

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

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

**Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Pascack Valley High School Media Center**

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 compete and collaborate as ethical and responsible global citizens.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Varghese, President

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

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Varghese 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 August 26, 2024.

IV. ROUTINE MATTERS

Monthly Reports

Budget Report: Yas Usami

Mr. Usami stated that budgets have become increasingly more difficult to put together. He mentioned rising costs on almost everything above 2%, especially health insurance where the district will receive and use a healthcare adjustment of almost \$800,000 due to a projected 20% increase in premiums. This will increase the tax levy above 2% to approximately 3.4%. He indicated that the state sent a memo stating that a maximum of a 3% reduction in state aid is likely. Mr. Usami believes that due to declining enrollment the district would be negatively affected. He commented that some of the sending districts have experienced an increase in enrollment, thus will be receiving an enrollment adjustment. He does not anticipate seeing growth at the high school level for a few years. He mentioned that the state has intention of raising the 2% tax levy cap this year and most likely will not next year. However, if the state sees school districts struggling with their budgets, they may act. There could be additional adjustments such as for transportation or special education. He indicated that the budget will see an increase in the use of excess surplus, Extraordinary Aid and Maintenance Reserve. He mentioned that the audit showed that there was a decline of \$1.4 million in excess surplus from the previous year. This limits the amount that can be deposited into capital and maintenance reserves.

Ms. Calderone mentioned that Montvale has a significant number of housing construction and Woodcliff will see an increase as well. This should most likely help with enrollment.

Mr. Usami agreed and said it will take a little time for the high schools to see the increase.

Ms. Stephans asked what Extraordinary Aid is.

Mr. Usami said it relates to special education and a threshold of costs above a certain amount. He gave an example that if you apply for \$1.5 million, it does not mean that you will receive dollar for dollar in aid. It is the percentage of the amount which has been declining each year except about two years ago. He added that the district typically receives about \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Mrs. Huang asked if the district needs to apply for Extraordinary Aid.

Mr. Usami confirmed that they apply each year with specific costs through the state. He said that the Director of Special Services calculates the eligible costs for eligible students.

Dr. Bilotti said that it's typically for students' whose costs are above \$55,000-\$70,000. She said there is a metric that goes into the calculation.

Ms. Stephans asked if the Board could get the declining enrollment numbers over several years.

Mr. Usami said he will get the ASSA numbers.

Governance Committee Report: Gini Varghese ([attached](#))

- 2025-2026 School Calendar

Dr. Bilotti mentioned that there are some cell towers that will be refurbished or erected which should help cell service at Valley.

Mrs. Varghese added that the Board will look at the policy to determine whether or not junior girls and others may leave early to get dressed and have other preparations for prom. She added that she and Mrs. Martin dealt with the craziness when their daughters were juniors.

Mr. Weaver commented that students are expected to be in school the whole day to participate.

Mrs. Varghese indicated that that will not change as it's two weeks out.

Mr. Weaver cited the attendance policy that indicates that students need to be in school for four hours in order to participate in extracurricular activities. He asked if a student is in for four hours why is the prom different?

Mr. Stankus believed that it had to do with excused or unexcused.

Mrs. Martin commented that parents had to sign an acknowledgement that prom was different. Students could come in later the next day. She mentioned that if a student was not going to prom for any reason, a person would need to be in school at the regular time. That has been changed.

Dr. Bilotti said it was brought to the Governance Committee to review. She mentioned that senior prom is different as they need to be in until 1:00 and a senior seminar runs that day with workshops and events.

Mr. Weaver said the permission slips students received is not in line with the district policy.

Mrs. Varghese said that it is not incorrect. She did not know when this procedure occurred, but she agreed that the policy/permission slip should be revisited.

Mr. Weaver said with all due respect to building administration and teachers that they do not write policy, therefore they cannot create a permission form for this.

Mrs. Martin commented that there has been a baseball game the night of the prom every year she can recall. The players were allowed to arrive late to the prom. She mentioned that students with a doctor's note were excused. She believed that the administration didn't want everyone to leave to get their hair done.

Mrs. Varghese saw Mr. Weaver's point according to the policy.

Dr. Bilotti said that the building administration has the authority to set certain protocols and practices to ensure a smooth operation of the school. She mentioned that this has been going on indefinitely. She wanted this to go to the Governance Committee to examine this matter.

Mr. Weaver wanted to know if he was correct in his interpretation of the policy.

Mr. Stankus wasn't so sure. He and Ms. Guzman believed it has to do with excused and unexcused absences regardless of the four hours.

Ms. Guzman believes Mr. Weaver is correct, but it's different for prom.

Discussion about unexcused absence and the ability to attend prom.

Mr. Weaver continued about the four hour day and why there is a difference between prom and other extracurricular activities.

Mr. Stankus said he received a roster of students who will be attending an athletic event. He believes the permission slip does the same, so the school knows who is on the roster.

February 24, 2025

Mrs. Martin gave an example: if she signed out her daughter at 1:00 her daughter would not be allowed to go to the prom even though she met the four hours of school time. She said that is the conflict that Mr. Weaver cited in the policy.

Mr. Weaver said the solution is to make it a half day.

Ms. Keller asked about making it a weekend prom.

Mrs. Martin said it was changed years ago due to the expense.

Ms. Stephans indicated that Hills traditionally has had it on Friday, but it changed due to the SATs scheduled on Saturday.

Mr. Weaver referred to the district accommodating student wellness and the junior and senior prom only occurs once a year.

Mrs. Varghese concurred and said another Governance meeting could be possible to discuss this.

Dr. Bilotti asked Mr. Weaver to forward the policies that can be reviewed by the Governance Committee.

Mr. Weaver asked what the committee would be doing since there is a policy. He indicated that it's the interpretation of the policy by the administration.

Mrs. Varghese mentioned its Policy 5200 (attendance).

Dr. Bilotti said there is a leeway, so referencing the handbook is important.

Ms. Stephans asked if this could be reconsidered for this year

Mrs. Varghese said the safety of the students must be the first concern. She believed Valley's prom is two weeks away and it's important that the administration has procedures in place to ensure student safety since they will be leaving early.

Policy Committee Report: Jim Stankus ([attached](#))

Mrs. Varghese asked if student smoking was updated to include vaping and Mr. Stankus confirmed it was. She asked about the acceptable use of Generative AI and how it may be related to HIB. Dr. Bilotti said it's covered under the Acceptable Use Policy

PFA Liaison Report: Stephanie Huang ([attached](#))

Facility Committee Report: Michael Weaver

Mr. Weaver reported that the Park Academy will be relocating from Roberge School in River Vale due to space issues (renovation), but there may be a better option. The district is currently in negotiations, so the location cannot be revealed at this time. He is grateful to the administration for reaching out to numerous Bergen County districts about available space as well as parochial schools in the county. He indicated that once a contract has been secured then there will be an announcement.

Student Reports: Andrew Varian– Pascack Hills High School ([attached](#))
Ella Gokhale– Pascack Valley High School ([attached](#))

V. 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:

January 27, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
January 27, 2025	Executive Meeting	9:10 p.m.

Moved by: **Stankus**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"/>
Guzman	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	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"/>					

VI. **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.

Zahraa Islam of Montvale, a sophomore at Hills, requested to have Eid off on the school calendar. She said she understood that the Board has an obligation to maximize as much instructional time as possible. She mentioned that it's difficult to take off Eid and keep up educationally, so it would be beneficial to those who observe Eid. It would foster an inclusive environment as well.

Aya Elsewisy of Woodcliff Lake, a sophomore at Hills, added that she does not believe many of the muslim students are aware that they can take off for Eid instead they are in school. She reiterated the difficulty of catching up in classes. She did not receive an excused absence.

Maya Bulut of Montvale, a junior at Hills, said she struggles with attendance. Most of her absences come during Ramadan when she fasts for 30 days. She indicated that it's stressful for her as she needs to appeal her absences. She wants to be able to practice her religion.

Jesse Merker of River Vale and Sadie Huang of Hillsdale are company managers for the Pascack Theater (Pascack Valley and Pascack Hills combined group). They formally invited the Board to attend the musical, "Legally Blonde" for free. An email will go to the Board on how to obtain the free ticket through pascackvalley.org. They handed out flyers with the information and dates of the performances.

VII. **POLICY**

Consent Agenda for Item 1

1. **BOE Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations – First Reading**

First reading of the following Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education bylaws, policies, and regulations:

Name of Policy or Regulation	Policy (P)/ Regulation (R) Number
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Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M)	P 5512
Student Smoking (M)	P 5533
Student Smoking	R 5533
Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M)	P 7441
Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds (M)	R 7441
Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M)	P 9320
Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M)	R 9320
Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) (new)	P2365
Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)	P 5111
High School Graduation (M)	P 5460
Academic Integrity	P 5701
Student Grievance	P 5710
Food Services (M)	P 8500
Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events (M) (new)	P 9163
Board Member Resignation and Removal (M)	P 0145

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"/>
Guzman	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	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"/>					

VIII. **EDUCATION**

Consent Agenda for Items 1 - 3

1. **Research Study**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, grant permission for Kate Couvielos, English Teacher at Pascack Valley High School, to conduct a research study sponsored by Drew University (attached) using district teachers and students. The study will determine how students use human and AI-generated feedback in their revisions to a given writing task. It will be conducted during the 2024-2025 school year.

2. **Special Programs Tuition Students - Revised Contract - R.I.S.E. Program**

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

Grade	Student ID#	Revision	Sending District
12	813122	From full time To half time	Paramus

3. **Home Instruction**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve home instruction placement for student ID# 814117 from January 24, 2025-March 31, 2025, per student's IEP. The educational services will be administered through Silvergate Prep at the cost of \$55.00 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week. The student was discharged from Bergen County Special Services-Venture Program on December 16, 2024 with a tuition adjustment reduced to \$34,801.88 for the Venture Program.

Moved by:

Martin ▾

Seconded by:

Stephans ▾

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"/>
Guzman	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	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"/>					

IX. **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 accord 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 1-8

1. Resignations

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the date adjustment to Karoline Scheck's previously board approved resignation for the purpose of retirement. The effective date change is from July 1, 2025, to November 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 (attached) of Sharon Knichel, Buildings and Grounds Coordinator for Pascack Valley High School for the purpose of retirement, effective September 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 (attached) of Patricia Uszenski, Guidance Department Executive Secretary for Pascack Valley High School for the purpose of retirement, effective September 1, 2025.

2. Leave Replacement

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

Name	Position	Salary	Effective Date
Thomas DeRosa	Leave Replacement PHHS Science Teacher (for employee IDs 2190 and 2825)	BA Step 1 \$291.37 per diem without benefits	On or about March 17, 2025 to June 17, 2025

3. Additional Periods

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following additional sixth period assignment for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Subject	Additional Period	Amount
Vani Apanosian	RISE Program: English IV	February 19-June 17, 2025 (9 days and 14 weeks)	\$4,435
Christopher Volk	General	February 19-June 17, 2025	\$4,435

	Education Study Skills	(9 days and 14 weeks)	
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- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following additional sixth period assignments for the 2024-2025 school year while employee IDs 2190 and 2825 are on leave:

Name	Subject	Additional Period	Amount
Katherine Vargo collaborative teacher	Biological Sciences	March 17-June 17, 2025 (6 days and 11 weeks)	\$3,415
Aarti Mallya	Biology	March 17-June 17, 2025 (6 days and 11 weeks)	\$3,415
David Frangiosa	Chemistry in the Community	March 17-June 17, 2025 (6 days and 11 weeks)	\$3,415
Megan Graziano	Biology	March 17-June 17, 2025 (6 days and 11 weeks)	\$3,415

4. **Job Description - New**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the job description for General Secretary: Central Office - Accounts Payable (attached).

5. **Mentor**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Brooke Garbaccio, Pascack Hills High School Special Education Teacher, to mentor Thomas DeRosa, Pascack Hills High School Leave Replacement Science Teacher, beginning March 17, 2025, for the 2024-2025 school year.

6. **Testing Support**

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve testing support for the ACT 10 exam held at Pascack Valley High School on March 1, 2025.

Support	Name	Amount
Test Coordinator	Maggie Ely	\$1150
Standard Time Proctor	Lima, Sydney	\$216
Standard Time Proctor	Koenig, Bill	\$216
Standard Time Proctor	Corasaniti, Dana	\$216
Standard Time Proctor	Trass, Agostina	\$216

Extended Time Proctor	Murphy, Caitlin	\$285
Extended Time Proctor - 1v1 (IEP)	Macaluso, Danielle	\$285
Extended Time Proctor - 1v1 (IEP)	Belger, Joe	\$285
Testing Help	Moran, JJ	\$200
Relief Proctor/Hallway Monitor	DeSantis, Valentina	\$200

- b. **RESOLVED** that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following staff members to provide technical support for the SAT test at PVHS:

Name	Assignment	Dates	Payments
Scott Jones	Technician	3/8/2025, 5/3/2025, 6/7/2025	\$500* each test date
Ross Koehler	Technician	3/8/2025, 5/3/2025, 6/7/2025	\$500 each test date

*\$150 will be paid directly from the College Board. The remaining \$350 will be paid by the district.

7. Substitute Teachers

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

Name	Position	Type
Marnee Rosen	Classroom Teacher	New

8. Co-curricular

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, rescind the 2024-2025 co-curricular appointment of Ashleigh Butt as PHHS Spring Musical Assistant Director.

Moved by:

Martin ▾

Seconded by:

Stephans ▾

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"/>
Guzman	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	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"/>					

X. FINANCE**Consent Agenda for Items 1 – 18****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 February 24, 2025	\$3,379,290.43
Payroll as of January 31, 2025	\$1,802,526.88
Payroll as of February 14, 2025	\$2,165,636.56
Total	\$7,347,453.87

2. 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
Doreen Babis	NJASA WIEL Conference
David Bucco	NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament
Craig Buckley	Blending AI and Strategies in Educational Technology to Improve Instructional Outcomes
Deven Deppert	NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament
Katherine Donahue	New Jersey Council Teachers of English Spring Conference 2025
Julianne Downes	4 Part Herbalism Series
Vita Guardabascio	NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/NJ Bilingual Educators, Inc. Spring Conference
Tracy Leigh	2025 Spring Northeast Innovation Forum Leading a roundtable on women in technology making the transition from the classroom to leadership roles
Valerie Mattessich	New Jersey Council Teachers of English Spring Conference 2025
Clare Mazan	Sewing Lessons with Tyler Neasloney
Kevin Moran	NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament
Joe Orlak	ASU & GSV Tech Conference
Noemi Rodriguez	Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) Regional Annual Conference

	Presenting on Engaging Users of Generative AI
Virena Rossi	New Jersey Council Teachers of English Spring Conference 2025
Argine Safari	58th National Association of Music Education (NAfME) Eastern Division In-Service Conference Presenting a poster session on teaching music literacy skills in high school ensembles
Patricia Sular	FLENJ Professional Development - Teaching Grammar in Proficiency-Based Classroom
Olga Tsoy	NJCEC Annual Spring Conference
Wade Unger	NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament
Rose Welyczko	NJPSA School Health & The Law

3. **Donation**

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

Date	Donor	Amount	Club or Group
1/31/25	NY Jets	\$2,000	Awarded to PVR on behalf of Steve Papa for an AED Grant
2/21/25	Wegmans	\$500	PH Class of 2027

4. **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 items.

Item	Description	Model #	Asset Tag #
PHHS Ice Maker	Manitowoc Ice Inc.	B400	1007

5. **Reallocation of ESEA Grant Funds**

WHEREAS, the Board has identified a need to reallocate a portion of the 2024-25 ESEA grant funds to better address current program needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to transfer \$640.00 from account #20-272-200-320-20-000 (to account #20-272-200-580-20-000); and

WHEREAS, this reallocation will allow for the district to engage in additional training for our Multi-Language Learner (MLL) teachers; and

WHEREAS, this reallocation is consistent with the goals and objectives of the ESEA grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Business Administrator has reviewed the proposed reallocation and certifies that it is fiscally sound and in compliance with all applicable regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

1. The sum of \$640.00 is hereby transferred from account #20-272-200-320-20-000 to account #20-272-200-580-20-000
 2. The Business Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to make the necessary adjustments to the district's accounting records to reflect this reallocation.
 3. This reallocation shall be effective immediately.
6. **Park Academy – 1ST Annual Report for School Bus Emergency Evacuation Instruction Drill for School Bus Riders for the 2024-2025 School Year**
RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, pursuant to the Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2), and at the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following completed school bus emergency evacuation drill:

For Park Academy 609 Westwood Ave River Vale , NJ 07675

The first of two annual drills for bus riders for the 2024-2025 school year was conducted on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 8:45 a.m.

Evacuation Drill was held in front of Park Academy

Route Numbers: All students participated in the school bus emergency evacuation drill. Drill was conducted prior to the trip to Bergen PAC in Englewood.

David Giraldo Program Coordinator of Park Academy and Carlos Morales Bus Driver conducted the Emergency Evacuation Drill.

7. **Extraordinary Aid**
WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education has received Special Education Extraordinary Aid for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$728,567; and

WHEREAS, \$728,867 was not appropriated during FY 2023-2024; and

WHEREAS, \$475,934 was budgeted in FY 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(d)6 that allows a district board of education to appropriate surplus generated from any Federal and/or State revenue excluded from the excess surplus calculation in the pre-budget year in accordance with the annual audit program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the transfer of \$252,633 of Other State Aid Revenue to the district's General Fund account, and appropriate to the following:

\$30,000 to 11-000-216-320-05-000 Purchase Ed Services – OT/PT District

\$30,000 to 11-000-217-320-06-000 Purchase Ed. Extraordinary Services ABA Valley

\$30,000 to 11-000-217-320-07-000 Purchase Ed Extraordinary Service ABA Hills
\$40,000 to 11-000-230-331-01-000 Legal Service
\$40,000 to 11-000-270-515-05-000 Transportation Contracted Services – Jointure Special Education
\$82,633 to 11-190-100-500-13-000 Technology Plan District

8. **Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program**

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver because it projects having 40 or fewer Medicaid-eligible classified students and participation in SEMI would not provide a cost benefit to the district based on the projection of the district's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2025-2026 budget year;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education upon the recommendation of the superintendent hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to submit to the Executive Superintendent of Schools in the County of Bergen an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

9. **Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal - Fiber Damage Repair**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the withdrawal of \$56,771.00 from Maintenance Reserve for the project related to the Fiber Damage Repair project.

10. **AM Consultants Proposal - Fixed Asset Inventory**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the proposal from AM Consultants, Montville, New Jersey to conduct the June 30, 2025 fixed asset inventory as recommended by the auditor in the amount of \$7,185.00.

11. **Renew MasterLibrary.com, LLC**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the renewal of the contract with MasterLibrary.com, LLC for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$6,000.

12. **Capital Reserve Withdrawal - 63 Patterson St, Hillsdale**

WHEREAS, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education ("Board") entered into an agreement of sale with JH2 Enterprises, LLC ("JH2") for the purchase of property located at 63 Patterson Street, Hillsdale, New Jersey ("Property") for the amount of five hundred fifty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$550,000.00);

WHEREAS, all contingencies in the agreement of sale have been satisfied;

WHEREAS, a closing date has been scheduled for February 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, funds are needed from Capital Reserve to purchase the Property;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes a Capital Reserve withdrawal and transfer to the Capital Outlay Account/Fund in an amount of \$499,508.27 to pay for the balance of the purchase price and the closing costs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school business administrator is authorized to institute the appropriate procedures to wire the balance of the purchase price and the closing costs to Nuco Title Insurance Agency, Inc. and to sign any documents that may be required to close the title.

13. **Transportation - Byram Bus Inc**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education at the recommendation of the superintendent, approve Byram Bus Inc as a vendor for the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$800 for the first four hours and \$85.00 per hour thereafter for overtime.

14. **Transportation Joint Services and Agreements between the Pascack Valley Regional High School District and the Northwest Bergen Council – Region I**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education approve the Joint Transportation Services and Transportation Agreements between the Northwest Bergen Council-Region I (Host District), an approved Coordinated Transportation Service Agency located in Mahwah, N.J., and the Pascack Valley Regional High School District (Joiner District) for the purpose of shared costs with other districts in transporting our district students to and from non-public schools and the Bergen County Vocational and Technical School campuses, including summer sessions, if applicable, in accordance with the N.J.S.A. Chapter 27:6A-10.1-3; Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 beginning July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

15. **Transportation – Aid-in-Lieu Reimbursement for the 1st Semester 2024-2025 School Year for Non-Profit Private School Parents**

RESOLVED that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, and pursuant to NJ State Administrative Code 6A:27-2.3, approve the first semester (September 2024 - December 2024) pupil transportation aid-in-lieu reimbursement to non-profit private school district parents in the amount for \$146,006.55 of which \$84,335.55 is for high school district parents.

Pursuant to 18A:39-11, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District, on behalf of the Hillsdale, Montvale, River Vale, & Woodcliff Lake Boards of Education, shall provide transportation bids through a (CSTA) Coordinated Transportation Service Agency, invoice the districts, and make payments on their behalf to parents of elementary students attending non-profit private schools in the amount for \$61,671.00.

16. **Independent Child Study Team Therapy Evaluations and/or Services - Joint Agreement Between Region II and Non-Member District**

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, Allendale Public Schools for Independent Child Study Team Therapy Evaluations and/or Services for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

17. Special Education Transportation - Region II - Addenda

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education accept the following special education transportation contract addendum for the 2024-2025 school year.

Transporter	Contract	Rte #	Route	Per Diem Increase/Decrease	Adjusted Per Diem Cost
Excel	2301	2301	Deron School	84.00	391.05
Excel	2301	2301	Deron School	-84.00	307.05
Excel	2301	2301	Deron School	250.00	557.05
Excel	099	2355	Calais	55.00	444.79
Excel	099	2361	Valley-HPPS	15.00	401.42
First Choice Tranz	098	2353	CTC, Oakland	45.00	513.19
First Student	Q242520	Q242520	BCSS,Burlington	65.00	280.00
Galaxia	041	1210	The Children's Institute HS - Livingston	80.00	352.64
Galaxia	082	2106	Sage Day, R.P.	85.00	246.32
Galaxia	082	2106	Sage Day, R.P.	50.00	296.32
Gentle Ride Medical	088	2303	New Alliance Acad.	45.00	415.96
Gentle Ride Medical	088	2303	New Alliance Acad.	-45.00	370.96
Horizon	2420	2420	Bleshman	384.00	790.31
J&W Transport	2360	2360	BOCES	268.00	569.30
Lenoir's	030	9111	Windsor Lrn Ctr	90.00	364.16
Lenoir's	2366	2366	Paradigm	100.00	420.33
N&Y	067	2005	Forum to Perform Care	105.00	228.93
N&Y	067	2005	Forum to Perform Care	55.00	283.93
N&Y	067	2005	Forum to Perform Care	75.00	358.93
Pro Trans	Q242519	Q242519	Windsor	75.00	250.00
Safe Journey	2507	2507	Benway	100.00	290.00
Safe Journey	105	2519	Woodside Ave. School	60.00	288.00
Scholastic	093	2320	New Bridges	-125.00	718.94
Scholastic	093	2320	New Bridges	399.00	1,117.94
Scholastic	097	2349	PHHS	150.00	575.24
Shaddai	085	2202	Midland Pk SHIP	50.00	272.58
Shaddai	085	2211	BOCES	240.00	519.66
Shaddai	085	2211	BOCES	240.00	759.66
Star	060	1814	Windsor Bergen Acad.	65.00	306.91
Star	060	1814	Windsor Bergen Acad.	259.00	565.91
Star	2412	2412	Windsor Prep	90.00	300.56
Star	2412	2412	Windsor Prep	244.00	544.56
Star	2412	2412	Windsor Prep	-244.00	300.56
Sunny	Q24259	Q24259	Chancellor Ac.	75.00	295.00

Sunny	Q24259	Q24259	Chancellor Ac.	75.00	370.00
Sunny	Q24259	Q24259	Chancellor Ac.	-75.00	295.00
Tiny Tours	2422	2422	Craig Upper	59.00	261.78
Tiny Tours	2422	2422	Craig Upper	75.00	336.78
Valley	090	2318	Memorial, Montvale	300.00	623.93
Valley	090	2318	Memorial, Montvale	150.00	773.93
Valley	090	2322	Sage, Mahwah	365.00	759.12
Valley	094	2326	Valley,NVC	437.00	908.86
We Care	086	2205	SBJC – Maywood	125.00	556.11
We Care	087	2302	Woodside Elem.	436.00	934.83
We Care	087	2303	Woodside Elem.	-436.00	498.83
We Care	087	2304	Valley-NVC	477.50	984.33
We Care	087	2304	Valley-NVC	187.50	1,171.83

18. **Special Education Transportation - Region II - Bids**

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2531 to Horizon Transportation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2531	Westbrook MS	203	45	248.00*	22,568.00*

*Includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2532 to ProTrans School Transportation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2532	Memorial Elem.	155	75	230.00*	20,700.00*

*Includes cost of aide

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2533 to Spring Trans LLC for the 2024-2025 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2533	Chancellor Ac.	230	60	230.00	20,700.00

RESOLVED, that the Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education as LEA for Pascack Valley Region II, Special Education award special education transportation contract 2534 to Stellar School Transportation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Route #	Route	Base	Aide	Per Diem	Annual Cost
2534	Essex Valley School	239	40	239.00	21,988.00

Moved by: **Stephans** ▾Seconded by: **Keller** ▾

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"/>
Guzman	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	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. Usami made a change to Item 12, regarding the purchase of the Milestones House at 63 Patterson Street in Hillsdale. He mentioned that he did not know the amount needed to close, so it was not to exceed \$550,000, but they found out today the exact amount which is \$499,508.27. Ms. Calderone asked if it was alright to transfer funds from Extraordinary Aid (Item 7) to any account.

Mr. Usami said that it may be transferred to any account.

Ms. Stephans commented that she was excited about seeing all the professional development.

Ms. Guzman asked the purpose of the purchase of 63 Patterson Street.

Dr. Bilotti said it's referred to as the Milestones House that the district has been leasing since 2016. She indicated that the program operated on the first floor, but the program has grown and the owner offered to sell the house, so the program could utilize the entire house including the second floor. She mentioned that the district will make the necessary renovations to be ADA compliant and the house will be utilized in perpetuity for the ever growing program.

Mr. Usami added that it is for the 18-21 life skills transition program.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, Period 1: September 2024 - December 2024(attached)
2. Monthly Suspension Report (attached)

Mrs. Martin indicated that the attendance policy that was discussed previously has a related Regulation 5230 that addresses early dismissals. She said it does allow parents to have the freedom to pull students for early dismissal. She mentioned acceptable excuses would be for religious observations, a disability accommodation, illness that had to attend to, family emergency (discretion of the administration), medical/dental appointments, motor vehicle exams, student attendance in court, and an interview with an employer. She added that there is no specific mention about the prom.

Mr. Weaver cited Code NJAC 6A:32-d8.3 that a school day will not consist of less than four hours. He said in a policy it reads that no student may participate in a co-curricular activity scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day. He interprets it as if you have the four hours, which constitutes a day then you may participate in the activity. He mentioned that is the guideline he has followed as an educator and coach.

Mrs. Martin said she thought that too, but it's different under the regulation of acceptable excuses.

Dr. Bilotti said the handbook interprets specifically and the principals have interpreted it to the prom. She mentioned that the policy allows for options and it appears the district did not select

the option. She said they can look at what those options were. She commented that this is appropriate for board committee conversation.

Mrs. Varghese and Mrs. Martin agreed that there should be a deeper dive.

Mrs. Martin believes the student should be allowed to leave. There needs to be parent permission and give the administration guidelines.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Calderone asked when the post secondary meeting will be scheduled.

Dr. Bilotti said they would organize that. She thought a poll was sent out, but that was for another committee meeting.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Citizens are invited to make comments 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 and town of residence.
None

XIV. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education will meet in the Media Center 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. Contracts
If needed, the subject of executive session will be stated in the verbal motion
3. The Board will not return to the Regular Board Meeting, will take no action, and will adjourn from executive session.
OR
4. Official action may or may not be taken when the board reconvenes to Public Session

A motion was made by Mrs. Huang to enter into an executive session at 8:53 p.m.

Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Moved by: Huang ▾

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"/>
Guzman	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	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"/>					

XV. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Keller to adjourn the public meeting at 9:27 p.m. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Moved by: Keller ▾

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"/>
Guzman	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huang	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaver	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keller	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"/>					

Respectfully,



Yas Usami
Business Administrator/Board Secretary