 through a date to be determined. Services are being provided by the facility at \$600 for 10 hours per week.

2. Out-of-district Placement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a change of placement for student ID 810748 to Sage Day School, Rochelle Park, NJ for the 2020-2021 school year, starting May 5, 2021, as per the student’s IEP, for the prorated tuition of \$11,129.

Moved by: Stankus Seconded by: Fronte

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"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<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"/>					

VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 7

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 Gloria Gordon, speech and language specialist at Pascack Valley High School, for the purposes of retirement, effective June 30, 2021.

2. New Hires

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Anthony Morgen, Maintenance Coordinator for the Pascack Valley Regional High School District effective June 1, 2021 for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, at an annual salary of \$82,000, prorated in 2020-2021, with health benefits.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Luisa Sanchez, leave replacement special education teacher at Pascack Valley High School for Dayna Lane from August 30 – December 20, 2021, at the per diem rate of \$305.75, without health benefits, pending certification.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Melissa Szabo, family and consumer science teacher for Pascack Valley Regional High School District effective August 30, 2021, at an annual salary of \$62,850, BA, step 5, with health benefits, pending certification.

3. Change of Position

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Thomas Gallione, assistant principal of Pascack Valley High School, effective July 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, at an annual salary of \$147,000, with health benefits. Salary will be adjusted when PVRAA contract negotiations are completed.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Yani Orozco, night-time, Tuesday – Saturday custodian for Pascack Hills High School, at the annual salary of \$62,323, plus night crew stipend of \$517, Saturday differential of \$517, Black Seal stipend of \$906, with health benefits, effective May 11, 2021. Mr. Orozco is currently a night part-time, Monday – Friday custodian for Pascack Valley High School.

4. Change of Assignment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Joanna Katz, Student Family Resource Liaison at Pascack Valley High School, effective July 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.

5. Substitute Teacher

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Samantha Cohn as a new substitute teacher for the district.

6. Summer Student Help

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following students for summer employment in the technology department for the district:

Name	Type
Matthew Harris	Returning
Samantha Goldman	New
Sabrina Low	Returning
Emma Stankus	Returning
Nicholas Lang	Returning
Nicole Sen	Returning
Declan Cleary	New

Name	Type
Daniel Wolosiuk	New
Aaron Ng	New

7. Athletic Appointments

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Evan Lampert as head coach for the football team at Pascack Hills High School for the stipend of **\$12,500**, step 3 for the 2021-2022 fall season.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Matthew Marini as assistant coach for the baseball team at Pascack Hills High School for the stipend of \$3,555, 50% of step 3 for the 2020-2021 spring season.

Moved by: Blundy Seconded by: Varghese

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"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<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. Stankus abstained on Item 6.

Dr. Gundersen commented that Gloria Gordon longtime speech language pathologist touched the lives of many students and had a positive impact on students who struggled.

IX. FINANCE

Consent Agenda Items 1 – 13

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 May 10, 2021	\$1,456,413.59
Payroll as of April 30, 2021	\$2,349,658.35
Total	\$3,806,071.94

2. Use of Title I-A 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 supplemental instruction to targeted students using Title I-A funds under ESEA at a rate of \$55 per hour:

Allison Petaccia	Ryan Walter
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3. Computer Solutions Inc. – Contract Renewal 2021-2022

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent approves the renewal agreement for software support with Computer Solutions Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$15,816.

4. Renewal Application for Instructional Space for the 2021-2022 School Year

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has approved the establishment of the Milestones Program with the goal of developing students' independent living skills and ability to acquire employment; and

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has approved the lease at 63 Patterson Avenue in Hillsdale, New Jersey for said purpose;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approves the renewal application for instructional space for the 2021-2022 school year.

5. Dual Enrollment Agreement - William Paterson University

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent approve the Dual Enrollment Agreement between William Paterson University and Pascack Valley Regional High School District at the rate of \$100 per academic credit for the 2021-2022 school year.

6. Agreement – Kean University Holocaust & Genocide Studies Program

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent approve the Agreement between Kean University and Pascack Valley Regional High School District to offer students the Holocaust & Genocide Studies Program at the rate of \$100 per credit for the period September 1, 2021 through June 20, 2023. This agreement may be renewed for one additional year.

7. Extend Agreement - The University of Texas at Austin

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent approve the Extended Amendment to the Agreement between The University of Texas at Austin and Pascack Valley Regional High School District for a dual enrollment engineering course until August 31, 2022.

8. Revised Proposal from KSI Consulting Engineers, LLC

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the revised proposal from KSI Consulting Engineers, LLC related to the HVAC/Filtration Upgrade Projects at Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools in the amount of an additional \$12,700 for engineering design services for air conditioning at Pascack Valley High School.

9. Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Agreement Between Region II and Non-Member District

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 District of Ho-Ho-Kus for Occupational and Physical Therapy services for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

10. Pascack Hills High School – 2nd Annual School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report for Cohort A during 2020-2021 School Year

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, pursuant to the Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2) and at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following completed school bus emergency evacuation drill for the Pascack Hills High School, 225 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ.

The second of two annual drills for the 2020-2021 school year was conducted on April 27, 2021 at 6:50 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. at the front drive of the high school during drop off.

WHEREAS, the Scholastic Bus Company’s staff of school bus drivers for routes #1, 1A, 2, 3, & 4, participated in the school bus emergency evacuation drill; and which included the supervision of Mr. Tim Wieland, Principal and Ms. Charlene Schwartzman, Assistant Principal.

11. Pascack Hills High School – 2nd Annual School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report for Cohort B during 2020-2021 School Year

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, pursuant to the Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2) and at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following completed school bus emergency evacuation drill for the Pascack Hills High School, 225 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ.

The second of two annual drills for the 2020-2021 school year was conducted on April 28, 2021 at 6:50 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. at the front drive of the high school during drop off.

WHEREAS, the Scholastic Bus Company’s staff of school bus drivers for routes #1, 1A, 2, 3, & 4, participated in the school bus emergency evacuation drill; and which

included the supervision of Mr. Tim Wieland, Principal and Ms. Charlene Schwartzman, Assistant Principal.

12. Pascack Valley High School –2nd Annual School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report during 2020-2021 School Year

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, pursuant to the Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2) and at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following completed school bus emergency evacuation drill for the Pascack Valley High School, 200 Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ.

The second of two annual drills for the 2020-2021 school year was conducted on May 5, 2021, 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. at the front of the high school – main entrance.

WHEREAS, the Scholastic Bus Company’s staff of school bus drivers for routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 participated in the school bus emergency evacuation drill; and which included the supervision of Mr. John Puccio, Asst. Principal and Ms. Christine Pollinger, Asst. Principal.

*Due to COVID-19 school closures, the 1st Annual School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report during the 2020-2021 School Year was conducted in Physical Education Class for all students by way of video - “*Bus Evacuation Drills for Students*” November 5, 2015, sponsored by Video communication/Vid.com during the month of December 2020.

13. 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 Q2119 to Scholastic Bus Co. during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2119	Paradigm Therapeutic Day School	185	75	185.00	11,655.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation Quote contract Q2120 to Shaddai Transportation Inc. during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2120	Academy 360	255	48	303.00*	9,090.00*

*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 Quote contract Q2121 to 4 Diamond Transportation LLC during the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
Q2121	BOCES, Rockland	360	0.00	360	8,640.00

Moved by: Stephans Seconded by: Fronte

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"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<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"/>					

X. OLD BUSINESS

Equity Committee Report - [Report](#)

Ms. Molinelli commented that the students on the committee were very engaged.

Facilities Committee Report – [Report](#)

Mr. Blundo commented that the cell tower if it goes forward will not only generate revenue, but it would resolve the dead zone communication issue at Pascack Valley. The district has addressed the issue with alternate methods, but it is not ideal.

Ms. Molinelli added that this would allow law enforcement to communicate more effectively.

Timeline for phasing in new mascots designs – [Slide](#)

Motion to move forward with the Moderate Plan with a full uniform change to ensure gender equity.

Moved by: Blundo 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"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fronte	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<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. Weaver who is a member of the Finance Committee had hoped that the Board could have received more information on what purchases could be made other than rebranding. He got a better understanding during the meeting that funds could go towards the arts, instruction and technology. He is in favor of the minimal plan. He referenced floor mats

at \$4,000 could be replaced with stock mats that may cost a couple of hundred dollars. He commented that student organizations could fundraise in the future for mats with logos. Another example is the sign board at Hills where the board would need to come down and not covered. He also mentioned the back field at Hills where the baseball, football/soccer/lacrosse fields are located and press box have signs that could be removed which he believed had a replacement cost of \$15,000-\$20,000. He suggested that administration consider if it is a need. He said the uniforms for gender equity is a sensitive topic for the community and the students. He recommended that the girls should get new uniforms if the boys' uniforms are to be replaced. He commented if the mascot needs to be part of the uniform when many college and professional teams do not have the mascot on their uniforms. He suggested being careful with branding with the mascot since in the future it could change again. He further suggested that student organizations could sell spirit wear with the mascot. He recommended that it be slowly phased in.

Ms. Molinelli said Mr. Weaver's point that approving a dollar amount to be spent does not mean that amount needs to be spent. It can be less to be fiscally prudent with the budget. She concurred with Mr. Weaver about the gender equity issue and suggested that the Equity Committee continue to look at equity, not only for uniforms.

Dr. Blundy concurred with Mr. Weaver's comments. She said in an effort to save money to look at items that do not necessarily need a logo.

Mr. Fronte who is on the Finance Committee said he agrees with any cost savings. However, he is in favor of a full rebranding. He said the district would look foolish with Cowboys in the end zone and that the Board is cowering to the public opinion. He questioned the gender equity optics if Cowboys is in the end zone.

Mr. Weaver appreciated the majority of the Board's thinking to move ahead with the moderate plan. However, he will vote "no" to the moderate plan since he has thoughts about what can be done with the minimal plan. He said he is not clear on how decisions will be made if there is a set amount or not when it comes to fluctuations. He said he is supportive of working together to make the transition.

Ms. Stephans was in favor of the conservative plan, but in light of the wrestling mat that needs to be replaced, she asked if the minimal and moderate plans can be combined in some way. She agreed with Mr. Weaver regarding the signage and uniforms.

Mr. Blundo indicated that the moderate plan was a compromise for him in the spirit of moving forward. He commented that all the money need not be spent. It gives the administration guidance. Mr. Blundo thought that each item could be approved prior to the purchase. Dr. Gundersen clarified that the administration makes the purchases and the Board approves the bills list.

Mr. Stankus said he understood everyone's views. He supported retiring the Cowboy and wanted gender equity with the uniforms. He commented that the moderate plan is a good compromise at this time and it moves the district forward. He mentioned that there could be things that come back to them from the students and then they would need to make decisions.

Mr. Weaver would like to ensure in the moderate plan that the boys and girls receive the same attention regarding uniforms since the moderate plan only replaces the uniforms with Cowboys and Indians which 90% are the boys' uniforms.

Mr. Blundo believed the cost difference between minimal and moderate is about \$17,000.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that all gender equity uniforms will be taken care of in the 2021-2022 budget. At Hills, the uniform costs for the two girls' teams would be an additional \$25,000.

Mr. Blundo recommended that additional funds be spent on the uniforms to resolve the gender equity issue.

Dr. Blundy asked if there are any items that could be eliminated from the moderate plan since uniforms will be added.

Dr. Gundersen and Mr. Blundo agreed the board members may never come to agreement on what and how much should be spent for each line item. It's best to move forward with the motion.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Schedule for remainder of the school year – [Presentation](#)

Ms. Molinelli asked about the cost.

Dr. Gundersen and Mr. Usami indicated that the cost estimate is about \$20,000 to move the furniture out of storage according to the Director of Facilities. Mr. Usami would see if those expenses are covered by FEMA.

Ms. Stephans commented that the furniture needs to come out of storage at some point.

Dr. Gundersen concurred. The plan was to bring it back after the floors were cleaned during the summer.

Dr. Blundy asked about the knowing how many students 16 or older have been vaccinated, but it could be a HIPPA issue.

Dr. Gundersen said he and the nurses would not feel comfortable speculating. He added that there is news that children 12 and older may receive the vaccine.

Mr. Weaver asked although students may be spaced three feet apart, does it impact the teachers spacing with the students.

Dr. Gundersen said they would need to find out if cohorts are merged. He mentioned that a form would be sent to parents for them to indicate whether or not their child will be coming into school. This would give an idea of the number of students and if there is crowding then overflow space(s) may be needed.

Ms. Molinelli asked if there is any idea how many students would return if the cohorts are merged. She asked about the quarantine issue since students would be three feet apart instead of six.

Dr. Gundersen said he had no idea.

Mr. Stankus said merging the cohorts would double the number of students in a classroom and if something happens then it would disrupt the school such as prom, graduation and other big event items. He commented that it's not three feet since contact tracing is six feet and that would affect everyone to quarantine. He mentioned that the data indicates that the transmission rate for teenagers is exactly the same as adults. It's different for elementary and middle school students.

Ms. Stephans asked if asynchronous or Zoom option is available for students who quarantine.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that students who are remote do that, so those quarantined students may join that class.

Mr. Weaver commented that they do not have data as to how many parents would send their child back. It's important to survey the parents and they may learn that the impact is not as significant as they may have thought. It's important to have that information to guide their decision. He mentioned that the process is important and the Restart Committee meeting tomorrow is problematic. He said it would have been helpful to have feedback from the committee in order to make a decision. He thought the meeting could have been rescheduled for last week.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that the administration believes merging the cohorts after May 17 would have diminishing returns. The administration would have the data on Thursday to determine room locations or the need for overflow spaces.

Mr. Weaver asked if it would be wise to have a special meeting on Thursday to make an informative decision.

Mr. Blundo stated that he suggested that when he first heard. He said then they would have information and could have a special meeting on Thursday night. He asked if that would be enough time to merge the cohorts for May 17.

Dr. Gundersen said he didn't know. It would be tighter. Furniture would be underway. He said the Board could be considering this and waiting on the Restart Committee. He indicated that it was a pre-arranged meeting to discuss the opening for next year. He said that the letter to the parents could indicate if the Board decides to merge cohorts, what is your selection.

Mr. Stankus commented that the committee would not have the data to see how the parents responded. He said it could impact the decision on a safety concern.

Mr. Blundo mentioned that a few weeks ago, he, Ms. Molinelli and Dr. Gundersen discussed the possibility of merging cohorts if the governor lowered the requirements. At that time, he felt it was not worth it since there was only a few weeks left and considering the risk. He changed his opinion when he saw that there were other surrounding districts merging cohorts. He also mentioned that he discovered that our schools had a much larger percentage of students attending in-person than other districts which made those districts' transition easier. He said if the cohorts are combined here, it will bring a lot of people to school.

Ms. Molinelli commented that they need the information to make a solid decision. She indicated that the Restart Committee has not met and the distancing change from six to three feet is a game changer. She indicated that she is not comfortable pushing this through when they are looking into an interim superintendent, a superintendent, 8 periods for the fall, and getting kids back in the Fall.

Mrs. Varghese agreed with Mr. Weaver to see what the Restart Committee and parent form indicates. She urged that if any parent feels like their child is struggling with emotional well being then they should reach out to administration or guidance.

Dr. Gundersen agreed and thanked Mrs. Varghese. He mentioned that the principals have done a good job with these situations.

Mr. Stankus asked Connor Flinn his opinion on the merging of cohorts.

Connor understood both sides. He believed that the end of the year is best time to get together since they are not doing hard academic things. He said he has not seen his grade all year and the first time will be prom.

Ms. Stephans said she would like to hear from the Restart Committee. She commented that there shouldn't be a difference between opening now and in September. She believed that the district should know how to do this safely now.

Mrs. Varghese agreed with Ms. Stephans, however she indicated that health issue is a moving target. It has changed from week to week. She agreed that a solid plan is needed and the administration continues to work on it.

Ms. Stephans agreed, but if we can open safely in September then what is the difference now.

Mr. Stankus said that they plan for September the way it has progressed, but there is no predictability with the virus, as experienced. He commented that the district had a plan in the beginning year when the numbers were lower than the current numbers. He said the plan was excellent and they have done much better than other districts. He mentioned his district was fully remote for a while as were other districts. We hope that the unknown variable will cooperate, but we need to be prepared.

Mrs. Varghese indicated the difference between September and now is the two proms, graduation and senior trip that are scheduled. The district is trying to get some semblance of normalcy for the fun events.

Mr. Fronte mentioned that vaccination rate is key as more people who are vaccinated then there is a lower infection rate. He indicated that he would love to get the kids back, but he is concerned about the vaccination rate.

Ms. Molinelli asked if they want the students back for academic reasons or to be with their peers, both are very valid. She mentioned academics was a success as a lot of students did very well and were accepted to some remarkable universities. She asked if they want to meet again to decide.

Mr. Blundo said they should meet again and they can make a decision, if needed.

Mr. Usami indicated an advertisement for the meeting in the paper would not be published until Thursday if they submitted it to the paper tomorrow. If it can be posted on the website then it's not an issue.

Mr. Weaver asked if they could go into closed session to contact the attorney if they need to advertise the meeting in the paper.

Dr. Gundersen will contact the attorney during closed session.

Dr. Blundy commented that mental health is important. She asked that the committee consider focusing on the suicide and over dose numbers. She indicated that one school district went up 40% in over dose. She said that there are students who do not speak up for help and parents who don't know if their child is struggling. She said this could be the new pandemic.

Ms. Molinelli was informed that the upcoming meeting could be deemed an emergency meeting with three quarters of the board approving. This would allow to bypass advertising. She added that it would be posted on the website.

Motion to approve an emergency meeting for Thursday, May 13 to discuss the potential re-opening of the schools on May 17.

Moved by: Blundo Seconded by: Stephans

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"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	<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"/>					

All agreed to a 7:30 meeting. Some members will be remote.

Mr. Weaver asked if the form could be returned to administration on Wednesday instead of Thursday in order for the schools to have more time to prepare in the event that cohorts are to be combined.

Dr. Gundersen said he would confer with the team on timing. This would also allow the Board to receive the information prior to the Thursday meeting. The letter will indicate if the cohorts are combined would your child be in school or fully remote.

Mr. Weaver added that there should be data on how many who are currently remote would come in on May 17 and if they are hybrid how many would go remote.

Dr. Gundersen emphasized that it has been deemed safe to come in and be three feet apart. It's a quarantine and logistical issue.

Mr. Weaver commended the Hills Trailblazer on the Gender Equity Remains article. He was sad to read that it's an on-going issue. He asked if administration can bring the

necessary information to the Equity Committee to ensure that our students don't feel there are inequities in athletics and extra-curricular activities. He would like that topic on the agenda for the next Equity Committee meeting and welcomed any administrator and staff to the meeting.

Dr. Gundersen said all forms of inequity to be addressed is in the Equity mission statement. It's important that the Board stand by that mission statement.

Mr. Weaver would welcome the start of that conversation at the Equity Committee level rather than in solely in student publications in order to fix any problems that may exist.

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.

Kimberly Cuffe of Hillsdale asked if students can come five days a week if they are fully vaccinated.

Dr. Gundersen said that could be brought up by the board members at the Restart Committee meeting with the school physician and school nurses.

Carolee Adams of Montvale asked how quickly the \$147,000 will be spent. She commented that this is the month to celebrate Memorial Day. She mentioned that Becton's guidance counselor started a way to honor veterans who are graduates. She asked if there is someone in the district who would entertain such an idea for veterans who graduated from our high schools.

Dr. Gundersen indicated that they will probably start on the expenditures tomorrow since the funds need to be encumbered from this year's budget. He said the suggestion about veterans is fantastic and said that Dr. Bachenheimer takes time to recognize staff members who are veterans. He mentioned that there are student clubs that have acknowledged veterans who are graduates in the hallways. He added that they plan to enhance that more next year.

Kenneth Sarajian of Montvale (teacher in the district) asked if the district will hold parents/students to the response on the form.

Dr. Gundersen said it's his intent that it's a commitment. The administrative team may have compelling points that details may be slightly different.

Pamela Del Grande of Montvale asked if there is a dress code policy and who is in charge of it. She has been informed that some students are coming to school dressed like animals with tails and ears and making animal sounds. They call themselves "furries". Apparently, this is being allowed.

Dr. Gundersen said the Board approves all policies and the administration implements the policies. He asked that Ms. Del Grande contact his office tomorrow.

X. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON May 10, 2021 AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fronte to enter into an executive meeting at 9:38 p.m. Mr. Blundo seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at immediately following the regular meeting in Room 107 at Pascack Valley High School, 200 Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ, for the purpose of recessing to a closed Executive Meeting.

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has been formed pursuant to applicable New Jersey Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board is charged with the responsibility of performing all acts and doing all things, consistent with law and the rules of the State Board of Education, necessary for the lawful and proper conduct, equipment and maintenance of the public schools and public school property of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Opening Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10-4-12) permits the exclusion of the public (“Executive Session”) from a meeting of the Board in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that circumstances exist for such an Executive Session; and

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

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

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action on the Executive Session herein set forth.
2. The subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 1. Possible HIB.
 2. Legal matter.
3. The Board will not reconvene, and no action will be taken.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fronte to adjourn into an executive meeting at 9:38 p.m. and not reconvene into the public session. Mr. Blundo 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.