

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

April 13, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. online via Zoom - <<https://zoom.us/j/98015573184>>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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>*

Ms. Molinelli asked for all to take a moment of silence for the heroes that are helping during the pandemic.

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to adjourn into an executive meeting at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 7:20 p.m. online via Zoom 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 matter.
 2. Legal matter.

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 7:27 p.m. Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

At this time the meeting resumed.

III. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided 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 21, 2019 and posted to the district website on April 3, 2020.

IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Superintendent's Report: Dr. P. Erik Gundersen

Good evening. This is an unprecedented time for our district and our community and I would like to express our district's thoughts and condolences to the families who have been significantly impacted by the loss of a friend or loved one during this historic public health crisis.

To the health care workers, first responders, government leaders, grocery store clerks, volunteers and others who are assisting our community - thank you.

We are now entering our fourth week of remote learning. As you know, our district has a long history of utilizing technology in a meaningful way, but this complete shift to remote learning has been a herculean undertaking by our administrators, support staff and teachers. Their efforts have been remarkable and our students are responding well to their new learning modality.

Let me be clear - remote learning is far from an ideal method of teaching and learning. However, our students are watching how our teachers are providing innovative methods of teaching, are continually reflecting on our practice, and refining the way we teach our students.

Taking the lead on our shift to remote learning is our Regional Director of Curriculum, Dr. Barry Bachenheimer, who will speak to how we are continuing to educate our students in our new reality.

Dr. Barry Bachenheimer:

Dr. Bachenheimer gave a report on remote learning including news ways to increase student and teacher engagement. He emphasized flexibility. Supervisors are working with teachers to keep student work both manageable and reasonable. Counselors and child study teams continue to provide services virtually. Teachers, coaches and advisors are going above and beyond to engage the community. The staff will continue to adjust for the good of the students and are creating plans for contingencies. He thanked the faculty, support staff, and custodians for their commitment.

Thank you Dr. Bachenheimer to you, the instructional supervisors and our building administrators for leading the way and supporting our teachers.

I have been in close contact with local government officials, particularly the mayors of the four towns and appreciate their partnership and support. Some of the efforts we have made include, but are not limited to:

- Robotics and technology teachers have been utilizing our 3D printers to print face shields for first responders.
- Collecting masks, gloves, and goggles for County medical staff.
- The teacher's association spearheaded an effort to supply meals to the health care professionals at Hackensack University Medical Center at Pascack Valley.
- Serving as a host site for Vilatant Blood Services as the need for blood donations is at a critical point.

We do not know how long we will be engaged in remote learning, but please know that we are constantly reflecting on how we can improve learning for students and will continue to update parents and students of any changes. In addition, our administrative team is exploring ways that we may be able to adjust end-of-year activities for our graduating seniors. Of course, we will keep all parents and students apprised of any developments.

Shifting to the principalship of Pascack Valley High School:

Following the extensive search process for new principals at Pascack Valley and Pascack Hills, the Board approved an outside candidate to serve as the next Principal of Pascack Valley High School; however, the candidate changed his mind, and subsequently, at his request we rescinded his appointment. This unexpected change, in the midst of the global pandemic, left the Board and I in a difficult situation with regard to filling the vacancy for the Pascack Valley Principal as conducting a new and thorough search now would be nearly impossible.

In an effort to provide stability and proven leadership at Pascack Valley during these difficult times, I asked Mr. deMarrais if he would consider postponing his retirement and accept a reassignment to serve as the Pascack Valley Principal. After a great deal of consideration, Mr. deMarrais graciously accepted my request. Last evening, the Board approved to rescind his

resignation due to retirement and to reassign him as the Principal of Pascack Valley High School for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Mr. deMarrais has nearly 20 years of administrative experience in our district and is well respected by his peers. He has a proven track record of highly effective leadership, especially in the areas of school climate and culture. He is well versed in our district vision and mission, and is enthusiastic about helping out our district team. I am grateful to Mr. deMarrais and look forward to working with him as the Principal of Pascack Valley High School, effective July 1, 2020.

Thus concludes the superintendent report for April 13, 2020.

Student Reports:

Sean Sheikowitz – Pascack Hills High School

Classroom Items

Mrs. Mangold Wins NJ State Student Assistance Coordinator of the Year!

Congratulations to Mrs. Mangold for winning NJ State Student Assistance Coordinator of the Year on March 2nd! Thank you for your amazing commitment and passionate dedication to the students of Pascack Hills — we all appreciate your efforts greatly!

Two Juniors Win an Annual Essay Writing Competition!

Congratulations to PHHS juniors, Shayna Solkowitz and Jasmine Delgado, who respectively earned first place and honorable mention in the Annual Sister Rose Thering Fund Essay Competition through their Literature of the Holocaust Class on March 2nd! The topic of the essay was the idea of “welcoming the stranger”. We are so incredibly proud of you guys!

Virtual Learning Begins

On March 16th, PHHS officially went into virtual learning with a sendoff tweet from Mr. deMarrais reading: “Although the hallways are eerily quiet, our dedicated teachers and students are engaging in meaningful virtual learning. The Hills administrative team stands ready to assist and support students, teachers, and parents throughout this uncharted voyage. Stay safe. #HillsPride”.

Co-Curricular Items

Model UN Competition!

On March 3rd, the Pascack Hills Model UN participated in a two day competition at St. Peter's University. They did an amazing job, put forth their best efforts, and had a lot of fun while they were at it. Good job guys!

Alec Boyajian Elected NJ State DECA President!

On March 4th, at the DECA competition, Alec Boyajian's hard work during his campaign to be elected NJ State DECA President finally paid off! The Pascack Hills community is so incredibly proud of him and all his accomplishments on the DECA team. We can't wait to see all the great things he will do as NJ State DECA President!

PHHS Play "Curtains" Was Amazing!

Congrats to the amazing production staff, crew, actors, and musicians behind the PHHS production of "Curtains!", of which opened on March 6th. They had several amazing performances after months of preparation. I, in fact, went to one of them and their hard work very clearly paid off. Bravo!

Athletic Items

PHHS Track Stars Qualify for NJ Meet of Champions!

Congratulations to Max Zuckerman who does the pole vault and Kaia Paulsen who does high jump on qualifying on March 1st for the NJ Meet of Champions! We are so incredibly proud of all the hard work, practice, and energy you have put into this sport — it is clearly paying off! Good job guys!

PHHS Track Stars Named First Team All-County!

Another congratulation goes out to Kaia Paulsen and Max Zuckerman for being named First Team All-County in the High Jump and Pole Vault! Once again, the PHHS community is so happy for you. We are so proud of not only this accomplishment, but also everything you have achieved over the course of this season. Amazing job guys!

Hills Hoops Went to the Sectional Final!

Hills boy's basketball headed to the sectional finals on March 10th after beating Jefferson 59-37 on March 7th. They played Ramsey in the finals, and put up an amazing effort. We are so incredibly proud of all of their hard work over the course of the season, and want to give a special shout out to the Seniors on the team who really played their hearts out. Fantastic job guys!

Academic Awards

PHHS Valedictorian and Salutatorian Named!

Congratulations to Hallie Wikfors for being named Pascack Hills' 2020 Valedictorian! We are so proud of not only the outstanding efforts you put into your academics, but also into Gymnastics, Camp Raspberry, Genetics, Science League, and more! Additionally, we would love to congratulate Miranda Luo for being named Pascack Hills' 2020 Salutatorian! Once again, we are so proud of not only your amazing efforts you put into your academics, but also into Cross Country, Track, Band, Robotics, and more! AMAZING job ladies! So proud and happy for both of you.

Fun Fact

Mr. Wieland had his first social media appearance when Mr. deMarrais tweeted a video of them singing the song "Wagon Wheel" in the empty halls of PHHS on March 20th in order to continue the weekly tradition even while students were in virtual learning.

Joke of the Day

First off, I hope everyone had a very happy Easter, so I figured I'd do a joke along those lines. Q: What is the Easter bunny's favorite kind of music?

A: Hip-Hop!

Thus concludes my report to the Board of Education for March 2020.

Kaila Saladino – Pascack Valley High School

Classroom Items

Mr. Sherman's Video Production classes will once again be participating in the New Jersey 10 Day Film Challenge. In this statewide competition, students have 10 school days to write, shoot and edit a three to four minute film based on the required elements given the morning of Day 1. Last year, one group made it to the Top 30 Awards Screening and took home Best Film by an Underclassman and 8th place overall. The Video Production students are looking forward to this event as they have for the last four years; in addition to defending the title they won last year. Good luck with this year's competition.

Co-Curricular Items

Congratulations to the following DECA participants - Kalia Saladino, Sarah Martin-Moons, and Ava Quinn placed 1st overall in the State DECA Competition for their Integrated Marketing Campaign. Also, Brayden Schwartz, Oren Roznitsky, and Luke Florino placed 3rd overall in the Entrepreneurship Start-Up Campaign. Congratulations to all of the students on an amazing performance at the DECA competition.

The following students; Frances Cortuna, Kathleen Gifford, Emily Rabinowitz, Maddie Rosenthal, Anna Urrea, Angelina Giustra, Rachel Mannasse, Skylar Murphy, Nicole Criscuolo and Sophia Battista will be competing in the STEM League Challenge. Students will need to

complete multiple tasks including, identifying and researching the problem, digitally documenting their work, creating a Computer Aided Drawing, and delivering an oral presentation. Good luck with this year's Challenge.

Athletic Items

Congratulations to Coach Courtney Rems for being named Big North Liberty Division Boys Swim Coach of the Year. This well deserved award reflects the tremendous year the swim team had and the remarkable job Coach Rems and Coach Freeman did as they led the team. Congratulations to Coach Rems and the entire swim team.

Congratulations to Andrew Martinez for being named to the All County First Team for Winter Track. This honor caps off a fantastic season for Andrew and the entire Winter Track team. Congratulations to Andrew and the entire coaching staff.

The Pascack Valley Cheerleading team won the Big North Patriot Division title for the third year in a row. Congratulations to the entire winter competition cheer team and Coach Terzini and Coach Martinez on winning the league title for three years in a row, a truly amazing accomplishment.

Academic Awards

Academic Awards - All

The Pascack Valley Regional HS teachers and community have begun an effort to raise funds in order to supply meals for the brave health care workers at HUMC at Pascack Valley. Please consider participating in this fundraising effort to support all local heroes.

Thus concludes my report to the Board of Education for March 2020

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 16, 2020	Regular Meeting	4:00 p.m.
March 16, 2020	Executive Meeting	4:05 p.m.

3. Rescind Appointment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, rescind the appointment of Brian Hutchinson, previously approved as principal of Pascack Valley High School on March 16, 2020, at his request.

4. Change of Assignment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Glenn deMarrais, principal of Pascack Valley High School, effective July 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. New Hires

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Daniel Pasquale 4/5ths music teacher at Pascack Valley High School, effective August 28, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$54,400, BA, step 7, with health benefits. Salary will be adjusted when PVREA contract negotiations are completed.
- b. **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 at Pascack Hills High School, effective August 28, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$58,300, BA, step 3, with health benefits. Salary will be adjusted when PVREA contract negotiations are completed.

6. Leaves of Absence (Modified)

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following modified Federal/NJ family leave requests:

Name	Position	Requests modified from/to:
Tina Marchiano	PVHS English Teacher	<u>Total Leave Period:</u> From: February 24 – April 3, 2020 To: February 24 – March 20, 2020 Paid using 5 sick days <u>FMLA/NJFLA</u> From: March 2 – April 10, 2020 To: March 2 – March 20, 2020 <u>Leave of Absence</u> From: None To: None
Jamie Marootian-Miller	PHHS English Teacher	<u>Total Leave Period:</u> From: February 19 – June 2, 2020 To: February 24 – April 1, 2020

IX. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 5

1. Approval of Bills Bill List 2, Bill List 3, Bill List 4

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 April 13, 2020	\$1,864,819.08
Payroll as of March 31, 2020	\$1,547,965.30
Total	\$3,412,784.38

2. Compensation for Bus Companies during COVID -19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Council for Special Education has contracts with various bus companies and, due to the enactment of Executive Order 104 (Murphy) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools have been closed to students until further notice; and

WHEREAS, the emergency closure of all schools in the district has also caused the suspension of services provided by bus companies to transport students to and from school; and

WHEREAS, bus company vendors may be forced to lay off bus drivers and cancel our routes for the future which will force the district to bid out all routes at a potential higher cost than offered in a renewal of the routes at the current prevailing Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 1.7%; and

WHEREAS, even though services aren't being currently rendered, the cost of not paying these contracts can potentially be more detrimental to districts than paying for the maintaining of these contracts in the future.

WHEREAS, in consideration for not terminating the Agreement with the Contractor since transportation services will no longer be necessary while schools are closed, the Board will agree to pay the Contractor ninety-percent (90%) of the remaining contract balance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board's payment obligation shall be contingent upon the Contractor furnishing, on a monthly basis, copies of certified payroll records for each driver who was assigned to a route for the Board as of the last day student transportation services were provided prior to schools officially closing, establishing that the driver's salary was paid by the Contractor;

WHEREAS, the parties have amended the terms of the Agreement to memorialize and clarify the respective responsibilities and obligations of the parties as set forth above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves any necessary Addendums reflecting the parties' obligations above.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Addendums shall be forwarded to the Executive County Superintendent for approval.

3. Opposing Delay in Transmission of Quarterly Property Tax Revenue to School Districts

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 3902, currently pending in the State Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay the monthly transmission of property tax revenues to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

WHEREAS, a delay in payments from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process—and bringing it to a halt; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote learning and home instruction; and

WHEREAS, continued timely transmission of school property taxes is critical for the education process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, even though municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, these taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, A-3902, which is intended to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes this legislation would worsen the situation for our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education urges the State Senate and the Governor to oppose A-3902; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the Pascack

Valley Regional High School District Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

4. Emergency Procurement and Contract Modification Food Service

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, authorize the Business Administrator to sign the Letter of Understanding with Pomptonian Food Service to establish an emergency agreement to facilitate the feeding of students until June 30, 2020 during the COVID 19 crisis.

5. Approval to Pay Extra-curricular Stipends

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education ("the Board") and the Pascack Valley Regional Education Association ("the Association") are parties to a employment agreement dated July 1, 2017 ("Agreement") in effect through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that stipends shall be paid for extra-curricular activities, and

WHEREAS, due to COVID-19, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District has remained closed as of March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as a result, in-person meetings, practices and competitive events have discontinued; and advisors, coaches and assistant coaches have maintained contact with, and instructed and encouraged individual activities for club and team members resulting in positive affirmation for students both socially and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, much preparation and planning for these extracurricular activities took place prior to the closing of school; and

WHEREAS, in consideration for not terminating the Agreement with the Association, the Board will agree to continue stipend payments to advisors and coaches through the duration through June 30, 2020, and shall not be precedent setting for future athletic and extra-curricular stipends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized to pay stipends to board-approved advisors, coaches and assistant coaches as stipulated in the current agreement for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Scher asked for an update on the status of capital projects and Ms. Baxley gave an overview of the current work schedule.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

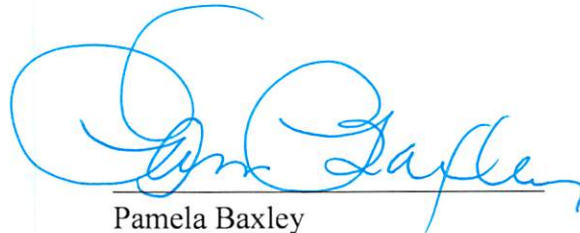
Citizens are invited to make comments and are limited to five minutes, according to the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education policy number 0167. Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and address.

Mr. DeRosa, the council liaison, from Hillsdale spoke on behalf of the borough in thanking the district for the seamless transition to virtual learning. He also thanked Dr. Gundersen for hosting the blood drive at both high schools and for the continued support in bringing school meals to eligible students.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Fronte seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully,



Pamela Baxley
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

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