# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Pascack Valley Regional High School District

November 20, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. in the Pascack Valley High School Media Center.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order in the Pascack Valley High School Media Center at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Brian Hallowell

Present: Mr. Joseph Blundo

Mr. Brian Hallowell Ms. Tammy Molinelli Mr. Kenneth Ralph Mr. Arnold Scher Mr. James Stankus Mr. David Steinberg

Absent: Mr. Jeffrey Steinfeld, President

Ms. Janet Bissinger, Vice President

Also Present: Mr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent

Ms. Pamela Baxley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

# II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Hallowell 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 12, 2017 and November 19, 2017.

## MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Scher to enter into an executive session at 7:03 p.m. Ms. Molinelli seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center Classroom at Pascack Valley High School, 200 Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale, 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:
  - a. A personnel matter
  - b. Possible HIB incidents
- 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. Blundo to return into the public meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Scher seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

At this time the meeting resumed in the media center.

Also present at that time were:

Student Representatives: Michael Port – PHHS; Amelia Moran – PVHS Ms. Claudia Gibbs, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

#### IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Superintendent's Report: Mr. P. Erik Gundersen

Good evening and thank you to the students and families who are present here this evening. We are thrilled to be recognizing the students who have worked hard to become members of the Bergen County Choir as well as our students who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts. In addition, we have the honor of welcoming our NJ Teacher of the Year who has received the 2018 California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence. We are excited to honor your accomplishments here this evening!

Earlier this month, Northern Ignite Innovation Cluster, Bergen County Superintendents, administrators, and teachers had the opportunity to learn about several Pascack programs including our: wellness center, seal of bi-literacy program, computer science in Algebra I initiative, technology education program, Pascack CAPS internship program, our innovative spaces, and our Pascack Schedule.

Thus concludes the Superintendent's Report for November 20, 2017.

Student Reports: Michael Port – Pascack Hills High School

Since our last report, the fall athletic season has officially come to a close. Collectively, it was a very strong season, with all but one team finishing the fall campaign with a winning record. With that, the winter season kicks off with tryouts for most of our sports starting today.

Earlier this month 24 new members were inducted into the Hills Chapter of the National Honor Society at an evening ceremony held in the media center.

In the first week of November, The Hills theater program put on four outstanding performances of *Bonnie and Clyde*. All four showings were well attended and received great reviews from both staff and students.

This year's Dig Pink event, a team fundraising effort between Teens Against Cancer and Volleyball raised \$3,500 for the Side Out Foundation, an organization dedicated to breast cancer research and treatment.

The Debate team season is off to a strong start. In the first two events of the season held at Northern Highlands and Pascack Valley, Yash Khatiwala received a 1st place and 2nd place speaker award. At PV Krupal Sharma and Dillon Blowers went, 4 and 0, taking home 2nd place.

Hills Interact Club is in the process of collecting non-perishable food for the annual Thanksgiving drive. All donations will go to local food pantries.

On November 3rd, the Trailblazer produced and shared its first video news cast, "The Pascack Recap". The production teamed the Trailblazer reporting staff with Mrs. Manzella's advanced video class to produce a 7 minute news show that included video taken with the new drone. The next episode is scheduled to air this Wednesday on the Trailblazer YouTube Channel.

This past weekend, the Hills Peer Leaders completed their overnight leadership training trip to Camp Mason in Hartwick, NJ. The peer leaders would like to thank the board of education for supporting this valuable bonding experience.

Lastly, this Wednesday morning Hills will be hosting the first ever Alumni bagel breakfast in the cafeteria. The event will be funded by the PFA and hopes to provide an opportunity for recent college graduates to come back and reconnect with classmates and staff members. Based on responses, it is a crowd of 60+ graduates which are expected to attend.

On behalf of the Hills Student government, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. This concludes my November report.

Amelia Moran - Pascack Valley High School

The garden planted by the Environmental Club near the tennis courts has recently become certified by the Bergen County Audubon Society by meeting the requirements of the Certified Wildlife Garden program.

The club, One Spirit, is purchasing holiday gifts for a family with 8 children on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. The club is also accepting donations that can be dropped off in room <u>230 or 234</u> until the end of the month - new toys and hygiene products will be accepted.

Boys' soccer won the Big North National Division for the 3rd consecutive year. Josh Ulin and TJ Mastowski made first team all-county. Justin Schaumberger won the JCC Kaplan scholar athlete award. He will be receiving a \$1,000 scholarship from Phil and Chris Simms on November 29. T.J. and Josh also will be playing in the Senior All-Star game at Fort Lee High School on November 22.

The Smoke Signal reasserted itself as one of the state's premiere journalism programs on Oct. 31 at the Garden State Scholastic Press Association's Fall Conference, where it won 37 awards, including three of the top awards a staff can win. For the second straight year, The Smoke Signal was awarded the Distinguished Journalism Award for print in the middle Division B size classification.

November 1 to 7 was National French Week, in which classes celebrated French culture and language. Also, students in both schools participated in a digital poster contest, which appeared on the first episode of PV TV News.

On November 7, Veterans visited several history classes, including Mr. Jasper and Ms. Kosch's classes. It was a most perfect history lesson, most notably including, a PV Grad, PV Parents, PV Grandparents and our own PV Colleagues, helping all of us to better understand the meaning of service. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

On November 7 and 8, the Executive Council held its annual Homes for Our Troops fundraiser. Thanks to the extreme generosity of the PV community, council members collected \$1,100. Congratulations to Ms. Kosch and Ms. Piccoline's classes for having the highest donation averages and earning a free breakfast.

The PVHS World Language Honor Society Induction ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend!

The PV World Cultures Club will host the Annual Thanksgiving-Thankfulness Potluck Luncheon. Members will prepare a dish or a dessert to taste and share, to reflect their own culture or a culture they relate to.

PV Theatre's annual Fall Food Drive ("Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat") collected over 200 pounds of donations for the River Vale Food Bank. This past weekend, the theatre troupe presented the NJ Premiere of *CRUSH* by Stephen Gregg to large and enthusiastic audiences.

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:

November 6, 2017	Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
November 6, 2017	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Hallowell invited the mayor of Montvale to the podium to address the board. Last week Montvale settled regarding the number of affordable housing units that it must provide. There are to be 615 units off Spring Valley Road in Montvale and 80 additional units in another area of town. Approximately 700 homes will be coming to Montvale shortly. He would like to form a committee to plan for the arrival of incoming students. About 200 students will be entering into the system, mostly in the K8 schools. By settling the lawsuit the town maintains control over the zoning. The mayor went on to describe where the new units would be located within the town. One or two members from the school board would be needed on this board for a standing committee.

Mr. Gundersen thanked the mayor for coming tonight and engaging in the dialogue. The impact of higher enrollment on the schools has been discussed between the two men. As a high school Pascack Valley Regional can handle the additional students. How to use the additional tax revenue wisely for the schools was discussed. Mr. Blundo recommended that we have this conversation with the other three sending districts as well. Woodcliff Lake will be having a similar situation.

#### V. STUDENT RECOGNITION

## 1. 2017-2018 Bergen County Choir

WHEREAS, the following students from Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools were selected to the 2017-2018 Bergen County Choir:

Lisa Agranov	Zainah Alizade	Tirso Ballesteros
Evan Ferioli	John Giardina	Stephanie Joo
Hansol Lee	Gianna Lucido	Ryan Muska
Seungjoon Oh	Joshua Ozawa-Morriello	Mark Pothen
Areg Safari	Amy Santo	Angela Song
Delia Stiles	Julian Stiles	Katherine Suarez
Isabella Tjan	Sarah Winston	

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. 2018 NEA Foundation California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence

WHEREAS, Argine Safari, a music teacher at Pascack Valley High School, is a recipient of the 2018 National Education Association (NEA) Foundation, California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence recipients. The Awards for Teaching Excellence program recognizes educators from around the country who shine in their schools, their communities, and their own learning. The NEA Foundation is a public charity founded by educators for educators to improve public education for all students, and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend Ms. Safari for her outstanding achievement.

## 3. Eagle Scouts

WHEREAS, the following students from Pascack Valley High School achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. This prestigious honor is a reflection of your commitment and dedication to the values instilled in you by your family and the Boy Scouts of America:

Matthew Green	Karl Hauck				
Kevin Herlihy	Christopher Mayer				

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend Matthew, Karl, Kevin, and Christopher for their outstanding achievement.

#### 4. New Jersey's Future Ready Schools Initiative

WHEREAS, Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High School have been selected as Future Ready Schools by the New Jersey's Future Ready Schools Initiative. This coalition of NJIT, the NJSBA, and the NJDOE, is a certification program designed to support the organization of schools' and districts' efforts through the national Future Ready Framework to best prepare their students for success in the digital age, while fostering and enabling collaboration both within and between schools and districts throughout the state of New Jersey, and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, recognize and commend all involved for this outstanding achievement.

Mr. Gundersen thanked the two principals for being here this evening. This certification is recognizing districts that are doing this in the right way. Pascack Valley Regional is perceived as one of the leaders in the state of NJ. He thanked the leadership team of PVHRS that has made such an impact on our students.

#### BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

# VI. 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.

Mr. Anthony DeRosa from Hillsdale commented that the town is in constant negotiations to determine their fair share and they have not yet settled. He congratulated returning board members.

#### VII. POLICY

One Agenda Item

# 1. Travel Pre-Authorizations

**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:

Brooks Alexander	Borislaw Bilash	Craig Buckley
Elise Burns	Brett Conrad	Taylor Henzel
Val Mattessich	Kerry Spano	

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				
Blundo					Stankus				
Hallowell					Steinberg				
Molinelli					Steinfeld				
Ralph									

#### VIII. EDUCATION

Consent Agenda for Items 1-4

## 1. Out-of-district Placement

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve an out-of-district placement for student ID #808671 at the Holmstead School in Ridgewood, NJ starting November 9, 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year, for a pro-rated tuition rate of \$39,976.

# 2. Additional Period Assignments

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following additional period assignments to provide sick leave replacement for James Soltmann, science teacher at Pascack Hills High School, from November 21, 2017 until his return, anticipated as December 7, 2017:

Name	Additional Periods
Stephen Comanto	2 additional periods per day
Leslie Pugliese	2 additional periods per day

## 3. Supplemental Instruction

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Deborah Ragone, special education teacher at Pascack Valley High School, to provide supplemental instruction for student ID #808041 for 16 hours from November 13, 2017 – January 13, 2018 as per the student's IEP.

#### 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 district teacher aides, at their usual hourly rate, as needed to accompany students during extra-curricular activities, as per their IEPs, as follows:

Activity	School	Approximate Hours
Bowling	Pascack Hills	35 hours
Camp Raspberry	Pascack Hills	20 hours
Winter Track	Pascack Hills	50 hours

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					Stankus	$\square$			
Hallowell					Steinberg	$\square$			
Molinelli	$\square$				Steinfeld				$\square$
Ralph	$\square$								

## IX. HUMAN RESOURCES - CERTIFICATED

Consent Agenda for Items 1-2

## 1. New Hire

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Karen Freedgood, leave replacement social worker at Park Academy for Brittany Gallagher, from December 15, 2017 for the balance of the 2017-2018 school year, at an annual salary of \$64,500, Step 1, MA+45, prorated, with health benefits.

# 2. Leave 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 request:

Name	Position	Requests modified from/to:
Katherine	PHHS English	Total Leave Period:
Donahue	Teacher	From: October 23, 2017 – January 1, 2018
		Paid using 28 sick days
		To: October 23, 2017 – January 1, 2018
		Paid using 25 sick days
		FMLA/NJFLA
		From: December 6, 2017 – January 1, 2018
		To: December 1, 2017 – January 1, 2018
		Leave of Absence
		From: None
		To: None

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

## X. HUMAN RESOURCES - NON-CERTIFICATED

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 3

## 1. Athletic Appointments (Revised)

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve <u>Curtis Peters</u> and <u>Matt Marini</u> as co-assistant coaches for the Pascack Hills High School women's basketball team for a stipend of \$3,620 each, Step 3, for the 2017-2018 school year.

## 2. Volunteers

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following volunteers for the 2017-2018 school year:

Name	School	Activity
Ted Evans	PHHS	Girls Basketball
Jim Gallione	PVHS	Wrestling
Andrea Kosoy	PHHS	Camp Raspberry
Joe Natelli	PVHS	Wrestling
Ken Sarajian	PVHS	Wrestling

## 3. Applied Behavior Analysis Instructional Assistant - Region II

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Mercy Echenique as a part-time ABA Instructional Assistant for Region II for the 2017-2018 school year, at the rate of \$20 per hour.

# 4. Support Staff Member Suspension

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve to continue a suspension with pay of staff member ID #1297.

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

#### XI. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 3

## 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 20, 2017	\$1,351,808.473
Payroll as of November 15, 2017	\$1,426,588.56
Total	\$2,778,397.03

## 2. Addendum to Math Consultant Contract

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent amend the Math Consultant contract as follows: Mary Jo Wieland will present at eight (8) River Vale Faculty meetings between November 13, 2017 and June 30, 2017 for a total of 16 hours of compensation at her established rate of \$75/hr. This additional payment will be billed to and paid by the River Vale Board of Education.

#### 3. Donations

**RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the following donations:

Date	Donor	Donation	Club or Group		
11/14/17	Wietzke Family	\$676	Robotics		
11/14/17	Dimensional Communications	\$5,000	Robotics		

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

Mr. Hallowell read number 3 into the record.

#### XII. OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports: Technology Committee

Mr. Steinberg commented that upcoming projects were discussed at the meeting. New software packages for language were discussed as well. Mr. Scher commented that now every room is wireless with airplay. Many classes are playing group Tetris. Also, Mr. Gundersen stated that Dill is a transformative program which is getting 100% interactive language in the class. Restructuring the network closets is the next large project.

Finance Committee.

Mr. Ralph reported on the tentative timetable for the next year budget. The excess surplus and capital outlay budget were both discussed

Mr. Gundersen is looking to have a Buildings and Grounds meeting on Thursday, November 30 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Scher asked on updates for the 18-21 building. Ms. Baxley responded. She will follow up on the next Friday facts.

The SLEO III for Hillsdale is still in the hands of our attorney.

Mr. Blundo brought up the presentation regarding the potential service project for seniors. Once seniors have been accepted at college he feels it would be great. Mr. Gundersen stated that we will have a limited pilot for that program this year.

#### XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Molinelli has been asked by NJSBA to participate in a workgroup. She is trying to gather information and encourages feedback on how schools can prepare students who are not on the college path.

#### XIV. 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.

#### XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Molinelli to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. Mr. Blundo 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.