MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Pascack Valley High School Media Center

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Ms. Debra Stephans, President

Present:
Ms. Debra Stephans, President
Ms. Elizabeth Calderone, Vice President
Ms. Gia Guzman
Mrs. Stephanie Huang
Ms. Katie Keller
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mrs. Cynthia Kirk, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Mark Russo, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Absent:
Mrs. Kristin Martin
Mr. James Stankus
Mrs. Gini Varghese
Mr. Michael Weaver
Mr. Dirk Phillips, Interim Superintendent

II. **FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Ms. Debra Stephans, President 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 publishing said notice on the Pascack Valley Regional High School District website.

IV. **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.

V. **RETREAT ITEMS:**

A. **BOE Presentation on Effective Boardsmanship (NJSBA Representative)**
NJSBA Field Service Representative Melissa Del Rosso introduced herself and her presentation. She then gave the board an ice breaker task which was completed in small groups. Each board member gave a summary of the fellow board member they interviewed in the ice breaker. Ms. Del Rosso continued with her presentation after the ice breaker task was completed. Topics covered included: the board president running the board meeting, navigating the public comment session, board member comments during the public comment segment, board members commenting on resolutions, board

decision making, and interactions among board members. Ms. Del Rosso also shared upcoming professional development opportunities for board members sponsored by the NJSBA. Additional topics included were district vision and developing board goals.

B. **Boards Goals**
The board discussed developing board goals for the 2026-2027 school year. Potential goals included: finding a superintendent, board training as a multiyear goal and potentially becoming a certified board, and continuing the 2025-2026 goal regarding after high school pathways for students.

C. **Superintendent Search Update**
Ms. Stephans provided an update on the steering committee's most recent meeting. She told the board that the committee met last week and that the committee had unanimously agreed to use a search firm to assist with conducting the superintendent search, citing time and time management as a deciding factor. The board discussed the use of a search firm for the previous superintendent search.

VI. **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.

VII. **MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON September 19, 2026**
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 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:
The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action on the Executive Session herein set forth.
The subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
1. Contract

A motion was made by Ms. Guzman to enter into executive session at 12:36 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Huang.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Keller to adjourn the public session at 1:22 pm. Ms. Guzman seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

VOTE

Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P	Bd. Mbr.	Aye	Nay	Abs.	N/P
Calderone	☐	☐	☐	☐	Stankus	☐	☐	☐	☐
Guzman	☐	☐	☐	☐	Varghese	☐	☐	☐	☐
Huang	☐	☐	☐	☐	Weaver	☐	☐	☐	☐
Keller	☐	☐	☐	☐	Stephans	☐	☐	☐	☐
Martin	☐	☐	☐	☐					

Respectfully,

Cynthia Kirk

Cynthia Kirk
Business Administrator/Board Secretary