



**PASSAIC VALLEY
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Minutes

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 18, 2024**

Order of Business

**The Board of Education of the Passaic Valley Regional High School In the
County of Passaic, New Jersey**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of
Education Monday, November 18, 2024**

The minutes for the regular meeting of the Passaic Valley Regional High School District in the County of Passaic on Monday, November 18, 2024, held in the Adra Suchorsky Library at the Passaic Valley High School located at East Main Street, Little Falls, New Jersey, 07424.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MS. BRIGATI, BOARD PRESIDENT, AT 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes	Mr. Damiano - Absent
Mr. Casasnovas – Yes	Mr. D’Angelo – Yes
Dr. Cathcart – Yes	Mr. DeLuca - Absent
Mr. D’Ambrosio – Yes	Mr. DeMarco – Yes
	Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

Also Present:

Dr. Bracken Healy, Superintendent of Schools
Colin Monahan, Business Administrator/Board
Secretary Raymond Reddin, Esq., Board Attorney

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Reading of Announcement

Public Notice

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the Board of Education of the Passaic Valley Regional High School District issued notice of this meeting on January 10, 2024, by having the date, time and location of the meeting posted on the bulletin board of Passaic Valley Regional High School and sent to The North Jersey Herald News and The Record. Notice was also filed with the Township Clerk of Little Falls, the Borough Clerk of Totowa, and the Business Administrator of Woodland Park and sent to those persons requesting that such notice be mailed to them. Notice of date change from November 19, 2024 to November 18, 2024 was sent out on October 30, 2024 to The North Jersey Herald News and The Record. Notice was also filed with the Township Clerk of Little Falls, the Borough Clerk of Totowa, and the Business Administrator of Woodland Park and sent to those persons requesting that such notice be mailed to them.

IV. President's Report

None.

V. Acknowledgment of Correspondence To The Board Of Education

None.

VI. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. D'Ambrosio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2024 Regular meeting; seconded by Mr. DeMarco.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes

Mr. Casasnovas – Yes

Dr. Cathcart – Yes

Mr. D'Ambrosio – Yes

Mr. Damiano - Absent

Mr. D'Angelo – Yes

Mr. DeLuca - Absent

Mr. DeMarco – Yes

Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

VII. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Healy reported on the results of a student survey regarding the open campus lunch. The results show that this is an overwhelming success.

92% of students said they feel refreshed upon returning to campus while 84% said they feel ready to learn upon their return.

94% of students said the open campus lunch has reduced their stress levels and 84% said the open campus lunch allows them to perform better academically.

The next survey which was sent to the staff will report on the rotating/drop schedule. The preliminary results show that 88% of the staff is in favor of this new schedule which is an increase from the 78% when this schedule was initially proposed.

Dr. Healy also noted that the preliminary report from the State of New Jersey regarding the Spring assessment shows the district surpassed all our benchmarks.

He thanked the Board for their consent in allowing these implementations.

VIII. Student Representatives Report

None.

IX. Call For Members of the Public To Be Heard

None.

X. Education Committee

1. Approval / Independent Evaluations Maximum Allowable Costs

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Independent Evaluation Maximum Allowable Costs for the 2024-2025 school year.

2. Approval / October 2024 Suspensions

The Superintendent reports and requests the approval of suspensions for October 2024.

3. Approval / In School Event

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Dr. Viktor Joganow, former Superintendent of Passaic Valley High School, as a guest speaker in the "Holocaust & Genocide" course for the 2024-2025 school year.

4. Approval / Home Instruction

The Superintendent recommended the retroactive approval of home instruction for the following student(s)

ID	Date on	Probable Duration	Instructor or Program
2001781	10/17/24	Approx 8 weeks	Aspire
32670	10/29/24	Up to 6 months	Stepping Forward
938414	11/11/24	30 days pending	Out of District Placement
21629	11/11/24	1 month	Educere
20154	11/15/24	60 days	Educere
32450	11/15/24	30 days	Educere

5. Approval / October 2024 Student Attendance

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the October 2024 student attendance.

Possible number of days school has been open	22.00
Possible number of days attendance	22,784.00
Days absent	1,012.00
Percent of attendance	95.5%
Average daily Enrollment	1,035.00

6. Approval / Resignation - Part Time Paraprofessional

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following part-time paraprofessionals resignation for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Ms. Therese Argueta as of 11/08/24

7. Approval / Home Instructors for the 2024-2025 School Year

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Ms. Pamela Kole and Ms. Karen Paulison, as Home Instructors for the 2024-2025 school year.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 18, 2024

8. Approval / Field Trip

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following field trips:

	Department	Teacher/ Advisor	Event	Date/Time/ Location	Purpose	Cost to BOE / Student
1	Counseling	Torres	Universal Technical Institute Tour	Jan. 13, 2025 / 9:15am-12:30pm / UTI Bloomfield, NJ	Tour a local trade school and increase options for our students. Approx. 20 students 2 staff	BOE: N/A Bus provided by UTI
2	World Language: Italian Club	Napolitano	Pinot's Palette	Dec. 3, 2024 / 9:00am-1:00pm Blocks 1-6 351 Bloomfield Ave, Montclair, NJ	To learn about an Italian Artist and paint an imitation of their artwork. Approx. 23 students 2 staff	BOE: 2 Subs Per student: \$25.00
3	World Language: Spanish I	Ropero / Arici	Activate	Dec. 4, 2024 / 8:45am-1:00pm American Dream Mall, East Rutherford, NJ	Foster teamwork, problem solving using technology. Approx. 40 students 2 Staff	BOE: 2 Subs Per student: \$27.00
4	World Language: Spanish Club	Ropero / Arici	Activate	Dec. 11, 2024 / 8:45am-1:00pm American Dream Mall, East Rutherford, NJ	Foster teamwork, problem solving using technology. Approx. 23 students 2 Staff	BOE: 2 Subs Per student: \$27.00

9. Approval / Overnight Field Trip

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Music Department's Annual Field Trip to Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Trip advisors are Mr. Michael DeLuccia and Mrs. Pia Surace. The dates are May 30-31, 2025. Approximately 50 students and 2 staff.

- Cost to the BOE is 2 substitutes.
- Cost to students \$500.00 total.

10. Approval / 2024-2025 Substitute Teacher

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following substitute teachers at the per diem substitute rate for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Angela Shafer Effective 10/23/24
- Ronni D. Nochimson

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 18, 2024**

11. Approval / Fundraiser(s)

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following fundraiser(s):

	Department	Teacher/ Advisor	Event	Date/Time/Location	Purpose
1	Drama Club	Shue/ Deluccia	Donation Collection at the Winter Production	Dec. 9, 2024 Winter Production Schneider Auditorium	Raise money in lieu of charging admission towards the Drama Club and Broadway Cares Non-Profit Organization
2	Class of 2028	Lions / Trejo	Bake Sale	Dec. 20, 2024 Gris Gym Lobby	Junior Cotillion and Senior Prom
3	Class of 2028	Lions / Trejo	Class of 2028 Apparel Sale	Nov. 2024 - Jan. 2025 Online Store	Junior Cotillion and Senior Prom
4	Class of 2028	Lions / Trejo	Little Falls Shoprite Can Shake	Dec. 8, 2024 Little Falls Shoprite	Junior Cotillion and Senior Prom
5	Class of 2026	Kurtishi	Jersey Mike's	Nov. 19, 2024	Raise funds for the Class of 2026 Activities
6	Class of 2027	Joseph / Feinstein	Wendy's Dine & Donate	Dec. 3, 2024 5:00pm-8:00pm	Raise funds for cotillion, prom and other class activities
7	Class of 2027 & Yearbook	Joseph / Feinstein / McMaster	River & Craft Personalized Christmas Ornament Sale	Nov. 19 - Dec. 4 2024 Online Retail Store	Raise funds for cotillion, prom and other class activities

12. Approval / Professional Day

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following staff professional days:

Staff	Dates	Event/Destination	Purpose	Cost
Salluce Settembre Burke	10/4/2024 (Retroactive)	Creating a Unified Team Approach and Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Student Substance Abuse	Learn the current trends in substance use, community resources, and collaborating with a team.	State mileage reimbursement rate
Kohler	11/18/2024	University of Massachusetts presentation, workshop and Q&A	To gain knowledge of UMass Boston and admission trends to share with PV community.	N/A
Kohler	12/06/2024	NJIT, Newark NJ	To gain knowledge of NJIT and admission trends to share with PV community.	N/A
Morris	12/03/2024	Climb Program Presentation and Networking Event, Paramus, NJ	Visit the CarePlus site to meet the clinical team and learn about the program.	N/A

13. Approval / Stepping Forward Counseling Center LLC

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Stepping Forward Counseling Center LLC as an educational facility for students enrolled in their Partial Care Program.

14. Approval / Assistant Technology Assessment

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Augmentative Communication Assessment for student #938100 through Bergen County Special Services in Paramus, NJ. Service rate is not to exceed \$1,300.00.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 18, 2024

15. Approval / 2024-2025 ESEA Amendment

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Submission of 2024-2025 ESEA Amendment.

16. Approval / Leave Replacement Teacher of English

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Ms. Gay Boyle as Leave Replacement Teacher of English for employee #4621. Anticipated 1/2/2025 - 3/26/2025 at the rate of \$125.00/day, no benefits.

17. Approval / Guest Choreographer

The Superintendent recommended the retroactive approval of guest choreographer Jess LoProtto to work with the Advanced Dance students on 11/13/24 under the supervision of Ms. Maria McMahon. Required clearances and documentation on file. Compensation of \$250.00 budgeted through the Visual and Performing Arts/Dance budget.

18. Approval / Clinical Placement

The Superintendent recommended the approval of a clinical placement for J. Montalva, WPU. One semester: 1/23/25 - 5/14/25, 1 day/week. M. Salvatore supervising.

19. Approval / Individual Instruction

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Ms. Claudia Jo, for individual instruction, after school, at 1.5 hours a session, pending all paperwork and a background check. There will be no cost to the school district for this service.

20. Approval / Disposal of Items

The Superintendent recommended the approval to dispose of the following outdated, damaged, or obsolete items:

Item Location	Item Description/Title	ISBN (if applicable)	Quantity	Reason for Disposal	Department
Room 213	Physics: Principles and Problems	9780078807213	83	Outdated	Science
Room 213	University Physics	9780201571587	4	Outdated	Science
Room 213	College Physics	9781285762494	27	Outdated	Science
Room 213	College Physics	9780534997236	4	Outdated	Science
Room 213	Physics	9780547586694	46	Outdated	Science
Room 213	Physics	9780030735483	22	Outdated	Science
Room 213	Physics	9780471663158	1	Outdated	Science

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 18, 2024

21. Approval / Employee #4241 Revised Leave of Absence

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following revised leave for employee #4241.

Dates	Coverage	Amount of Time
09/09/2024 - 11/04/2024	Paid Personal/ Sick Leave	
	Federal Medical Leave Act	40 days
	NJ Family Leave Act	
	Unpaid Leave	

Mr. Casasnovas made a motion to approve Education items 1 – 21; seconded by Mr. D’Ambrosio.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes
Mr. Casasnovas – Yes
Dr. Cathcart – Yes
Mr. D’Ambrosio – Yes

Mr. Damiano - Absent
Mr. D’Angelo – Yes
Mr. DeLuca - Absent
Mr. DeMarco – Yes
Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

XI. Finance Committee

22. Approval of Monthly Bill List

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:19, Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims, provided Board of Education to make payments on claims for goods received and services rendered payable to the order of the person entitled to receive the amount after approval by the Board; or in accordance with payrolls duly certified; or debt service or when provided by resolution approval by a person designated by the Board, and WHEREAS, the following bill lists are drawn from the Authorization checking account and is being presented to the Board with the recommendation that it be paid:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check Numbers</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
11/19/24	Pending	\$1,345,417.50

WHEREAS, each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and audited as required by law in accordance with, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education approved the above bill list from the Authorization checking account, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education authorized the School Business Administrator to pay bills between board meetings if it is determined that a need arises prior to the next board meeting in accordance with Policy 6470 – Payment of Claims.

23. Acceptance of the Board Secretary’s Report, Cash Reconciler’s Cash Report and the Board Secretary’s Certification of Funds for the Month of September

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education to certify that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligation; and WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 further requires the Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education receive and accept the monthly financial statements, the Board Secretary’s Report and the Cash Reconciler’s Cash report; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary’s Report and the Cash Reconciler’s Cash report for the month ending September 30, 2024, for the Board to accept; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education acknowledges receipt of and accepted the Board Secretary’s Report and the Cash Reconciler’s Cash report for the month ending September 24, 2024; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and the Board of Education certified that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the district’s financial obligation.

24. Approval of Line-Item Budget Transfers – September 2024

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommended the approval of the following line-item transfers to include administrative cost budget transfers for the month of September 2024 as presented.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 18, 2024

25. Acceptance of Financial Status Report – September 2024

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommended the acceptance of the Financial Status Report for the month of September 2024, as presented.

26. Acceptance of Revenue Report – September 2024

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommended the acceptance of the Revenue Report for the month of September 2024, as presented.

27. Approval of Payment of Cafeteria Invoices

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommended the approval of payment of the following cafeteria invoices:

Vendor	Description	Check #	Amount
Pomptonian	Inv#671101124	1450	\$ 29,755.46
Pomptonian	Inv#671101824	1451	\$ 3,906.90
Pomptonian	Inv#671102524	1452	\$ 10,824.88
Pomptonian	Inv#671110124	1453	\$ 17,764.21
Economy Paper	Worktable	1454	\$ 534.61
Hubert	Lunch Cart	1455	\$ 210.00

Dr. Varcadipane made a motion to approve Finance items 22 – 27; seconded by Mr. DeMarco.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes
Mr. Casasnovas – Yes
Dr. Cathcart – Yes
Mr. D’Ambrosio – Yes

Mr. Damiano - Absent
Mr. D’Angelo – Yes
Mr. DeLuca - Absent
Mr. DeMarco – Yes
Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

XII. Operations Committee

28. Approval / Use of Facilities

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommended the approval of the following use of facilities requests: all outside organizations (not school related) must file proof of insurance with Passaic Valley Regional High School before the commencement of their designated event, including any preparation before, if necessary.

#	Department	Requested by	Area	Equipment	Date/time	Purpose
1	Little Falls Education Foundation	Casey Fronzuto	Griswold Gym, Back Foyer and Locker Room	N/A	Tuesday 04/08/2025 4:00PM - 10:00PM *Event starts at 7pm	Wizards Basketball Fundraiser
2	Little Falls Police Department	Sergeant J. Emperio	Track and Field	N/A	Tuesday 12/03/2024 7:00am-9:00am	Physical Assessment for new recruits
3	Garden State Soccer League	Lawrence D'Astolfo	Turf Field	N/A	Sunday 11/24/24 8:00am-10:00am	Make up Soccer Game
4	PV Op Grad 2025	Damaris Noriega	Back Parking Lot/ Picnic Tables	N/A	12/07/24 10:00am-12:00pm	Holiday Wreath Sale Pick up

29. Approval / Emergency Bus Drills

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommended the approval of Emergency Exit Drills with Laidlaw/First Student, School Transportation Service, Trans-Ed, and Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education buses for all Passaic Valley Regional High School students and bus routes and other busing for students from various boards of education participating in the PV/BCSS ABA Program. Drills were conducted in accordance with NJAC:6:21-11.4 on 10/8, 10/9, 10/11, 10/15, 10/16, 10/17, 10/21, 10/22, 10/23, 10/29, 10/30, 10/31, and 11/1. Drills are conducted twice a year for bus students and annually for non-bus students.

30. Approval of Architectural/Engineering Services

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, and the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds recommended the approval of Dan Dressel, Architect, for Architectural services for restroom renovations.

31. Approval of Renovations – Auditorium Stage Upgrades

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator and Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds recommended the approval of the auditorium stage upgrades to include a cyclorama and a rear traveler to Generations Services, Co-Op #ESCNJ 23/24-02 in the amount of \$37,540.28. These monies have been budgeted in the 2024-2025 Capital Outlay account.

32. Approval / Bus Driver/Bus Aide Training

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, certifies and approves the submission of the biannual Bus Driver and Bus Aide training. Training provided via SafeSchools/Vector Solutions. All required documentation will be hand-delivered to the county office by 11/19/24.

Mr. D'Ambrosio made a motion to approve Operations items 28 - 32; seconded by Mr. D'Angelo.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes

Mr. Casasnovas – Yes

Dr. Cathcart – Yes

Mr. D'Ambrosio – Yes

Mr. Damiano - Absent

Mr. D'Angelo – Yes

Mr. DeLuca - Absent

Mr. DeMarco – Yes

Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

XIII. Athletics and Students Activities Committee

33. Approval / Joseph Sasso - Assistant Coach Winter/Spring Track and Field

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Joseph Sasso as the Assistant Coach Winter/Spring Track and Field for the 2024-2025 season.

- Schedule D - Category 3 = \$5,733.00.

34. Approval / Christopher Mania - Volunteer Coach Boys Basketball

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Christopher Mania as a Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 season.

35. Approval / Girls' Show Practice Sites 2024-2025

The Superintendent recommended the approval of Girls' Show practice sites for the 2024-2025 school year. Proof of insurance will be filed with the Business office.

36. Approval / Rescind Appointment - Sound Designer

The Superintendent recommended rescinding the appointment of Mike Yesenosky as the Sound Designer for the Variety Show and appoint Joseph Morabito. Pay rate: 3 days at \$300.00 per day.

Mr. D'Ambrosio made a motion to approve Athletics and Activities items 33 – 36; seconded by Mr. DeMarco.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes
Mr. Casasnovas – Yes
Dr. Cathcart – Yes
Mr. D'Ambrosio – Yes

Mr. Damiano - Absent
Mr. D'Angelo – Yes
Mr. DeLuca - Absent
Mr. DeMarco – Yes
Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

XIV. Policy Committee

37. Approval / Policy Second Reading & Adoption

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator, recommended the approval of the second reading and adoption of the following policies:

P 0141	Board Member Number and Term (Revised)
P 0141.1	Board Member Number and Term - Sending District (Revised)
P 0141.2	Board Member Number and Term - Receiving District (Revised)
P 0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M) (Abolished)
P 2200	Curriculum Content (M) (Revised)
P & R 3160	Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
P & R 4160	Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
R 5200	Attendance (M) (Revised)
P 5337	Service Animals (Revised)
P 5350	Student Suicide Prevention (M) (Revised)
P 7231	Gifts From Vendors (M) (Abolished)
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis (M) (Revised)
P & R 8467	Firearms and Weapons (M) (Revised)
P 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants (Revised)

Dr. Cathcart made a motion to approve Policy item 37; seconded by Mr. D'Ambrosio.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes	Mr. Damiano - Absent
Mr. Casasnovas – Yes	Mr. D'Angelo – Yes
Dr. Cathcart – Yes	Mr. DeLuca - Absent
Mr. D'Ambrosio – Yes	Mr. DeMarco – Yes
	Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

XIV. Committee Reports

None.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Reddin has two updates on some legal matters for the Executive session.

Passaic County School Board's Association – Report of Delegate

None.

New Jersey School Boards Association – Report of Delegate

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Monahan mentioned that the next meeting will begin at 6:00 PM with dinner afterwards.

Call For Members of The Public To Be Heard

None.

XV. Executive Session

Mr. Reddin has two updates on legal matters and Mr. Monahan has two personnel issues for Executive Session.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes
Mr. Casasnovas – Yes
Dr. Cathcart – Yes
Mr. D’Ambrosio – Yes

Mr. Damiano - Absent
Mr. D’Angelo – Yes
Mr. DeLuca - Absent
Mr. DeMarco – Yes
Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

Return from Executive Session.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes
Mr. Casasnovas – Yes
Dr. Cathcart – Yes
Mr. D’Ambrosio – Yes

Mr. Damiano - Absent
Mr. D’Angelo – Yes
Mr. DeLuca - Absent
Mr. DeMarco – Yes
Dr. Varcadipane -Yes

XVI. Adjournment

Ms. Brigati asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. D’Ambrosio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. D’Angelo.

Respectfully Submitted,



Colin Monahan

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 6:00 pm
Adra Suchorsky Library
Passaic Valley High School
East Main Street
Little Falls, New Jersey