

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

**Pascack Valley Regional High School District**

May 4, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, May 4, 2020 at  
6:30 p.m. via Zoom,  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83202443773?pwd=cHdBBeUo0K2FoUHZXNnhES1IyRWtKdz09>

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Ms. Tammy Molinelli, Board President.

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

Also present: Dr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent  
Ms. Pamela Baxley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Student Representatives: Sean Sheikowitz – PHHS; Kaila Saladino – PVHS  
Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

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

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

**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 entirely online via Zoom. 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 Ms. Pamela Baxley, 28 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ 07645.

*Copies of all public meeting agendas are online on the district website:  
<http://www.pascack.org>*

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

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 6:30 p.m. via online meeting platform, 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. Personnel matters.
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 Ms. Bissinger to reconvene into the public meeting at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.





Moved by: Bissinger                      Seconded by: Stankus

**VOTE**

<b>Bd. Mbr.</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abs.</b>	<b>N/P</b>	<b>Bd. Mbr.</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abs.</b>	<b>N/P</b>
Bissinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ralph	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fronte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hallowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steinberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molinelli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

**VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES**

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 9

**1. New Hire**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Megan Pettigano as Library Media Specialist for the district, effective August 31, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$65,700, MA, step 4, with health benefits, pending certification. Salary will be adjusted when PVREA contract negotiations are completed.

**2. Changes of Position**

**a. RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, renew the appointment of Christine Pollinger, Assistant Principal for Pascack Valley High School, effective July 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$147,000, with health benefits.

**b. RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Charleen Schwartzman, mathematics teacher, to Assistant Principal for Pascack Hills High School, effective July 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$147,000, with health benefits.

**3. Tenured Administrator Appointments**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of tenured administrators for the 2020-2021 school year.

**4. Tenured Supervisor Appointments**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of tenured supervisors for the 2020-2021 school year.



**IX. FINANCE**

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 12

**1. Approval of Bills Bill Lists 1**

**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 4, 2020	\$229,612.34
Payroll as of April 30, 2020	\$2,288,720.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,518,332.55</b>

**2. Computer Solutions Inc. – Contract Renewal 2020-2021**

**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 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$13,008.

**3. Renewal of Food Service Management Company**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the third renewal of the contract for food service management with Pomptonian Food Service Company of Fairfield, NJ, for the 2020-2021 school year. The Food Service Management Company shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, a fee of \$.0674 per meal equivalent to compensate the Food Service Management Company for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be billed monthly as a cost of operation. The Local Education Agency guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the Food Service Management Company. Cash receipts shall be divided by \$1.00 to arrive at an equivalent meal count. The per meal management fee of \$.0674 will be multiplied by total meal equivalents. The FSMC guarantees the LEA a minimum profit of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the school year 2020-2021.

**4. Pomptonian Student & Faculty Lunch Price List**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Pomptonian Student Lunch and Faculty Lunch Price List.

**5. 2020-2021 IDEA Contract W/BCSS/Non-Public School Services**

**RESOLVED**, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, enter into an agreement with Bergen County Special Services to administer services to students with disabilities parentally placed in non-public schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

**6. Renewal Application for Instructional Space for the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 school year.

**7. Applied Behavioral Analysis Parent Training Agreement Between Region II and Non-Member Districts**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the agreement between Region II and the Non-Member Districts for Applied Behavioral Analysis Parent Training for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

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

**8. Donation**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the donation to the soccer team from The Benevity Community Impact Fund in the amount of \$75.00.

**9. Approval of Change Order #1 Door Access Control and Emergency Strobes at Pascack Hills High School and Pascack Valley High School – RFP Solutions, Inc.**

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve change order #1 submitted by RFP Solutions, Inc. of West Deptford, New Jersey. This change order is an increase in the amount of \$1,375.00, to supply and install three additional door contacts and their associated cable runs.



Original Contract Amount	\$284,604.00
Net Change By Previously Authorized Change Order(s)	0
Subtotal	\$284,604.00
Contract Increased by Change Order	\$1,375.00
Revised Contract Amount	\$285,979.00

**10. Transportation Renewal Contracts for Home to School Transportation – Public High Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year**

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

School (Public School- Home to School)	Route	Contract Renewal 2019-2020	Contract Renewal 2020-2021	1.7% Maximum CPI Increase 2020 vs. 2021
Pascack Hills HS, Montvale, NJ	Multi#H2 Routes #s 1,2,3,&4	237.64 per diem 42,775.20 (1) rte 171,100.80 (4) rtes. Annual	241.68 per diem 43,502.40 (1) rte. 174,009.60 (4) rtes. Annual	1.7%
Pascack Hills HS, Montvale, NJ	1A	245.73 per diem 44,231.40 (1) rte. Annual	249.91 per diem 44,983.80 (1) rte. Annual	1.7%
Pascack Valley HS, Hillsdale, NJ	Multi #VUN1 Route #s 9,10,11	237.64 per diem 42,775.20 (1) rte. 128,325.60 (3) rtes. Annual	241.68 per diem 43,502.40 (1) rte. 130,507.20 (3) rtes. Annual	1.7%
Pascack Valley HS, Hillsdale, NJ	12	265.62 per diem 47,811.60 (1) rte. Annual	270.14 per diem 48,625.20 (1) rte. Annual	1.7%
Bergen County Academies, Hackensack, NJ	Multi #BAH Route #s BA08, BA09, BA10	139.38 per diem 25,088.40 (1) rte. 75,265.20 (3) rtes. Annual	141.75 per diem 25,515.00 (1) rte. 76,545.00 (3) rtes. Annual	1.7%

**11. Transportation Renewal Contract for 2020-2021 Public High School Related Activities**

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



## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Gundersen wished the teachers a very happy Teacher Appreciation Week during this remote learning time. The governor has closed schools till the end of the year. The district has a lot of work to do to finalize plans for graduation. It all hinges upon the guidance that we get from Trenton.

In the coming days the governor will be meeting with the Commissioner of Education. We will follow up with our parents when we get their input.

Mr. Steinberg asked about the bees. Dr. Gundersen told the board that they are being fostered at a relative of the biology teacher.

Ms. Molinelli asked the student representatives what they would like to see for graduation. Kaila said a virtual graduation might have to happen but would rather see a traditional ceremony. As she is not a senior, she feels that she is not the right person to weigh in.

Sean said the perfect graduation in this scenario would be personal with live streaming and social distancing. Most seniors do not want a virtual graduation.

## **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.

Diane Scozzafava from Hillsdale asked what would be the rationale for not attempting to social distance our students on the field. Dr. Gundersen explained the governor's school closure prohibits anyone to go on campus. The district needs to wait to see what they will be permitted to do. Hopefully, the governor will provide a safe way to accomplish graduation.

Dana Porrazzo from River Vale believes in waiting for guidance from Trenton but she sees online that other districts have reached out to encourage their students. Is there anything in the works for the school to do something publicly. Mr. Puccio sent an email about the Friday night lights to recognize the seniors. Dr. Gundersen apologized that she feels the staff is not celebrating seniors. The signs at Pascack Hills came earlier than the signs at Pascack Valley. The Friday night lights at Pascack Hills are more visible because there is a road to drive thru to see the field but at Pascack Valley the field is behind the school and we are prohibited from opening the campus. The school will be doing more in the next six weeks to celebrate our students.

LeeAnn and Alex Menendez from River Vale are seeing other Bergen county schools doing things. Ridgewood has names on the field and Paramus is doing something as well. Both of her students are upset. Just saying that the school is working on it doesn't help. What has been done so far. Dr. Gundersen responded that the district is putting measures in place on how to best move forward with the senior awards ceremony. Now that school

has been closed the plans that were in place have to be changed. A fully traditional ceremony will not be possible. We are hoping to have guidance from the Department of Education. Ms. Menendez feels there needs to be more attention to the seniors.

Rachel Feder from River Vale wants to know if it would be helpful for parents to reach out to the governor's office or the Department of Education to address the subject of graduation in an effort to have a traditional graduation. Is it important for him to hear from them? Dr. Gundersen replied that while she is welcome to do that the decision will be based on what the experts are telling him is safe.

Ehren Dimistry from River Vale asked if the state has put limitations on using other facilities or properties. Dr. Gundersen replied that at times the school can conduct ceremonies elsewhere. An open-air venue would probably be best. However, it would not be prudent to have graduation at an offsite location. It would be going against the spirit of the legislation.

Rashella Roznitsky from Hillsdale reiterated what the others had been saying. It would be great to have a traditional ceremony. Can we have it in a park or at the church across the street. Anywhere is better than virtually. Dr. Gundersen had considered a staggered graduation but is waiting to hear the guidance from the state.

Jennifer Pacca from Hillsdale asked can we do something on the front of the property; pictures of the students or something that can be seen. Dr. Gundersen said something is in the works for that.

Heather Manspeizer from River Vale feels that the anxiety plays on the parents. The unknown is scary. The communication is key. When will we know, will options be presented, who will vote on the options are all questions? Dr. Gundersen affirmed that the unknown causes anxiety. Once students break social distancing it is problematic. It is very complex. We will make this as memorable for the Class of 2020 as possible, in a safe way.

Dana Mattessich from Hillsdale stated that after June 16, seniors are no longer our students. If the governor says June 30<sup>th</sup> would be an acceptable date, would the district make an exception. Is there any consideration to push it past that date? Dr. Gundersen responded.

Alfredo Alvarado from River Vale said Pascack Hills is doing a teacher video. Pascack Valley is not getting clear answers on what they are doing. Can parents sign waivers to push graduation off into the summer. Dr. Gundersen responded and repeated that he is looking for guidance from the state. He asked if they go after the 16<sup>th</sup> could the school board pay for an insurance policy for that one-day event. Is the board considering something between now and then for the kids?

Kirstie Levine from River Vale commented that the Daytona Speedway is being used in Florida. Could we potentially explore other venues off site? Perhaps the Meadowlands.

Jaime Caruso from River Vale commented that her daughter was inducted into NHS via a virtual ceremony and was disappointed. While she is happy to be recognized it was disappointing.

Ruta Fiorino from Hillsdale asked how the students can say goodbye to their teachers. Dr. Gundersen replied.

Dana Porrazzo from River Vale asked when the caps and gowns would be delivered and also asked about the workload for the students and whether grading would be pass/fail. Dr. Gundersen replied that the caps and gowns are on their way. The senior lawn signs are expected shortly. Dr. Bachenheimer replied that we are not pass/fail. They are encouraging parents to log into genesis and to reach out to the student's teacher if your child is struggling.

Karen Jones from River Vale wanted to know if she sent a thank you to the teacher to the school would it be forwarded. Dr. Gundersen responded.

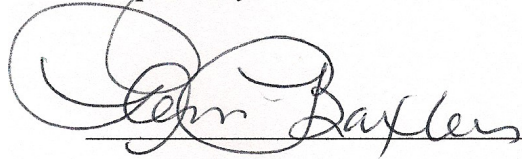
Bailey McNamara, a senior from Pascack Valley, wondered what will happen with the money raised through fundraising.

Ms. Molinelli appreciated all the comments and feedback.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela Baxley", written over a horizontal line.

Pamela Baxley  
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary