

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
In the Pascack Valley High School Auditorium**

Meeting Regulations

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education members, district administration, and staff will treat parents/guardians and other members of the public with respect and expect the same consideration in return. The district is committed to maintaining orderly processes for keeping school and district events free from disruption. 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.

During this regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to make comments. In order for a citizen to make a comment, they must be physically present at the meeting. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, comments regarding agenda items are invited. The second opportunity will occur just prior to adjournment, when residents may address general comments to the Board.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and town of residence. Comments shall be limited to issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer shall require the speaker to sit down.

All regular meetings will be live streamed for viewing purposes only to the Pascack Valley Regional High School District [YouTube](#) channel.

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 Mr. Yas Usami, 28 West Grand Avenue, Suite 2, Montvale, NJ 07645.

Notice: With advance notice, we can provide personal assistance for those with disabilities. Please contact 201-358-7005 x21005.

Copies of all public meeting agendas are online on the district website:

<http://www.pascack.org>

The Vision of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District:

To create a culture of innovation, inquiry, and individuality that promotes achievement and choice by cultivating the skills needed to complete and collaborate as ethical and responsible global citizens.

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Varghese, President

Present: Mrs. Gini Varghese, President
Ms. Debra Stephans, Vice President
Ms. Elizabeth Calderone
Mrs. Stephanie Huang
Ms. Katie Keller
Mr. Pat Luisi
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mr. James Stankus
Dr. Sarah Bilotti, Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Student Representatives : Andrew Varian- PHHS, Ella Gokhale- PVHS

Absent: Mr. Michael Weaver

II. **MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON December 16, 2024**

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Pascack Valley High School, 200 Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ, for the purpose of recessing to a closed Executive Session.

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:
 1. CSA Evaluation
3. The Board will return to the Regular Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
4. Official action may or may not be taken when the Board reconvenes to Public Session.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Luisi did faithfully attend and actively participate at the Executive and Public meetings of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education during that period of time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Luisi did serve as a committee member of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Facilities, Finance, and Negotiations Committees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Luisi supported staff, students, and the community in his actions to move our entire school community forward in the right direction; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education does express its sincere appreciation to Mr. Luisi on behalf of the superintendent, board members, students, and citizens of our four sending districts for his efforts on their behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education members individually and jointly thank Mr. Pat Luisi for his contributions and camaraderie over this timeframe and does wish him well in his future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution recognizing Mr. Pat Luisi be spread upon the minutes of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education.

Dr. Bilotti commented:

"Mr. Pat Luisi has served our community with dedication as a member of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education since January 2022. During his time on the board, Mr. Luisi was a faithful and active participant in both public and committee meetings, lending his expertise to the Facilities, Finance, and Negotiations Committees.

As a parent of three Valley alumni, Mr. Luisi brought a valuable perspective to the board. His commitment to our staff, students, and community was evident in his unwavering support and his drive to move our district forward. He consistently advocated for transparency and open communication, believing that the Board should actively listen to and engage with all members of the community. This was particularly apparent in his efforts to ensure all voices were heard during the mascot discussions, and promote community input on curriculum changes.

A quote from Mr. Luisi, that I think exemplifies his vision for our district: "It's important that the programs we build for our district are for everyone, and don't exclude anyone" it's this level of thoughtfulness and kindness that has enabled Mr. Luisi to be a leader for the betterment of all students.

Mr. Luisi's professional background enabled him to interact with people from diverse backgrounds and industries, and provided him with a unique understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our students as they prepare for the future. Furthermore, his experience as a youth sports coach in Hillsdale underscored his belief in the importance of a well-rounded education that supports both academic and extracurricular activities.

Therefore, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education expresses its deepest gratitude to Mr. Luisi for his service and wishes him well in his future endeavors, which we are sure will include many happy trips back to Italy with his family.

I want to acknowledge his contributions and value the camaraderie we have all shared. This resolution will be recorded in the minutes of the Board of Education to permanently recognize his dedication to our district."

VI. **STUDENT RECOGNITION ([attached](#))**
2024-2025 Bergen County Choir

WHEREAS, the following students from Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools have been accepted to the 2024 - 2025 Bergen County Choir:

James Campenot, PV	Matthew Kovacs, PV	Joshua Lee, PH
Gowri Nair, PH	Ayan Swain, PH	Maya Zislin, PH

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.

2024-2025 Bergen County Band

WHEREAS, the following students from Pascack Valley High School have been accepted to the 2024 - 2025 Bergen County Band

Liam O'Brien, Tenor Saxophone, PV	Carolyn Veit, Trumpet, PV
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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.

First Team All Bergen County

WHEREAS, the following students were selected to the First Team All Bergen County:

Shane Burke, Pascack Valley High School, Football

JT DeRiso, Pascack Valley High School, Baseball

Jillian Feeley, Pascack Valley High School, Volleyball

Sydney Flanz, Pascack Hills High School, Gymnastics Uneven Bars

Hope Gasperino, Pascack Valley High School, Gymnastics All-Around

Kiera Jennings, Pascack Valley High School, Gymnastics Balance Beam

Kevin Regula, Pascack Valley High School, Football

Dante Ricciardi, Pascack Valley High School, Football

Adam Shaw, Pascack Valley High School, Football

Kai Smith, Pascack Valley High School, Football

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

North Jersey Coach of the Year

WHEREAS, Mr. Will Lynch, Pascack Valley High School Head Baseball Coach, has been named North Jersey Coach of the Year.

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

North 1, Group 2 State Sectional Championship and Bergen County Small School Team of the Year

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley High School Baseball Team won the North 1, Group 2 State Sectional Championship, and Bergen County Small School Team of the Year for the 2024 season.

Evan Biener	Shane Buoye	Michael Cacavella	Bobby Colletti
Aiden Costello	Zach Cramer	JT DeRiso	Dylan Dersimonian
Nick Donofrio	Brendan Gaskin	Luke Good	Justin Kaplan
Drew Kirkby	Trevor Kirkby	Colin McMorrow	James Narlinger
Ryan Shea	Owen Shirey	Cameron Sidrow	Mark Spinelli
Max Stalb	Sam Stalb	Joe Tamaro	Andrew Wallace

Coaches:

Will Lynch, Rick Attanasio, JJ Moran, and Ron Villone

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

Bergen Record Athlete of the Week

WHEREAS, Adam Shaw, a junior at Pascack Valley High School, was chosen to be the Bergen Record Athlete of the Week, on October 24, 2024, for Football.

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

North 1, Group 3 State Sectional Championship

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley High School Football Team won the North 1, Group 3 State Sectional Championship.

Gavin Baroan	Nick Buccola	Philip Buldo	Shane Burke
Michael Colletti	Dante Dacosta	Marc Dellaquila	Finn Dunn
Aidan Escobar	Ryan Escobar	Sadria Feratovic	Jayson Fouche
Michael Fronzaglia	Hudson Grier	Justin Hanna	Justin Kaplan
Tyler Kardell	Ashton Kazinci	Logan Kidd	Cole Klouda
Colin Krause	Nick Lamparillo	Jake Licameli	Matthew Lucia
Evan Marcazo	Michael Marotta	Colin McMorro	Luke Melconian
Nicholas Ocampo	Luke Melconian	Kevin Regula	Dante Ricciardi
Adam Shaw	Vincent Simone	Kai Smith	Marley Smith
Rocco Spezial	Evan Starr	Luke Stempkowski	Braden Sun
Larson Sutnick	Jake Wawra	Tristan Wilkins	Brady Zurbuch

Coaches:

Len Cusumano, Adam Preciado, Bill Weigel, Brendan Morrissey, JJ Moran, Mike McCourt, Stephen Begen, Craig Buckley, Chris Guinta, Jesse Lagrosa, and Dave Williams

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

Jerry Lewis Sportsmanship Award

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley High School Boys Soccer Team has been awarded the Jerry Lewis Sportsmanship Award.

Ryan Austein	Brendan Babcock	Cooper Breslaw
Adrian Cano	Julius Castro	Adam Dinic
Cristiano Fiorillo	Tony Garcia	Steven Gifford
Adrian Gutierrez	Rayyaan Kashif	Miles Kutner
Aidan Lamon	Anthony Lekaj	Luca Lepore
Jake Liebchen	Anthony Martinez	Lucas Mercado
Ben Perlman	Joshua Reiser	Hudson Sollecito
Liam Verdicchio	Tristan Verdonek Flores	Nico Villanueva
Stefan Villanueva	Robert Wasserman	

Coaches:

Luciano Cofrancesco, Al Coleman, and Ron Villone

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

VII. INTERMISSION FOR RECEPTION - RECOGNITION

The Board recessed at 7:55 and returned at 8:15.

VIII. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

PFO liaison report Stephanie Huang ([attached](#))

Student reports: Andrew Varian– Pascack Hills High School ([attached](#))

Ella Gokhale– Pascack Valley High School ([attached](#))

IX. 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 18, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
November 18, 2024	Executive Meeting	9:37 p.m.

Moved by:

Stephans

Seconded by:

Martin

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Calderone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luisi	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mr. Weaver abstained to the Executive Meeting minutes.

X. PRESENTATION

Annual Audit Report - Brian Gibbons, Auditor, Nisivoccia LLP

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Citizens are invited to make comments regarding agenda items and are limited to three 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, sign in, and state their name, town of residence, and which agenda item(s) they are referencing.

None

XII. **POLICY**
Consent Agenda for Items 1-5

1. **Board Meeting Schedule - Revision**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the revised Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education meeting schedule (attached) for the 2024-2025 school year.

2. **Board Retreat**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education retreat for the 2025-2026 school year. The board retreat will occur on September 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Pascack Hills High School.

3. **Revised Affirmative Statement for Membership in the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education for the 2025-2026 School Year (attached)**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the revision of the Pro Rata Basis section on page 3 of the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education: Region II 25-26 Bylaws/Affirmation Statement for Membership (attached)

4. **Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying Executive Report**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, affirm the findings of the following Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying incident:

- a. HIB # 273634 (attached)

5. **Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Reports**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approve action taken pursuant to HIB Reports:

- a. HIB # 271942 (attached)
- b. HIB # 270629 (attached)

Ms. Calderone commented that Item 2 should be Saturday, September 13.
It was agreed to have the date changed in the resolution.

Moved by:

Martin ▾

Seconded by:

Stankus ▾

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Calderone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luisi	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mr. Weaver abstained to Items 4 and 5.

XIII. EDUCATION

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 3

1. Overnight Trip

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Pascack Hills High School students and chaperones Nick Evans, Steven Casamento, AJ Aliprantis, and Ryan Lapinski to travel to Orlando, Florida, for baseball spring training (attached) from March 20-23, 2025.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Pascack Hills High School students and chaperones Edward Sandt, Eric Ganz, Charleen Schwartzman, and Jason Stephans to travel to Omni Amelia Island Resort for tennis and golf team spring training (attached) from March 22-25, 2025.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approves Pascack Hills High School students, and chaperones Debbie Yao and Liam O’Neill to travel to Taiwan (attached) from April 8-16, 2025.
- d. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approved Pascack Valley High School students, and chaperones Cindy and John Reese to travel to Iceland (attached) from February 14-19, 2025.

2. Extra Sessions

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve extra sessions for student ID# 812420 provided by Fusion Academy to complete the remainder of courses from the 2024-2025 school year, as per the student’s IEP. The total session cost is \$1,035.

3. Bedside Instruction

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# 812591 at Four Winds Learning Center starting November 18, 2024 - on or about December 20, 2024. The student will receive instruction in the areas of Physics, US History 2, English 3, Algebra 2 w Trig., and PE/Health 11. The student is to receive 10 hours of instruction per week at a rate of \$66 per hour.

Moved by:

Stephans ▾

Seconded by:

Martin ▾

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Calderone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luisi	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mrs. Martin said she was excited to see the overnight trips back.
Ms. Stephans abstained to Item 1.

XIV. HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the superintendent, after considering the recommendation of her administrative staff which included consideration of experience, credentials, and references for the following candidates for employment in the school district, has determined that the appointment of these individuals is appropriate and in the best interest of the school district,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, appoint the following individuals to the positions indicated, as provided by the budget, in accordance with terms of the employment specified:

Note: Appointment of new personnel to the district is provisional subject to:

1. Authorization from the State Department regarding a criminal background check and/or authorization from the Bergen County Superintendent's Office for emergent hiring; and
2. A medical examination including satisfactory results of the Mantoux tuberculin skin test; and
3. Valid certification appropriate for his/her employment or assignment in New Jersey; and
4. Disclosure and review of applicants' employment history within the statutory time period.

Consent Agenda for Items 1-15

1. Resignations

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Barry Bachenheimer, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at the Pascack Valley Regional High School District, for the purpose of retirement (attached), effective July 1, 2025.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Yas Usami, Business Administrator and Board Secretary at the Pascack Valley Regional High School District, for the purpose of retirement (attached), effective July 1, 2025.
- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Kevin Killian, Mathematics Teacher at Pascack Hills High School, for the purpose of retirement (attached), effective July 1, 2025.
- d. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Charleen Schwartzman, Mathematics Teacher at Pascack Valley and Pascack Hills High Schools, for the purpose of retirement (attached), effective July 1, 2025.

- e. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Amanda Parsons, BCBA for Region II, effective December 1, 2024.
- f. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Maria Logomarsino, Teacher Resource Specialist for Region II, effective January 1, 2025.
- g. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Emily Pollio, Parent Trainer and Social Skills Instructor for Region II, effective November 25, 2024.

2. **Resignation - Adjustment**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the revision of the previously board approved resignation of Karoline Scheck. The effective date should be July 1, 2025.

3. **New Hire**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following individual to the position indicated:

Name	Position	Account Number	Salary	Effective Date
Erika Velez	PHHS Part-time Paraprofessional: Bilingual Instructional Assistant	11-240-100-106-07-000	\$30.65 per hour No benefits	December 17, 2024

4. **New Hire - Adjustments**

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

Name	Position	Salary	Effective Date
Laura Brucella	Part-time Region II Speech Language Pathologist		Date should state: December 9, 2024
Jonathan Hesney	Director of Special Services	\$1,500 stipend for doctorate, per PVRAA contract	July 1, 2024

5. **Leave of Absence**

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

Employee ID#	Position	Request
0871	PHHS Mathematics Teacher	<u>Total Leave Period:</u> December 12, 2024 - June 30, 2025 Without pay and health benefits <u>FMLA:</u> None

6. **Leave of Absence - Modification**

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

Employee ID#	Position	Request
2468	PVHS Guidance Counselor	<u>From:</u> <u>Total Leave Period:</u> October 30, 2024 - March 26, 2025 Using 33 sick days <u>FMLA:</u> January 2, 2025 - March 26, 2025 <u>Leave of Absence:</u> None To: <u>Total Leave Period:</u> October 30, 2024 - March 26, 2025 Using 33 sick days <u>FMLA:</u> January 2, 2025 - March 26, 2025 <u>Leave of Absence:</u> March 27, 2025 - April 30, 2025 Without pay and benefits

7. **Staff Assignment Change**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following change of assignment for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Previous		As of January 2, 2025	
James Ward	Night Custodian	PHHS	Night Custodian	PVHS
Tina Romanger	Night Custodian	PVHS	Night Lead Custodian \$2,341 stipend (prorated)	PVHS
Seta Varteresian	Night Lead Custodian*	PVHS	Night Custodian	PHHS

*No longer eligible for lead stipend of \$2,341.

8. Leave Replacement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Elise Campbell as a leave replacement for employee ID# 0535. Ms. Campbell will continue to cover classes from November 18, 2024 - January 31, 2025. Ms. Campbell will be paid at the daily substitute rate of \$150.

9. Job Description

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the revised job description for Building Coordinator (attached).

10. Athletic Appointment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following athletic appointment for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Team	Position	Stipend/Step
Alexandra Pflieger	PHHS Winter Cheer	Head Coach	\$5,908/Step 3
Ken Del Santo	Ice Hockey	Assistant Coach	\$3,669/Step 3 (.50 split)
Eddie Pikulski	Ice Hockey	Assistant Coach	From: \$7,338 To: \$3,669/Step 3 (.50 split)

11. Athletic 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 Jared Coffey, PHHS head freshman baseball coach, for the 2024-2025 school year.

12. 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 2024-2025 school year:

Name	School	Activity
Jared Coffey	PHHS	Baseball
Scott Ernest	PHHS	Girls Basketball
Alexis Gomez	PHHS	Wrestling
Jamik Ligon	PVHS	Indoor Track
Adam Moskowitz	District	Robotics
John Murno	District	Robotics
Vicky Patel	PHHS	Wrestling

13. Supplemental Instruction

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve supplemental instruction for student ID# 813117 per student's IEP.

Instructor	Subject	Hours per week	Dates
Ryan Walter	Honors Psychology	2 hours	12/6/24 - 1/24/25
Amy Maniscalco	English IV	2 hours	12/6/24 - 1/24/25
Russ Grier	Honors Forensics	2 hours	12/6/24 - 1/24/25

14. Home Instruction

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID# 813007. The student is to receive a total of up to 10 hours of home instruction per week.

Instructor	Subject	Hours per week	Frequency
Yvette Kohn	English III US History 2 Algebra I Conceptual Physics	2 hours each	11/16/2024-1/31/2025

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve extending home instruction for student ID # 812037, who shall receive 10 hours of instruction per week (approx. 2 hours per subject).

Name	Subject	Frequency	Dates
Edward Sandt	AP English Lang	Approx. 2 hours per wk	11/1/2024 - 2/27/2025
Natalie Macke	AP Env. Science	Approx. 2 hours per wk	11/1/2024 - 2/27/2025
Kevin Kirkby	Pre-Calculus	Approx. 2 hours per wk	11/1/2024 - 2/27/2025
Aarti Mallya	AP Biology	Approx. 2 hours per wk	11/1/2024 - 2/27/2025
Tyler Johnson	Phys. Ed/ Health	Approx. 2 hours per wk	11/1/2024 - 2/27/2025
Danielle Garretson	Photography	Approx. 2 hours per wk	11/1/2024 - 2/27/2025

- c. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID# 812309 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Instructor	Subject	Hours per week	Frequency
Heather Ocampo	Statistics	2	12/9/2024-12/20/2024

Jessica Miranda	Ceramics	2	12/9/2024-12/20/2024
Matthew Morone	Hon. Phil. & Lit.	2	12/9/2024-12/20/2024

- d. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction for student ID# 813051 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Instructor	Subject	Hours per week	Frequency
Brett Conrad	Sports and Literature	1	12/9/2024 - 1/3/2025
Len Cusumano	Health/PE	1	12/9/2024 - 1/3/2025

15. **Substitute**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Position	Type
Christine Colgan	Classroom substitute teacher	New
Maxwell Gurman	Classroom substitute teacher	New
Nicole Hourican	Substitute Nurse	New
Robert Maggiulli	Classroom substitute teacher	Renew
Erika Velez	Classroom substitute teacher	New as of 12/5/2024
John Zuzeck	Classroom substitute teacher	New

Moved by: Stephans

Seconded by: Calderone

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Calderone	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stankus	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luisi	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varghese	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Mrs. Varghese thanked Dr. Bachenheimer who is retiring for his work in innovation in curriculum, instruction and assessment. She expressed sadness at Mr. Usami's retirement. Both Dr. Bachenheimer and Mr. Usami will retire effective July 1, 2025. Mrs. Martin also expressed sadness and she appreciated everything Mr. Usami has done.

XV. FINANCE
Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 25

1. Approval of Bills (attached)

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 December 16, 2024	\$3,615,677.99
Payroll as of November 30, 2024	\$1,839,665.08
Payroll as of December 15, 2024	\$1,774,581.25
Total	\$7,229,924.32

2. Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Financial Reports

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s unaudited 2024-25 financial reports, which are in agreement reflecting the district’s financial activities for the period October 2024.

3. Ratification of Board Secretary’s Monthly Certification – Budgetary Line Item Status

RESOLVED pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that as of October 2024 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2-11(c)4 that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education certifies that as of October 2024 after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial report, in the minutes of the Board each month that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(b).4.

4. 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	October 2024
b. e-Learning Account	October 2024
c. Capital Project Account	October 2024
d. Student Government Account – PH	October 2024
e. Student Government Account – PV	October 2024
f. Athletic Account – PH	October 2024
g. Athletic Account – PV	October 2024

5. **Transfers**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve transfers for the month of October 2024.

6. **Travel Pre-Authorizations**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the pre-authorization travel expenses for professional development or school trips (attached):

Name	Professional Development or School Trip
Steve Casamento	Florida Colleges Tours
Erica Franceski	CI Mentorship Program
Jimena Ladino	NECTFL 2025 Northeast Conference
Argine Safari	Presenting at the NJMEA State Conference Ms. Safari will be holding a poster session related to her PhD dissertation study, which focuses on best practices in teaching secondary ensembles.

7. **Award of Natural Gas Supply (attached)**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the award of natural gas supply contract to UGI Energy Services from December 2024 to December 2026 through a competitive bid conducted by the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES).

8. **Acceptance of Final Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the findings with no audit recommendations expressed by the auditing firm of Nisivoccia & Company, LLP as cited in their reports entitled:

1. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
2. Auditors' Management Report on Administrative Findings – Financial Compliance and Performance Year Ending June 30, 2024
3. Audit Synopsis

9. **Award Bid - Inlet Reconstruction at Pascack Hills - A-Tech Concrete Co.**

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education advertised for bids for the Inlet Reconstruction at Pascack Hills High School Project ("Project");

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2024 the Board received four bids for the Project;

WHEREAS, Your Way Construction, Inc. submitted the lowest bid for the Project in the amount of \$16,000; and

WHEREAS, Your Way requested to withdraw its bid due to an error in the calculation of its bid;

WHEREAS, the second lowest bid submitted by Diamond Construction failed to possess the required classification for the Project and constitutes a material non-waivable defect; and

WHEREAS, A-Tech Concrete Company ("A-Tech") submitted the third lowest bid in the amount of \$39,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by A-Tech is materially responsive; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to award the contract for the Project to A-Tech.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board at the recommendation of the superintendent hereby accepts Your Way's request to withdraw its bid for the Project due to the error in its bid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the second lowest bid submitted by Diamond Construction failed to possess the required classification for the Project and constitutes a material non-waivable defect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby awards the contract for the Project to the third lowest bidder, A-Tech, for a total contract sum of \$39,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 AIA Agreement, 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 the terms contained in the bid documents and specifications 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.

10. Maintenance Reserve Withdraw - Inlet Reconstruction

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a Maintenance Reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$39,000.00 to fund the Inlet Reconstruction at Pascack Hills High School.

11. Care Plus Bergen, Inc. - Substance Abuse Testing Services

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the attached addendum between the Board and Care Plus Bergen, Inc. for Substance Abuse Testing Services.

12. Care Plus Bergen, Inc. - Behavioral Health Outpatient Program

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the attached addendum between the Board and Care Plus Bergen, Inc. for Behavioral Health Outpatient Program for Psychiatric

Evaluation and Clearance.

13. Authorization to Enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (attached)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11 (5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the **Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC)**, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2024, the governing body of the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC),

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) and N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), the School Business Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall comply with the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

14. Amendment of the Long Range Facilities Plan

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, authorize the amendment of the current Long Range Facilities Plan to include the following:

- Repave Parking Lot at Pascack Valley
- Upgrade from Pneumatics to DDC system at Pascack Valley
- Upgrade from Pneumatics to DDC system at Pascack Hills
- Upgrade Field Lights at Pascack Hills
- Install AC in Tech Room at Pascack Hills

15. Award Centralpack Engineering Corporation - PV Cafeteria HVAC Upgrade

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education ("Board") advertised for bids for the Cafeteria HVAC Upgrade at Pascack Valley High School ("Project");

WHEREAS, the Board twice rejected the bids for the Project which exceeded the cost estimate and budget for the Project;

WHEREAS, the Board authorized the Board Secretary/Business Administrator and the Engineer to negotiate a contract for the Project pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(c);

WHEREAS, all bidders who submitted bids on the second round of bidding were advised of the Board's intention to negotiate and were afforded a reasonable opportunity to do so;

WHEREAS, negotiations were conducted with all interested contractors;

WHEREAS, Centralpack Engineering Corporation ("Centralpack"), submitted the lowest negotiated price in the amount of \$1,403,000.00 (including a contingency allowance in the amount of \$10,000.00), which negotiated price is lower than the lowest bid submitted in the second round of bidding by a responsible bidder and is a reasonable price for such services;

WHEREAS, Centralpack's proposal is responsive to the requirements contained in the specifications; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of awarding the contract for the Project to Centralpack; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The contract for the Project is hereby awarded to Centralpack in the amount of \$1,403,000.00, which negotiated price is lower than the lowest bid submitted in the second round of bidding by a responsible bidder, is the lowest negotiated price, and is a reasonable price for such services.

2. This award is expressly conditioned upon the Contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and performance bond as required in the specifications for the Project, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, an executed A-101-Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, 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 Centralpack consistent with this Resolution, the terms contained in the specifications for the Project, the specifications and drawings, and the negotiated terms of the proposal submitted by Centralpack;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the agreement and any other documents necessary to affect the terms of this Resolution.

16. Capital Reserve Withdrawal - Cafeteria HVAC Upgrade at Pascack Valley

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve an additional Capital Reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$686,500.00 to fund the Cafeteria HVAC Upgrade at Pascack Valley High School.

17. Submissions of Projects to the State Department of Education

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the submission of the following projects to the State Department of Education:

- Pneumatics to DDC System at Pascack Hills High School
- Field Lights Replacement at Pascack Hills High School
- Greenhouse Installation at Pascack Hills High School
- Pneumatics to DDC System at Pascack Valley High School

18. Dual Enrollment Agreement – Bergen Community College (attached)

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent approve the revised Dual Enrollment Agreement between Bergen Community College and Pascack Valley Regional High School District.

19. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the disposal, donation, sale or recycling of the following item:

Item	Model	Asset Number
Skutt Automatic Kiln	KM-1231PK	4643

20. Fifth Addendum to Agreement of Sale

WHEREAS, a closing for the purchase of property located at 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, New Jersey is scheduled for December 19, 2024;

WHEREAS, the closing is contingent upon the Board of Education obtaining approval of the purchase of property from the Department of Education;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has not obtained the requisite approval from the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the parties desires to enter into a Fifth Addendum to Agreement of Sale to extend the governmental approval contingency and closing date in the event that the Board of Education does not receive approval from the Department of Education prior to December 19, 2024;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Fifth Addendum to Agreement of Sale;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the Board of Education receives approval for the purchase of property from the Department of Education prior to December 19, 2024, it authorizes the payment of \$550,000.00 to the Seller for the purchase, less the deposit of \$55,000.00, plus all required closing costs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the business administrator is authorized to sign the closing documents on behalf of the Board of Education.

21. Special Payment Authorization - Region II

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, authorize Region II to pay bills upon presentation of properly approved vouchers for Occupational and Physical Therapists for services and evaluations rendered from 11/15/24 - 12/14/24. Independents: speech and language therapists, LDTC, school psychologists, and social workers for December billing. Evaluation billing for November and December and Transportation services for December billing.

22. Independent Child Study Team Therapy Evaluations and/or Services - Joint Agreement Between Region II and Non-Member Districts

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the agreement between Region II and the Non-Member District, Northern Highlands High School for Independent Child Study Team Therapy Evaluations and/or Services for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

23. Special Education Transportation - Region II - Parent Contracts

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract to The Parent for route #EP2425 for the 2024-25 school year.

Route #	Route	Per Diem	Annual Cost
EP2425	Roberge Elem.	25	3,200.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract to The Parent for route #LS2425 for the 2024-25 school year.

Route #	Route	Per Diem	Insurance Premium	Annual Cost
LS2425	Ridge Ranch	80.00	395.00	10,475.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract to The Parent for route #LK2425 for the 2024-25 school year.

Route #	Route	Per Diem	Annual Cost
LK2425	Hopestone Academy	50	6,050.00

24. Award Mathusek Incorporated - PV Girls Locker Room Floor Replacement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the contract award to Mathusek Incorporated, Oakland, NJ for the Girls Locker Room Floor Replacement at Pascack Valley High School through the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC) #215 in the amount of \$48,954.00.

25. Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal - PV Girls Locker Room Floor Replacement

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a Maintenance Reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$48,954.00 to fund the Girls Locker Room Floor Replacement at Pascack Valley High School.

Mrs. Martin mentioned that a couple of years ago Mr. Orlak came and spoke to the Board about how the program has grown. This is a very important program and Mr. Orlak is very passionate about it.

Mrs. Varghese said it would be great to get an update since the program continues to grow. She indicated that the update will come sometime in January or February.

Mrs. Huang commented that the term “waste” came from a PFA meeting she attended and it was “wasting money is careless”. She apologized for the comment. She indicated that at this PFA meeting there was discussion about the pressure for Hills students to go to college. She mentioned the college sweatshirt pictures creates a lot of pressure. She indicated that Mr. Wieland said it’s a student event and not a school one. She mentioned that at the Fashion Show when the students come out on the runway, the college admittance is mentioned. They are looking for a balance. Mrs. Huang commented that Dr. Struncis and Ms. Schneider mentioned that each student has a personalized path that they follow.

Mrs. Martin said the pressure comes from the parents and their peers. On Commitment Day, students wear the college sweatshirts and shirts and it’s not the school, it’s the students choice to do so.

Mrs. Huang said the push back at the PFA meeting was that the students were proud of their acceptance. They discussed needing a balance.

Mrs. Varghese said that students who are on a different track need to be supported and emphasized more.

Mr. Weaver said in the upcoming presentation to the Board, he would like to know the course offerings before the internship program is discussed. The course offerings could lead students to the internship program. He commented that when the new schedule was introduced, a benefit was more course offerings. He would like to know what courses were added since the schedule was implemented. He asked how many students take an elective versus a Pascack Period.

Ms. Keller concurred with Mr. Weaver. She mentioned the Board in favor of exploring options benefiting students after high school. She is looking at courses that provide tools to be a functioning adult.

Ms. Stephans was happy to see that counselors are going out to see colleges. She would like to see more PD, especially to alternative institutions. She suggested seeing what other districts do. Dr. Bilotti indicated that with Ms. Calderone’s involvement with the county, there is a counselor at each school liaising with the Bergen County Workforce Development. This is for non-college bound students. The counselors are networked with other counselors in similar roles.

Mr. Weaver commented about the budget process that has begun and if courses will be added and the need for staff and sectioning.

Ms. Keller said she does not believe that the responsibility should be solely on guidance counselors. She indicated that there should be different avenues to reach the students looking for an alternative to college.

Ms. Calderone said a committee would be worthwhile.

Ms. Stephans suggested polling students for their interest and input.

Ms. Keller added asking if they are aware of... or if ... exists.

Mrs. Huang said the Financial Literacy class taken in freshman year versus senior year is very different. She mentioned that the Senior Seminar has been very helpful since tradespeople and professionals come and speak to the students..

Mr. Luisi suggested students start with the end game. There are multiple paths to success. He commented that the most charitable people and small business owners do not have a college degree (not all but many). He suggested looking long term, vision of the future, to de-stigmatize the path. He said there is no wrong choice or better choice.

Mrs. Varghese asked if there is a career center or something similar. She indicated someone who will show students their options.

Dr. Bilotti said some of these are in SCOIR. She added that Naviance has a push down (career exploration) to the middle school.

Ella Gokhale commented that the students who are motivated will go into SCOIR. They will pay attention because they are looking for that information. She received an email from guidance about a survey for after high school plans. She indicated that the questions were college related. Mrs. Varghese would like to reach all students. She commented that a personal relationship is more important than SCOIR. She asked if the survey came from guidance.

Dr. Bilotti did not receive it, so she will look into it.

Andrew Varian commented that there is a stigma around people who want to go to trade school. He said he takes honors and AP courses and the students in those classes want to go to the best 4-year college. He believes that there needs to be an emphasis on trades. The plumbers and construction workers are essential to society. He referenced some very successful people who did not graduate college or go to college.

Ms. Keller said we need to be realistic and see what options are available. She indicated that some students may not have the financial means to go to college. She commented that the options are not just college or trade schools, there is the military, etc. She mentioned potential skills such as investments, how to secure a loan, how to buy a home, how to do taxes.

Mr. Stankus said that many students feel the pressure of having to go to college. He mentioned that sometimes students will select a school for the sake of going to college and that it may be the best fit. He suggested a survey earlier in high school to see if they are intending to go to college or not.

Mrs. Martin said sometimes the students' intentions change. She mentioned that we might not know the path. She commented about social influencers and their earnings are more than the Board's. Who knew? She said things keep changing and the district needs to follow the change.

Mr. Weaver related that his son is going through the process currently. He advised him to select the best college that he will have the most fun at the most reasonable price and figure it out along the way.

Andrew Varian commented that he received a scholarship to a college and his parents would like him to attend that college. His first reaction was no since it was the best college, but after hearing tonight's comments he is starting to change his mind.

Mr. Stankus said students should be aware that many students will change their majors and end up with a degree that they never thought they would obtain or a career outside of college.

XVII. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Martin thanked Mr. Luisi for what he has done on the Board and for the community (coaching). She mentioned Mr. Luisi's flexibility, creativity and friendship. She said she enjoyed working with him and she will miss him.

Ms. Calderone said it's been a pleasure working with Mr. Luisi. She was grateful for his thoughtful contributions and valuable perspectives. She appreciated his candor on not seeking re-election as he acknowledged that he could not devote his full attention to his role as a board member. She commented that it spoke to his integrity and to the Board's commitment to its mission. She was grateful for time together and wished him the best.

Mr. Luisi commented that as a non-educator he learned a lot from everyone. He indicated that the Board made a great choice in bringing in Dr. Bilotti. He was happy to get to know the student reps and they have a great future. He said he is proud of the community and glad he added a little bit of value. He thanked the Board.

Mrs. Huang thanked Mr. Luisi for bringing his steady integrity.

Mrs. Varghese thanked Mr. Luisi. She mentioned that Gia Guzman will be taking Mr. Luisi's seat.

