

**Passaic Valley Regional High School  
District #1**

***MINUTES***

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

**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  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

The minutes for the regular meeting of the Passaic Valley Regional High School District #1 in the County of Passaic on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 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 DR. VARCADIPANE, BOARD PRESIDENT AT 7:00 P.M.**

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati - Yes  
Dr. Cathcart - No  
Mr. D'Ambrosio - Yes  
Mr. Damiano - Yes

Mr. D'Angelo - Yes  
Mr. Doell - Yes  
Ms. Luker - Absent  
Dr. Varcadipane - Yes  
Mr. Yodice - Absent

**Also Present:**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. READING OF ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Monahan read the Public Notice.

**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 #1 issued notice of this meeting on January 8, 2022, by having the date, time and location of the meeting posted on the bulletin board of Passaic Valley 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.**

**IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

No Report

**V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Dr. Varcadipane asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022, Regular and Executive meetings of the Passaic Valley Regional High School District #1 Board of Education.

Mr. D'Ambrosio made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022, Regular and Executive meetings of the Passaic Valley Regional High School District #1 Board of Education; seconded by Ms. Brigati.

Roll Call:

Ms. Brigati – Yes  
Dr. Cathcart – Absent  
Mr. D'Ambrosio – Yes  
Mr. Damiano – Yes

Mr. D'Angelo Yes  
Mr. Doell – Yes  
Ms. Luker – Absent  
Dr. Varcadipane – Yes  
Mr. Yodice – Absent

**VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Healy said the school will be holding a third paint night, Thursday, March 10. Over 50 students and staff members have signed up. The first two paint nights were hugely successful.

Mr. Healy stated the National Honor Society induction ceremony was held last night. Mr. Healy thanked Ms. Shue for running the night and congratulation to all the inductees and returning members.

Mr. Healy congratulated student P.J. Casale, a senior wrestler, who placed second in the State wrestling tournament. P.J. is a former State Champion and we are very proud of his accomplishments.

Dr. Cathcart arrived at 7:04 P.M.

**VIII. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**1. Report of HIB**

The Superintendent reports and requests approval of the following HIB investigation(s):

Incident #	Location	Consequences	Intervention	Other Action	Determination
2122-14	Classroom	Counseling and Meeting with Mr. Settembre & Mr. Burke	Counseling and Meeting with Mr. Settembre & Mr. Burke	None	Not HIB

**2. Report of Suspensions**

The Superintendent reports and requests approval of suspensions for February 2022. Attach. E-1

**3. Approval / Professional Day Request**

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following professional day(s):

Emp. ID #/ Position	Destination	Date/ Location	Benefits/Purpose	Cost
4221	NJECC Technology Conference	Mar 8-9, 2022/ Montclair State University	Learn and find out about new and innovative technology for schools and classrooms	None

**4. Approval / Home Instruction 2021-2022**

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following Home Instruction:

ID	
Hi22-2122	Home Instruction – Pam Kole
Hi23-2122	Learn Well; 10 hours per week \$48.00/hour
Hi24-2122	Educere

**5. Approval / Rescind Employment Approval**

The Superintendent recommended approval to rescind the approval of the following:

- Ms. Dawn Velardi, Paraprofessional

**6. Approval / February 2022 Student Attendance**

The Superintendent reports the following attendance for February 2022:

Possible number of days school has been open	18.00
Possible number of days attendance	17,137.00
Days absent	808.00
Percent of attendance	95.3%
Average daily attendance	907.17
Average daily enrollment	1,005.72

**Education Committee**

**7. Approval/ Field Trip**

The Superintendent recommended approval of following field trip(s):

	<b>Department</b>	<b>Teacher/ Advisor</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
1	Sport & American Society	DeSalvo	NY Jets Business Day	Mar 29, 2022/ 8:00am-1:40pm/ Met Life Stadium Rutherford, NJ	Go behind the scenes and learn about the business of sports off the field. Approx 15 students, 2 staff Cost to BOE – Substitute teachers
2	The Ocean & AP Environmental Science	Goodman	NJ Sea Grant	June 8, 2022/ 7:30am-2:00pm/ Sandy Hook, NJ	Learn about topics that enhance classroom curriculum. Approx 20 students, 2 staff Cost to BOE: substitutes

**8. Approval/ Job Posting**

The Superintendent requests approval to post for an anticipated opening for Director/Supervisor of Special Education.

**9. Approval/Fundraiser(s)**

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

	<b>Department</b>	<b>Teacher/ Advisor</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
1	Spring Track & Field	Burke	Dine & Donate	Apr 26, 2022/ 11:00am-9:00pm/ Smashburger, Totowa NJ	Raise funds for Senior gifts, awards, volunteer coach gifts & program enhancements.

**10. Approval/Dominic Carfagno Teacher of Special Education/TOSD**

The Superintendent recommended that Dominic Carfagno be hired as a Special Education/Teacher of Students with Disabilities on Class 1, Step 3, \$56,360.00 prorated. Start date on or about May 9, 2022, or earlier depending upon release from current district. Pending paperwork and completion of background check.

## **Education Committee**

Dr. Varcadipane read the following resolution.

**11. Approval / PVHS "Say Something Day" Proclamation**

Whereas, when it comes to violence, suicide and threats, most are known by at least one other individual before the incident occurs; and

Whereas, 80% of school shooters told someone of their violent plans prior to the event. 7 out of 10 people who complete suicide told someone of their plans or gave some type of warning or indication; and

Whereas, *Say Something* teaches students in Middle and High School how to look for warning signs, signals and threats, especially in social media, from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others and to "say something" to a trusted adult to get them help.

Whereas, *Say Something* will benefit young people, educators, administrators, community-based organizations, parents, and caretakers by building a culture of looking out for one another; and

Whereas, by reporting possible threats of violence when someone sees, reads, or hears something, entire communities will become safer, and lives will be saved; and  
Whereas, Sandy Hook Promise, a national, non-profit organization led by family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 supports sensible solutions that protect

children and prevent gun violence by bringing individuals and communities together, to look out for and care for one another; and

Whereas, Sandy Hook Promise's *Say Something* Program, is being celebrated as part of National *Say Something* Week, March 14 - March 18, 2022 at Passaic Valley Regional High School; and

Whereas, through *Say Something*, young people will see a positive change for everyone and save lives by looking out for one another.

Therefore, we, the elected officials of the Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education in Little Falls, New Jersey, do recognize and commemorate the importance of this program and hereby proclaim *March 17, 2022*, to be *Say Something Day* at Passaic Valley Regional High School in Little Falls, New Jersey and encourage all our citizens to recognize *Say Something's* significance.

Ms. Luker made a motion to approve Education agenda items 1 - 11; seconded by Ms. Brigati.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. D’Angelo Yes  
Mr. Doell – Yes  
Ms. Luker – Absent  
Dr. Varcadipane – Yes  
Mr. Yodice – Absent

**IX. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**12. Approval to Transfer Funds – Student Activity to Athletic Fundraising**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommended the Board approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$28,803.46 from the school district’s Student Activity Account to Athletic Fundraiser Account.

Dr. Cathcart made a motion to approve Finance agenda items 12; seconded by Mr. D’Ambrosio.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. D’Angelo Yes  
Mr. Doell – Yes  
Ms. Luker – Absent  
Dr. Varcadipane – Yes  
Mr. Yodice – Absent



**X. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**13. Approval to Lease Revision - Pick-Up Truck & Van**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommended the Board revise previous the lease agreement to approve the purchase of a 2022 Ford F250 XL w/plow 4WD Reg Cab 8' Box Pick-Up Truck N.J. State Contract # 88727 and a Ford Transit Connect Van, ESC Co-Op #65MCECCPS – ESCNJ 20/21/-09 from Beyer Ford, Morristown, New Jersey. This purchase will be a 5-year lease through Laural Mountain Leasing, dba 911 Leasing, in the amount of \$15,144.72 per year. The lease will begin July, 1, 2022.

**14. Approval of Athletic Field Improvement Bid – Change Order**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Suburban Engineering recommended the Board approve the following Athletic Field Improvements change order. Work to be completed by the contractor, Athletic Fields of America.

Original Contract Amount	\$976,874.98
Change Order – Open trench, perforated pipe	\$32,235.13
Adjusted Contract Amount	\$1,009,110.11

**15. Approval of Athletic Field Improvement Bid – Change Order**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Suburban Engineering recommended the Board approve the following Athletic Field Improvements change order. Work to be completed by the contractor, Athletic Fields of America.

Original Contract Amount CO 1&2	\$1,009,110.11
Change Order – Musco Pole Accent Lights	\$29,626.70
Adjusted Contract Amount	\$1,038,736.81

Mr. Damiano made a motion to approve Operations agenda items 13 - 15; seconded by Mr. D’Ambrosio.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. D’Angelo Yes  
 Mr. Doell – Yes  
 Ms. Luker – Absent  
 Dr. Varcadipane – Yes  
 Mr. Yodice – Absent

**XI. ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

**16. Approval of the following Volunteer Baseball Coaches for 2022 Season**

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following volunteer baseball coaches pending all required paperwork for the 2021-2022 spring season:

- Michael O'Brien - PVHS Teacher
- Steve Smith - PVHS Teacher
- Christopher Watkins - PVHS Substitute Teacher
- Ben Adilli - Approved in Fall for Volunteer Coach Soccer

**17. Approval of the following Volunteer Girls' Lacrosse Coach for the 2022 Season**

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following volunteer Girls' Lacrosse coach for the 2021-2022 spring season pending receipt of all paperwork, including criminal history clearance.

- William Dye

**18. Approve Joseph Benvenuti to attend the 2022 DAANJ Conference.**

The Superintendent recommended approval for Mr. Joseph Benvenuti, Supervisor of Athletics and Student Activities, to attend the Annual DAANJ Annual Conference at Golden Nugget, Atlantic City, NJ on March 15-17, 2022. Registration Fee: \$610; Travel Fees, Lodging, Mileage, Meals and Fees.

**19. Approval/ Ice Hockey Agreement between Passaic Valley Regional High School, Clifton High School and Cedar Grove High School**

The Superintendent recommended approval of the cooperative contractual agreement between Passaic Valley Regional High School, Clifton High School and Cedar Grove High School to play as a registered Tri-Op in Ice Hockey within the NJSIAA for the 22-23 and 23-24 seasons. With this agreement Clifton HS will become LEA and assume responsibility as point of contact as a school and athletic dept.

**Athletics and Activities**

**20. Approval of Revision to Attend NJSIAA Wrestling Tournament in Atlantic City March 2- 6, 2022**

WHEREAS, the Athletic Director and the PVHS Wrestling Coach wish to have multiple students that qualify and three coaches from the wrestling team participate in the NJSIAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT being held in Atlantic City on March 3, 4 and 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the district's three wrestling team coaches, Athletic director and Superintendent will all be attending the trip due to the fact that each student may be participating in a match all at the same time and would require at least one coach to participate at each mat according to NJSIAA/NHSCA rule and for school district administrative supervision; and

WHEREAS, the travel to and from this event will be made by means of four PVHS Teachers/Coaches/Administrative personal vehicles (J. Wassel, A. Greco, J. Benvenuti, B. Healy); and

WHEREAS, the cost of this event is estimated at:

Travel cost	\$ 325.00
Hotel costs	\$3,088.00
Meal cost	\$1,755.00

WHEREAS, the total cost of the trip will not exceed \$5,500.00;

WHEREAS, this trip will be in accordance with Board Policy 2431 – Athletic Competition; Board regulation 2431.1 – Emergency procedures for Athletic Practices and Competition; Board regulation 2431.2 – Medical Examination to Determine Fitness for Participation in Athletics; and Board policy and regulation 2431.4 Concussions and Head Injuries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Passaic Valley Regional High School District #1, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the qualifying student athletes and the three wrestling team coaches to attend NJSIAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT in Atlantic City, leaving Wednesday evening March 2, 2022 and returning Sunday morning, March 6, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$5,500.00 in accordance with Board policies and regulations.

Mr. D'Ambrosio made a motion to approve Athletics and Activities agenda items 16 - 20; seconded by Mr. Damiano.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. D'Angelo Yes  
Mr. Doell – Yes  
Ms. Luker – Absent  
Dr. Varcadipane – Yes  
Mr. Yodice – Absent

## **XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dr. Varcadipane asked if there are any committee reports.

### **Finance Committee**

Dr. Varcadipane said he spoke with Mr. Monahan and would like to set up a committee meeting for Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> to review the 2021-2022 audit and the 2022-2023 budget.

### **Technology Committee**

Mr. D'Angelo said he would like to set up a technology committee meeting before the next Board Meeting. Mr. Monahan said he would set that meeting up and reach out to the committee members with a date and time.

### **Attorney's Report**

None

### **Passaic County School Board's Association – Report of Delegate**

None

### **New Jersey School Board's Association – Report of Delegate**

None

### **Old Business**

Mr. Monahan said the bid opening for financing the ESIP was held today, the lowest bid was from TD bank at a rate for 2.57% for 18 years.

### **New Business**

None

## **XIII. CALL FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

None

Mr. Carfagno thanked the Board for the opportunity to teach at Passaic Valley.

The Board congratulated Mr. Carfagno and wished him good luck.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Monahan stated there is one (1) personnel matter for Executive Session which will take approximately 15 minutes; no action will be taken.

Mr. Reddin stated notices have been served.

Into Executive Session: 7:20 P.M.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. D’Angelo Yes  
Mr. Doell – Yes  
Ms. Luker – Absent  
Dr. Varcadipane – Yes  
Mr. Yodice – Absent

Out of Executive Session: 7:35 P.M.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. D’Angelo Yes  
Mr. Doell – Yes  
Ms. Luker – Absent  
Dr. Varcadipane – Yes  
Mr. Yodice – Absent

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Varcadipane asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

**Next Meeting**

Regular Meeting:  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 7:00 pm  
Adra Suchorsky Library  
Passaic Valley High School  
East Main Street, Little Falls New Jersey