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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

November 5, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. in the Pascack Hills High School Auditorium.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order in the auditorium at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, President.

Present

Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, President

Mr. Joseph Blundo Ms. Tammy Molinelli Mr. Kenneth Ralph Mr. Arnold Scher Mr. James Stankus Mr. David Steinberg

Absent:

Ms. Janet Bissinger, Vice President

Mr. Brian Hallowell

Also Present: Mr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent

Ms. Pamela Baxley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Student Representatives: Matthew Freidman – PHHS; Olivia Jones – PVHS

Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Steinfeld led all those present in a salute to the flag.

Meeting Regulations

During this regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, comments are invited. The second opportunity will occur just prior to adjournment, when residents may address general comments to the Board with time limits being at the discretion of the President.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and address. The Board reserves the right to establish rules for the conduct of its meetings, including such matters as the time at which the public will be heard, if at all, who may

speak, and for how long. All such rules shall be monitored by the President unless the majority of the Board present and voting, rule otherwise.

Comments and questions shall be limited to issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer shall require the speaker to sit down.

To inspect or obtain a copy of any public record required to be made available under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, Examination and Copies of Public Records, please contact 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

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 June 12, 2018.

IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

One Agenda Item

1. Minutes

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

October 22, 2018	Regular Meeting	8:10 p.m.
October 22, 2018	Executive Meeting	7:02 p.m.

Moved by:	Molir	nelli			Seconded by:	Schei			
				VC	TE				
Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger					Scher	\square			
Blundo					Stankus				
Hallowell				\square	Steinberg				
Molinelli	V				Steinfeld	\square			
Ralph									

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.

VI. POLICY

Consent Agenda for Items 1-3

1. Travel Pre-Authorization

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve travel expense preauthorizations for the following:

Craig Buckley	Laura Ely
Valerie Mattessich	Kate Overgaard

2. BOE Policies and Regulations - First Reading

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

Name of Policy or Regulation	Policy/ Reg Number
Disclosure and Review of Applicant's Employment History	<u>P 1613</u>
Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities	<u>P 5561</u>
Petty Cash	P6620
Disclosure and Review of Applicant's Employment History	<u>R1613</u>
Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students	
with Disabilities	<u>R 5661</u>

3. Abolish BOE Policy

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, abolish Regulation 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Investigation Procedure as the procedures have been incorporated into Policy 5512 adopted on July 25, 2018.

Moved by:	Scher				Seconded by:	Moli	nelli		
				VC	TE				
Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger					Scher	\square			
Blundo	\square				Stankus	\square			
Hallowell					Steinberg				
Molinelli					Steinfeld				
Ralph	Ø								

VII. EDUCATION

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 6

1. 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 out-of-district placement for student ID #809142 to Paradigm Therapeutic Day School, Midland Park for the 2018-2019 school year effective October 30, 2018, tuition is pro-rated to \$54,340.

2. Shared Time Placement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the placement of student ID #808792 at Rockland BOCES, Nyack, NY for the 2018-2019 school year effective October 25, 2018, tuition is pro-rated to \$12,208.

3. Additional Period Assignments

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve an additional period assignment for <u>Courtney Farrell</u>, Spanish teacher at Pascack Valley High School, for 2 additional periods per week for the 2018-2019 school year, effective October 22, 2018.
- b. RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve an additional period assignment for <u>Annette Molino</u>, FACS teacher at Pascack Valley High School, for 5 additional periods per week from October 29, 2018 through approximately November 12, 2018.

4. Additional Hours

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve additional hours for three district staff members, at the teacher assistant hourly rate of \$26.53, to accompany five students, as per their IEPs, to participate on the Pascack Hills High School bowling team, for approximately 35 hours each for the 2018-2019 winter season.

5. Speech Evaluator - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Good Talking People, LLC as a speech evaluator for Region II school districts at the rates of \$400 per session for speech evaluation, \$800 per session for speech language evaluation, and \$2,000 per session for comprehensive speech language evaluation.

6. Park Academy Consultant - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Karen Elder as part-time art teacher to provide services to the Park Academy for the 2018-2019 school year, approximately 2.5 hours per week, at the rate of \$60 per hour.

Moved by:	Scher	•			Seconded by:	Moli	nelli		
				VC	TE				
Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger				$ \overline{\vee} $	Scher	Ø			
Blundo	\square				Stankus	\square			
Hallowell				\checkmark	Steinberg	\square			
Molinelli	\square				Steinfeld				
Ralph	\square								

Mr. Scher asked what the acronym in item number two, BOCES stood for and Mr. Gundersen explained it represented a vocational program.

VIII. HUMAN RESOURCES - CERTIFICATED

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 3

1. Leave of Absence - Revised

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

Name	Position	Requests:
Marissa Watters	PHHS Child	Total Leave Period:
	Study Team	August 28 – December 14, 2018
	LDTC	Paid using 0 sick days
		FMLA/NJFLA
		August 28 – November 19, 2018
		Leave of Absence
		November 20 – December 14, 2018

2. New Hire

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Danielle Nelson, leave replacement physical education teacher at Pascack Valley High School for Melissa Velez from November 19, 2018 through March 29, 2019, at the annual salary of \$51,500, pro-rated, BA, step 1, with health benefits.

3. Mentor

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Andrea Padelsky, physical education teacher, as a mentor for Danielle Nelson, maternity leave replacement physical education teacher at Pascack Valley High School from November 19, 2018 through March 29, 2018.

Moved by:	Scher				Seconded by:	Stank	cus		
•				VC	TE			- 6	
Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger	П			V	Scher	\square			
Blundo	\square				Stankus	\square			
Hallowell					Steinberg				
Molinelli	<u> </u>				Steinfeld				
Ralph									

IX. HUMAN RESOURCES - NON-CERTIFICATED

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 5

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 Barbara Palko, executive secretary for special services at Pascack Hills High School, for the purposes of retirement, effective December 31, 2018.

2. Substitute Teacher and Nurse

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following substitute teacher and nurse for the 2018-2019 school year:

Name	Type of Substitute
John Bruppacker	New- Substitute Teacher
David Jones	New-Substitute Nurse

3. Athletic Appointments

a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Sean Cosgrove as assistant coach for the district ice hockey team for a stipend of \$6,970, step 3, for the 2018-2019 winter season.

b. RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Michael Holl as co-assistant coach for the Pascack Hills High School boys lacrosse team for a stipend of \$3,485, ½ of step 3, for the 2018-2019 winter season. Mr. Holl will replace Mr. Kennelly who was previously approved as co-assistant coach for the boys lacrosse team.

4. ABA Behavior Consultant - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Kaitlin Arcidiacono as a part-time ABA Behavior Consultant for Region II for the 2018-2019 school, at the rate of \$50 per hour.

5. ABA Instructional Assistant

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Linda Haggerty as a part-time ABA Instructional Assistant for Region II for the 2018-2019 school year, effective November 5, 2018, at the rate of \$30 per hour.

Moved by:	Scher				Seconded by:	Blune	do		
				VC	TE				
Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger				\square	Scher	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$			
Blundo	\square				Stankus				
Hallowell				$\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$	Steinberg				
Molinelli					Steinfeld				
Ralph									

Mr. Steinfeld read the resignation in number one into the record. Mr. Gundersen commented that Ms. Palko is a well-regarded employee.

X. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 5

1. Approval of Bills

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve bills as follows:

Budget Expenditures as of November 5, 2018	\$1,143,454.08
Payroll as of October 31, 2018	\$1,899,525.17
Total	\$3,042,979.25

2. Repurpose Capital Outlay Funds

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") redesigned the requirements for the Breezeway at Pascack Valley Regional High School (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the projected price now based upon modifications to the scope of work, is estimated to be \$117,982 which is \$82,924 lower than the original budget; and

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") twice advertised for bids for the Breezeway at Pascack Hills Regional High School and

WHEREAS, the proposed construction costs are \$37,000 over the original cost projections; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of awarding the contract for the Breezeway at Pascack Hills Regional High School at the higher amount of \$181,500,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, repurpose \$50,000 of the available funds from the Pascack Valley Breezeway Project to the Pascack Hills Breezeway Project.

3. Designation of Johnson Controls as Proprietary

WHEREAS, the Johnson Controls technology products sought by the Pascack Valley Regional High School District are of such a specialized nature that only such products will meet the needs of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District; and

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District has heavily invested time and funds into the acquisition and integration of Metasys Building Automation Software/Johnson Controls products in local operations that will be wasted if non-Johnson Controls Services and Products were used to supplement and maintain the existing technology; and

WHEREAS, the use of non-Johnson Controls products would require either the wholesale replacement of the technology currently used by the Pascack Valley Regional High School District or an unsupportable level of training, support and maintenance services that would utterly defeat the purpose of the public contracting laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District hereby authorizes the purchase of proprietary Johnson Controls Products and Services.

4. Submission of 2017 - 2020 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of Pascack Valley Regional High School District are consistent with these requirements; and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education hereby authorizes the school business administrator to submit the 2017 – 2020 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Pascack Valley Regional High School District in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

5. Award Contract - Breezeways Security Enclosure Project at Pascack Hills High School

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education ("Board") advertised for bids for the Breezeways Security Enclosure Project at Pascack Hills High School ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2018, the Board received bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the low bidder, La Rocca, Inc., submitted a bid with a base bid of \$181,500; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by La Rocca, Inc. is responsive in all material respects and it is the Board's desire to award the contract for the Project to La Rocca, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

- 1. The Board hereby awards the contract for the Project to La Rocca, Inc. for a total contract sum of \$181,500.
- 2. This award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, and an executed A-101, Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, and an A-201, General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the bid documents approved by the Board for the Project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Mr. Scher commented on the temperature problems in the auditorium and asked a question about the comprehensive maintenance plan.

Moved by:	Scher				Seconded by:	Moli	nelli		
	-			VC	TE				
Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger				\square	Scher				
Blundo	\square				Stankus				
Hallowell				\square	Steinberg				
Molinelli					Steinfeld	\checkmark			
Ralph	\checkmark								

XI. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Molinelli congratulated the Pascack Hills theatre group and commented that the show was terrific and the students were remarkable. Mr. Steinfeld agreed.

Mr. Scher asked when the music room project would begin. Ms. Baxley responded.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Student Activities Committee: Mr. Scher gave the highlights of the meeting. He commented that each of the high schools have new clubs. Pascack Hills has the Business Club and Female Empowerment Club. Pascack Valley has the Math League and Girls Who Code. The French Honor Society will be open to both schools now. He went on to review the different sports from each school.

XIII. 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.

Ms. Michelle Silver from Hillsdale addressed the board to say that she was made aware of a swastika that was found in a Pascack Valley bathroom in the beginning of October and the community had not been informed. It should be considered a great teachable moment and it is frightening to think it was hidden.

Mr. Gundersen responded by explaining that there were actually two discovered in Pascack Valley. The district had a prior situation several years ago and had reached out to the anti-defamation league to combat hate. As we were educated to do, we notified police and shut down the bathroom so other students would not have to be exposed to this symbol of hate. The administration had an active conversation with the student government. A month later, another swastika was discovered. That bathroom partition was also removed and we are still investigating in cooperation with the Hillsdale Police.

The district takes this very seriously but did not believe our students were in danger. Typically blast emails are sent to the community when there is a danger. As no danger existed, it did not warrant that type of notification. The school has engaged student government about what we can do as a community. We are not hiding anything and are trying to work collectively with student government. The administration has also been in contact with local religious leaders and the new assistant director of the anti-defamation league and are open to their guidance.

Sharon Cohen Alessi of Hillsdale thanked Mr. Gundersen for reaching out to her in an email. As a parent of Jewish children in the school, with the heightened amount of hate crimes, she wonders if there is an opportunity to have a heightened response. This is the fourth incident in our school. Mr. Steinfeld commented that we reached out to the anti-defamation league as we realize that these are troubled times. We do make our students aware.

Mr. Gundersen explained that school is a reflection of society. Unfortunately we have students that say and do inappropriate things. We are doing our best to educate students and make them aware of how painful that symbol is to all of us. We have a variety of clubs, the Human Rights League and courses on the holocaust and one of the board district goals is an equity study to focus on how we can use language that is respectful of all different beliefs and cultures. We recognize that things happen, we are trying our best to create a nurturing environment for our students.

Caroline Reiter was also there about the swastika incident. She appreciated the comments but was disappointed that she did not hear about this from the school administration. Without letting the community know or addressing the community with an assembly, how will the students know this is not tolerated. Saying nothing when people know about it gives off the impression that the school tolerates it. There was no public denouncement to the student body. It also gives the impression that the school doesn't want to talk about it.

Mr. Gundersen said he was taking to heart what she is saying and the board will discuss what the appropriate response should be. We believe these markings to be an isolated incident and need to balance this against student anxiety created on everything that is in the news.

There can be negative consequences for sharing every unfortunate incident that takes place in the school. We believe in being open and transparent about what is taking place and share with the entire community if student safety is in jeopardy. Tonight's meeting is a public statement. It is videotaped. We had two incidents and are opening up the dialogue in an effort to handle it strongly yet sensitively. Concerned citizens are welcome to meet with Mr. Gundersen directly.

Pastor Marc Stutzel from Christ Lutheran Church in Woodcliff Lake said that when it comes to Nazi ideology the chief concern should be protecting those who are being marginalized. The best response is a community response. A public no is necessary. This is a problem for the wider community. He wants to encourage reaching out to all faith leaders. We will do our part as well.

Mr. Steinfeld asked the student representative Olivia to share information about what the student organization has done in response to this situation. She explained that Mr. Puccio came to the council meeting to discuss what had transpired. In response the council ran the Week of Respect to encourage tolerance in the school. It is a difficult topic to bring up with students but they have tried to encourage conversation and questions. It was definitely addressed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Molinelli to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Mr. Stankus 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.