

**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





## 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 Courtney Farrell, 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 Annette Molino, 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.







## **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: Molinelli

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Bissinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blundo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	Steinfeld	<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"/>					

**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.

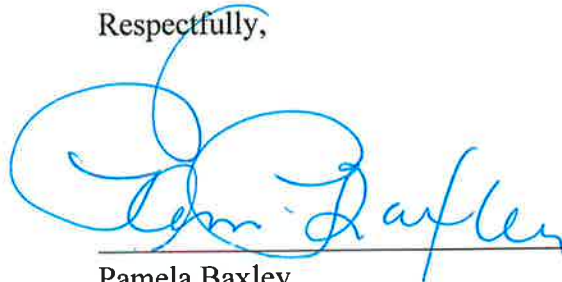
Pastor Marc Stutzel from Christ Lutheran Church in Woodcliff Lake said that when it comes to Nazi ideology the chief concern should be protecting those who are being marginalized. The best response is a community response. A public no is necessary. This is a problem for the wider community. He wants 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