

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

July 27, 2016

Minutes of the Board Retreat of the Board of Education held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.in the Pascack Hills High School Media Center.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order in the Media Center at 9:00 a.m.by Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, President.

Present: Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, President
Ms. Janet Bissinger, Vice President
Mr. Joseph Blundo
Mrs. Maura Ellis
Mr. Brian Hallowell
Ms. Tammy Molinelli
Mr. Arnold Scher
Mr. David Steinberg

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

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.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

1. Welcome 9:18
2. Merit Goals – Mr. P. Erik Gundersen

Mr. Gundersen went over the superintendent merit goals answering questions from board members in each area and explaining in depth the progress that has been made over the year.

- a. Improve communications with municipal governments.
- b. Capitalize on the involvement with the League of Innovative School, Innovate NJ and the Future Ready project to strategize three actionable items to benefit student learning and achievement.

- c. Expand the teacher cadet program to partner with two neighbouring school districts.
 - d. The Equity Study was to be discussed later.
 - e. Solidify vision of district guidance department to focus on enhancing career development, emotional wellness as well as college search process.
3. Equity Study – Mr. P. Erik Gundersen was joined by Mr. DeMaio, Mr. DeMarrais, Mr. Bachenheimer

Mr. Gundersen reviewed the equity study between the two high schools covering the following areas:

- Budgets by school and by subject for salaries, supplies, co-curricular and athletics.
- Facilities by school.
- Athletics by school.
- Co-Curricular including district wide and unique offerings by school.
- Curriculum presented by Mr. Bachenheimer.
- Student demographics including student to faculty, administrator and guidance.
- Student and faculty absences.
- Teacher experience and degree level.

Mr. Blundo asked about the future enrollment in each school and the capacity at each school.

4. Ethics Training – Mr. Matthew Lee – Charlene Petersen-NJ School Boards Association

Mr. Lee & Ms. Petersen reviewed an update for the school official ethics. They went over:

- NJQSAC and Ethics responsibilities
- Code of Ethics- Do's and don'ts, Areas of concern and a test of the member's knowledge.
- The ethical and responsible board member.
- Review of the evaluation.

5. Lunch Break

6. Board Self-Evaluation – Mr. Matthew Lee – NJ School Boards Association

Mr. Lee went over the data that was submitted by the board regarding their self-evaluation and commented on areas of concern. Overall the board did very well.

The charts addressing the board score to value, the board self-evaluation compares scores for 2015-16 and the score for the board as a whole vs. the score to the individual members.

7. Goal Development - Mr. Matthew Lee – NJ School Boards Association

Mr. Lee went over the difference between board goals and district goals. Board goals are about improving the process and procedures of the board. The board itself is responsible for those goals. The district goals are the ones in the superintendent's evaluation.

He went over the previous year's goals and the progress that was made against them.

District Goals:

He spoke about infusing the soft skills, public speaking, and career readiness into the first goal of providing authentic career or college opportunities for students. The action plan to attain this goal may be different than last year and will be developed by the administration team. This goal will include the population of students that did not finish college. A mechanism to track this population will be part of the action plan. The board would like to survey these students to ask 'where was the student not prepared'.

Pascack Period - a discussion took place regarding whether we need to redefine this period, monitor and or refine the content area.

Add a goal to monitor the impact of the student liaisons in the schools and the effectiveness of the new guidance positions. Have the additions had the impact of making our existing counsellors more effective? Have they helped prepare the students for the first year of college life?

Expand the awareness of sexual assault and prepare our students, male and female, for that issue. The action plan must address how this is communicated to the parents.

A goal to assess technology future steps, virtual school days, and meet with our apple partners. Use the Apple think tank to jump on the next technology wave. Tie this into our media centers. Create a roadmap for the next generation technology.

Board Goals:

To improve connections with individual municipal communities. Establish a Community Advisory Committee with the superintendent and board that invites the liaisons from the municipal governments, seniors, students, and K8 districts. Give presentations addressing issues and how the school can play a role.

8. Discussion Topics

a. School Security

Mr. DeMarrais and Mr. DeMaio assisted Mr. Gundersen explaining the school security needs. They reviewed an article for board discussion from Education Week regarding districts getting bold on school security. A discussion took place on whether the board wants to arm the security personnel.

b. Student Wellness and Guidance - Mr. Struncis addressed wellness and the initiatives with the guidance advisory committee and the impact that the extra summer guidance hours and the new positions have had on the schools. Help for students with the greatest needs are the top priority.

- c. Assessment Mods – Mr. Bachenheimer gave an update on moving this professional development forward. He discussed Canvas and the Future Ready Grant. He went over standards based grading and this important shift for the students. Does the student meet the standard and what kind of feedback will the teacher give back regarding how he met the standard. What does the student need to do to meet the standard verses what the student needs to do to get an ‘A’? He also discussed the feedback communication. Career development in terms of having speakers from the private sector come address the students.

- d. Construction – Mr. Gundersen addressed the ongoing and future construction projects.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Ellis to enter into an executive session at 3:53 p.m. Mr. Hallowell seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

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;

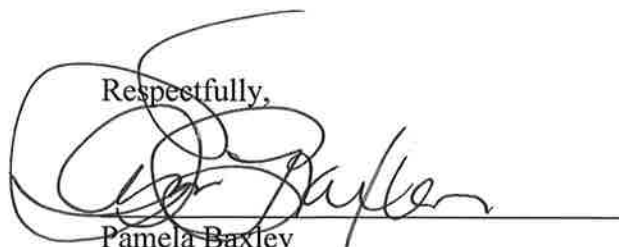
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board on the date indicated above that:

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:
 - a. HIB Incident
3. The Board will return to the Regular Board Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
4. Official action may or may not be taken when the Board reconvenes to Public Session.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Bissinger to adjourn at 3:53 p.m. Ms. Molinelli seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Respectfully,



Pamela Baxley
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

