

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

December 19, 2016

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pascack Hills High School Auditorium.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order in the faculty cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, President.

Present: Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, President
Mr. Joseph Blundo
Mr. Brian Hallowell
Ms. Tammy Molinelli
Mr. Kenneth Ralph
Mr. Arnold Scher
Mr. David Steinberg

Absent: Ms. Janet Bissinger, Vice President
Mrs. Maura Ellis

Also Present: Mr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent
Ms. Pamela Baxley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Scher to enter into an executive session at 6:32 p.m. Mr. Hallowell seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Faculty Cafeteria at Pascack Hills High School, 225 W. Grand Avenue, Montvale, 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: litigation.
3. The Board will return to the Regular Board Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
4. Official action may or may not be taken when the Board reconvenes to Public Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Hallowell to return into the public meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

At this time the meeting resumed in the auditorium.

Also present at that time were:

Student Representatives: Alexandra Gluck – PHHS; Kelly Petro – PVHS

Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

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 July 22, 2016 and December 16, 2016.

IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Superintendent's Report: Mr. P. Erik Gundersen

Congratulations to all recognized students and staff members this evening! We are so proud of your accomplishments, appreciate how you represent this district, and are honored to have you here this evening where we can recognize your tremendous achievements!

Over the last few weeks our district has had to deal with the incomprehensible reality of dealing with the loss of one of our students by suicide. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the Gonzales – Farrell family as they navigate through the grieving process.

Last week NJEA's television program – Classroom Closeup NJ – was on site as they are putting together a feature on our NJ Teacher of the Year – Ms. Safari. In addition, we are proud to host our Education Commissioner Ms. Harrington on January 3rd as she will be in district to meet with Ms. Safari, visit classrooms and honor Ms. Safari on behalf of the NJ Department of Education. We look forward to her visit!

We recently hosted a school visitation by the Director of Innovation at the NJ Department of Education - Joshua Koen. Mr. Koen has visited us previously, but was particularly interested in witnessing how we continue to serve as a test-bed for competency based instruction at the high school level, how we have redesigned some of our educational spaces to promote student interaction and inquiry, and how technology is truly embedded into the fabric of what we do in our schools. We look forward to working with him on the #FutureReadyNJ initiative.

In an effort to learn more about what we can do to further enhance the student experience at PV and PH – I accompanied 4 staff members and teams from Park Ridge, Emerson, and Wyckoff to the Elizabeth Forward and South Fayette School Districts outside of Pittsburg. We visited these districts as they are members of the league of innovative schools with our district and have focused on STEAM education and computational thinking in a thoughtful and systematic manner K-12. We are gathering information on innovative programs in these subject areas as work to update our own curriculum in the region.

Finally, as we quickly approach the holiday break – I want to wish all of you a safe, joyous, and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends.

Thus concludes the Superintendent's Report for December 19, 2016.

Student Reports: Alexandra Gluck – Pascack Hills High School

I'd like to begin my report commending both the boys' and girls' basketball teams for defeating Riverdell in the season opener this past Friday. Winter sports at Pascack Hills have commenced, and the Cowboy Crazies are excited for the winter sport season.

Last week the Pascack Valley seniors spoke to Pascack Hills seniors about suicide prevention. Their presentation was effective and personable. Wellness counselors from both schools were on hand and educated students about how to deal with such a tragedy.

The holiday season is a time where students want to give back to the community. Every year the Project Paterson club conducts a Holiday Toy Drive. Thanks to the generous donations by students and faculty, I am unbelievably proud to say that 1507 toys were donated. Vans were filled up with toys and delivered to the New Jersey Community Development in Paterson. Our school is this organization's biggest donor. Without Hills' assistance, as explained by the project manager, the organization wouldn't be able to provide for as many families in need. It is truly amazing that Pascack Hills is able to get so involved in such an incredible organization.

PHHS altruism continued with the National Honor Society's Empty Bowl Project that went on throughout the beginning of December. The soup was prepared by local merchants and sold with bread and bowls that were created by our art students. All proceeds went to a great cause called *Stop Hunger Now*.

On December 7th hundreds of people came to watch the annual PHHS band and chorus concert. Students also got to witness the amazing performance during the Pascack Period, where the student A Capella group and faculty choir also performed. Everyone is excited to watch the traditional caroling that will take place this Friday. It is a great way to get the school into the holiday spirit. Additionally, the choir will visit Fieldstone and Woodcliff Lake middle schools with the concerts this Wednesday.

And the latest PHHS news, today the teachers of the year were announced. First, in our guidance department, congratulations to Mr. Cherichello on being selected the 2016-2017 Pascack Hills educational professional of the year! Secondly, please congratulate with me the 2016-17 Pascack Hills Teacher of the year, Ms. Mahaffey. A sincere thank you to both of these great professionals for all that they do each day for our students, and for their immeasurable contributions to the positive culture of PHHS.

Lastly, the winter pep rally will be held this Wednesday, and spirit week has permeated holiday cheer throughout the hallways at Hills. Everyone is excited for the start of a new year. This concludes my December Report and I wish you all happy holidays and a healthy and safe New Year.

Kelly Petro – Pascack Valley High School

The Government classes again were treated to the Jeff Steinfeld and Larry Meyerson Law Seminar Show. The topic: immigration. And, in this political climate, the topic was timely and appropriate. As always, these two lawyers are totally entertaining, engaging and charming. The kids are so funny in their responses. They truly love the experience. If you as Board Members have the time, on their spring visit, come on by; a true treat awaits.

The Spanish National Honor Society raised \$190 in October to donate to victims of the earthquake this past spring in Ecuador. They also raised \$285 in November and December to help purchase gifts for a family in need living in Hackensack, NJ.

Pascack swimming opened their season against Wayne Hills on Friday, December 9th with a win for the girls. Cassie Freeman broke her own school record in the 200 yard freestyle, and she broke the longest outstanding record in the 50 yard freestyle in the second meet against Ridgewood.

PV's Class of 2020 chose their class cause in November and looks forward to supporting the Alzheimer's Association for the next four years.

Ryan Miller and Josh Ulin were named to the 2nd team All State Star Ledger Soccer Team. Michael Lin, Ryan Miller, and Josh Ulin were also named to 1st team All North Jersey Team. The Soccer Team finished # 2 in the final North Jersey poll. Congratulations to the entire Soccer Team for a truly successful season.

The PV Network, JAC Club and the Girls' Basketball team ran a No Shave November campaign. The faculty and students participated in a Best Beard Contest, the members of the Girls' Basketball team took photos of students and faculty with mustaches for the mustache wall of fame. They raised \$500.00 for The Brian Long Memorial Foundation. Brian was a resident of Park Ridge, police officer for 25 years, a husband, son, friend and father of three. He lost his battle to cancer this past June. Thank you for all those who donated to this worthy cause.

Pascack Valley HS held the 15th annual World Language Honor Societies' Induction Ceremony in the PV Auditorium on Tuesday, December 6. The inducted students received a certificate of membership and recited a pledge in the respective world language. At the end of the ceremony, students performed a multilingual version of "We Are the World." All administration, faculty, family, friends and community members were welcomed at this event, followed by a reception. Seniors students accepted in the Honor Societies have maintained a 3.7 GPA, or higher; in four continuous years of study in French, Italian, Spanish, or Chinese. Students are required to fulfill service hours through peer tutoring, a service project, and participation in community and school events.

On Thursday, December 8, Italian 3 students attended a field trip to the Westchester Italian Cultural Center, where they learned more about Italian holiday traditions and about Carnevale. Also, they had a chance to create their own Venetian masks, and make their own individual pizza (which turned out to be delicious!)

The Interact Club collected new toys for the children at the Center for Hope and Safety.

The American Legion Post 162 expressed a "thank you" to Pascack Valley students and faculty for sending a "moment of home" to servicemen and women who are on active duty in the U.S. military during the Christmas and Holiday Season. English and Social Studies classes, including American Studies, wrote letters to those identified by the American Legion from our area. More than half of the young men and women on the list are PV Graduates. Many students wrote personal notes to those they know from town or through siblings. In addition, Ms. Mathias and Ms. Jerome offered coats that were donated to give to homeless veterans in Bergen County. The American Legion was very appreciative of our

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize and commend these students for their outstanding achievement.

2. 2016 JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention Write-offs

WHEREAS, Kayla Barry, a sophomore at Pascack Valley High School, received an Excellent Award for Feature Writing, and Madison Gallo, a sophomore at Pascack Valley High School, received an Honorable Mention Award for News Writing at the 2016 JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention Write-offs.

About 100 student journalists from all over the country listen to a brief news-related presentation, participate in a question and answer session with the person, and then are given 90 minutes to write a news story. The stories are judged that night by a nationwide panel of experts. Participants can potentially win one of three awards – Superior, Excellent, or Honorable Mention. About one-third of participants receive an award, and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education recognize and commend Kayla and Madison for their outstanding achievement.

3. Soccer Coach of the Year

WHEREAS, Roy Nygren, Boys Soccer Coach at Pascack Valley High School, was chosen to be New Jersey Soccer Coaches Association State Coach of the Year and The Star Ledger Big North Coach of the Year, and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend Mr. Nygren for his outstanding achievement.

BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

VI. PRESENTATION

Annual audit Presentation – Bud Jones of Nisivoccia, L.L.P.

VII. 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.

Ms. Carol Lee Adams questioned item number 4 - ESEA Accountability. Mr. Gundersen responded and explained the action plans we are implementing and the reasons for them. Ms. Adams commented on parent participation for this area and Mr. Gundersen responded. She noted that parent participation is always beneficial.

Consent Agenda for Items 2 – 6

2. Approval of the Following Reports

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| a. Cafeteria Account | November 2016 |
| b. e-Learning Account | November 2016 |
| c. Capital Project Account | November 2016 |
| d. Student Government Account - PH | November 2016 |
| e. Student Government Account - PV | November 2016 |
| f. Athletic Account – PH | November 2016 |
| g. Athletic Account – PV | November 2016 |
| h. Compensating Balance | November 2016 |

3. Board Office Lease Agreement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the five year lease with Cach Investment, LLC for 5,576 rentable square feet of office space at 28 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, New Jersey 07645. The estimated commencement date of the lease is June 1, 2017. The actual commencement date shall be the date that is four months after the delivery of possession to the board, as the parties understand that the premises are currently under construction. The board agrees to pay the landlord a fixed annual rent, payable in equal monthly installments on the first day of each month during the term of this lease as follows:

| Lease Year | Annual Fixed Rent | Monthly Installment |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$105,944.00 | \$8,828.66 |
| 2 | \$108,732.00 | \$9,061.00 |
| 3 | \$111,520.00 | \$9,293.33 |
| 4 | \$114,308.00 | \$9,525.66 |
| 5 | \$117,096.00 | \$9,758.00 |

4. Use Permit Application

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, authorize the filing of the use permit application with the Borough of Montvale for the office space at 28 West Grand Avenue.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and address.

Mr. DeRosa from Hillsdale commended the board for the way they handled the dreadful incident last week at Pascack Valley. A resolution from Hillsdale to record school board meetings was proposed and he voted for it because he believes the recordings should be unedited. He also thanked Ms. Ellis for her service on the board. Mr. Gundersen explained that she will be formally recognized at a later date. Mr. DeRosa thanked everyone for their service throughout the year.

Ms. Carol Lee Adams. She wished everyone a happy holiday. She attended the Pascack Hills holiday concert where Dr. Wilhelm directed a 96 member band. It was an extraordinary performance. She asked who pays for the police officer on the premises. Mr. Gundersen explained that we pay \$30,000 a year per school to the towns.

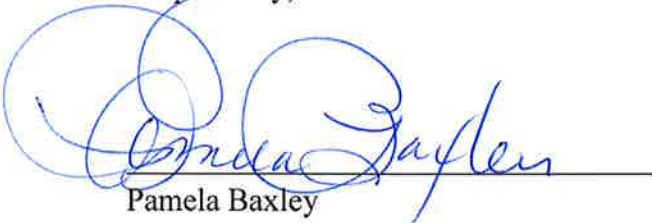
Regarding videotaping she referenced the editorial from the record. She agreed with that editorial. She will be sending articles to the board regarding studies from MIT for future meetings with Mr. Kohen. To what extent as to academic performance should technology be taught? If public schools don't satisfy the needs of students then charter schools will take over.

Judith Care from Hillsdale congratulated the students for their awards tonight. She is happy that the meetings will be televised. Many seniors are unable to get out for the evening meetings. Seniors don't want an edited copy of the meeting.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Blundo to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Hallowell seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully,



Pamela Baxley

Business Administrator/ Board Secretary