

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING JUNE 8, 2017
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

A Work Session/Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education will be held on June 8, 2017 in the High School Cafeteria.

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

II. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

III. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Ridgefield Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the Administration Building, and having notified The Record, The Star Ledger and the Ridgefield Borough Clerk”.

IV. ROLL CALL

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Grippa | Present |
| Mrs. Huzovic | Present |
| Mr. Morilla | Present |
| Mrs. Narvaez | Absent |
| Mr. Salazar | Arrived at 8:27 p.m. |
| Mr. Yang | Present |
| Mrs. Payerle | Present |

There being five members present, a quorum was declared.

Also present were:

Dr. Frank Romano – Superintendent of Schools
Floro Villanueva Jr. – Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Robert Jacobs, Board Attorney

V. Motion to Convene in **EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION** for School Board Training, Personnel, Legal, Negotiations, Attorney/Client Privilege and/or Student Matters items, at 7:08 P.M.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Ridgefield Board of Education, pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, that the Board meet in closed session to discuss the following subject matter(s), which is (are) permitted to be discussed in closed session pursuant to the following designated sub-section(s) of Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act:

- () Sub-section 1 dealing with material rendered confidential by express provision of Federal or State law.

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- () Sub-section 2 covering a matter in which release of information would impair a right to receive federal funds.
- () Sub-section 3 involving disclosure of material that would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, including material related to an individual's personal and family circumstances, without the express written consent of the individual involved.
- () Sub-section 4 pertaining to collective bargaining agreements and the terms, conditions and negotiations thereof.
- () Sub-section 5 dealing with the acquisition of real property, the setting of bank rates, or the investment of public funds where discussion thereof would adversely affect the public interest.
- () Sub-section 6 dealing with tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public where disclosure could impair such protection or investigation of violation of the law.
- (X) Sub-section 7 dealing with pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiations, or matters falling within the attorney-client privilege.
- (X) Sub-section 8 concerning student matters and/or personnel matters dealing with employment, appointment, termination, or terms and conditions of employment of any person or persons, or the evaluation, promotion or disciplining of employees unless all employees involved consent to disclosure thereof.
- () Sub-section 9 involving deliberations after public hearing on a matter, which may result in the imposition of a civil penalty or the suspension or loss of a license.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as precisely as can be determined at this time, the discussion conducted in the said closed session can be disclosed to the public upon taking final action thereon, provided disclosure shall not violate the attorney-client privilege, impair the safety and property of the public or constitute an undue invasion of privacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is not envisioned that the Board will return to open session after this closed session meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Morilla, seconded by Mr. Yang.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

VI. PUBLIC BOARD MEETING reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS -

1. Teacher Retirement Recognition

Dr. Romano congratulated the 14 retirees – Elaine Ascik, Slocum Skewes School; Debra Batch, RMHS; Elyse Bergman, Bergen Boulevard School; Enrico Ciamillo, RMHS/Slocum Skewes School; Laura Coviello, Bergen Boulevard School; Valerie Echavarria, RMHS; Marie Louise Gonzalez, RMHS; Fran LaTour, Shaler Academy School; Patricia Ost, RMHS; Michele Scirocco,

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RMHS; Mary Ann Sherger, Slocum Skewes School; Angela Spina, Slocum Skewes School; Fanny Arias, District; and Julio Corredor, District. Dr. Romano stated that some retirees are present this evening and their administrators will be honoring them.

Dr. Romano introduced Mr. Bellizzi, Principal at Slocum Skewes School who spoke and honored Mrs. Elaine Ascik and Mrs. Maryann Sherger.

Dr. Romano introduced Dr. DePass, Principal at Shaler Academy School and Bergen Boulevard School who spoke and honored Mrs. Laura Coviello and Mrs. Elyse Bergman.

Mrs. Payerle read a letter she received from Ms. Michelle Scirocco who asked her to read her thank you message to everyone.

Mrs. Payerle thanked Mrs. Scirocco for her heartfelt words and wished her well.

Mrs. Payerle thanked and honored all retirees on behalf of the Board of Education thanked them for their years of service as role models, mentors and wished them good health and happiness in their retirement.

Mrs. Payerle asked for a motion to take a break to have some refreshments.

Motion made by Mr. Salazar, and seconded by Mr. Morilla.

The meeting reconvened after a ten-minute break.

Mrs. Payerle stated that the board added Resolution #21 – APPROVAL TO INVOKE DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY

Mr. Robert Jacobs, board attorney read in Resolution #21 – APPROVAL TO INVOKE DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators, and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, questions arose regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a Board of Education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

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WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission (“Commission”) provided guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-9 (April 1, 1998); and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to Invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary, and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission, by Resolution dated February 25, 2003, clarified and required a Board of Education invoking the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so, and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission further directed Boards of Education that invoke the Doctrine to read the Resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for thirty (30) days, and provide the Commission with a copy; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education promulgated N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2, which places additional standards and restrictions upon the ability of a board member to vote on a particular issue; and

WHEREAS, the Board is required by law to participate in collective bargaining with Its unions; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgefield Board of Education may desire to adopt and ratify the terms of agreement as set forth in a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and the Ridgefield Education Association (Teachers), which would, after such adoption and ratification by the parties, form the basis of the Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in order to adopt and ratify the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement, the Board desires to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Board Attorney has reviewed the State Regulations and the advisory decisions of the Commission and determined board member conflicts prohibit four members of the Board from voting on the Memorandum of Agreement and corresponding Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the four board member conflicts are as follows:

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Andrew Grippa – Wife is employed in the Ridgefield District as a secretary

Rosemary Huzovic – Sister is employed in the Ridgefield District as a Guidance Counselor

Kathy Payerle – Employed as a teacher in another District and is a member of the New Jersey Education Association

Claudia Narvaez – Employed as a teacher in another District and is a member of the New Jersey Education Association

WHEREAS, the aforementioned board members' conflicts will also result in a lack of a quorum necessary to act to possibly adopt and ratify the Memorandum of Agreement and a Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in order to permit the Board to possibly adopt and ratify the Memorandum of Agreement and a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ridgefield Board of Education, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Board therefore invokes the Doctrine of Necessity in order to permit the full body of the Board to act to possibly adopt and ratify the Memorandum of Agreement and a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board and the Ridgefield Education Association (Teachers) for the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; and
2. That this Resolution shall be read at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and be posted on the Board's website; and
3. That a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the School Ethic Ethics Commission.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- A. Student Liaison – Rodney Ocean
Mr. Ocean reported on the following school activities. (See attached report).
- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Rosemary Huzovic – **N/R**
- C. Curriculum Committee - Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), TBD – There will be a meeting on June 22, 2017
- D. Operations Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Ralph Morilla – Mr. Grippa said there will be a meeting on June 22, 2017.

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- E. Personnel Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Steve Yang, Ray Salazar – **N/R**
- F. Policy Committee – Rosemary Huzovic (Chairperson), Claudia Narvaez – Mrs. Huzovic said there will be an update at the June 22, 2017 meeting.
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Steve Yang – Alternate: Mrs. Payerle said the Department of Consumer of Affairs are going to adopt a regulation for all school districts to install carbon monoxide monitors in all schools. Governor Christie signed Assembly Bill 4284 and Bill 2675 that provided financial relief to school districts that performed lead testing. Mr. Villanueva said he already submitted for reimbursement. Assembly Bill 409 and Bill 2491 eligible students who are members of the military US ARM Forces can wear uniforms to graduation. Governor Christie signed another bill for districts to establish a policy to give varsity letters for grades 9-12 for Interscholastic Extra Curricular Activities that are competitive.

IX. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION -

X. Motion to move into PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS Session of the Meeting (Resolutions and Discussion Items Only).

Statements made by individual participants are limited to a duration of five (5) minutes unless otherwise announced at the beginning of the discussion. The Board urges large groups to select one person to represent them. The Board reminds those individuals who take the opportunity to speak to please step up to the microphone, identify themselves by name and address, and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda. The Board may or may not respond to issues raised by members of the public. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks all members of the public to be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, the Board discourages comments regarding students and employees and will not respond to such comments. Please note that after the public discussion is closed by the President, no other questions or comments from the audience will be permitted until the “Questions and Comments from the Audience on Any Topic of Concern” at the end of the agenda. At that time, questions do not have to be confined to agenda items.

Motion made by Mr. Salazar, seconded by Mr. Grippa.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XI. Motion to close PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS Session of the Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Morilla, seconded by Mr. Grippa.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XII. BOARD COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Payerle reminded the board that the Superintendent Evaluation is due by July 1, 2017. She asked the board to submit their evaluations in the next coming week.

XIV. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

1. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Roll Call

Motion to approve the following consent items 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17, 18, 19 and 20:

Motion made by Mr. Salazar, seconded by Mr. Morilla.

ROLL CALL ON RESOLUTION #21

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Grippa | Aye |
| Mrs. Huzovic | Aye |
| Mr. Morilla | Aye |
| Mr. Salazar | Aye |
| Mr. Yang | Aye |
| Mrs. Payerle | Aye |

ROLL CALL

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Grippa | Aye except Recuse on #2 Payroll and Health Benefits and #5 and abstain on #19 |
| Mrs. Huzovic | Aye |
| Mr. Morilla | Aye |
| Mrs. Narvaez | Absent |
| Mr. Salazar | Aye |
| Mr. Yang | Aye |
| Mrs. Payerle | Aye |

FINANCE – (Items 2-5)

2. MINUTES – Consent

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2017 Business Meeting (**REF#0608-01**):

3. BILL LIST – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the bill list from the month of May & June

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2017 (**REF#0608-02**):

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| June Vendor Batch I | \$ 527,182.26 |
| May Payroll | \$2,396,616.60 |
| May Health Benefits | \$ 442,737.44 |

4. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS - Consent

Motion to approve the following fundraisers for the 2016-2017 school year (**REF#0608-03**):

- A.) **RMHS Basketball** to hold an **Alumni Basketball Game** on June 14, 2017 to raise funds for end of the year dinner and summer league.

5. APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF DELTA DENTAL AGREEMENT – Consent

Motion to approve Delta Dental PPO Plus Premier Agreement for a one-year agreement at a guaranteed rate of \$98.56 for 0001 Premier Plan and \$82.78 for 0002 Premier Plan effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. This represents --1.55% decrease for the 2017-2019 contract:

6. APPROVAL OF REVISED TUITION AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES RATES FOR THE 2017-2018 LEARNING CENTER PROGRAMS – Consent

Motion to approve the following tuition and additional services rates for the Learning Center Program for the 2017 – 2018 school year:

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| BD Program - \$49,330 (No ESY) | |
| MD Program - \$41,929 ESY – \$5,682 | 10 Months - \$36,247 |
| AUT Program - \$60,442 ESY – \$8,190 | 10 Months - \$52,252 |
| PSD Program - \$26,300 ESY – \$3,564 | 10 Months - \$22,736 |
| LC MAINSTREAM Program - \$28,750 ESY – \$3,896 | 10 Months - \$24,854 |
| FT 1:1 Aide 12 Months - \$42,532 | FT 1:1 Aide 10 Months - \$40,022 |
| PT 1:1 Aide - \$21.75 per hour | |
| OT/PT Services - \$100 per session | |

STUDENT SERVICES – (Items)

CURRICULUM – (Item)

OPERATIONS – (Item 6)

7. APPROVAL TO DISPOSE OF 2005 INTERNATIONAL BLUE BIRD HANDICAP SCHOOL BUS - Consent

Motion to approve to authorize the disposition by sale, donation or discard of the following equipment that is no longer needed, obsolete and/or in working order for school purposes as per NJSA 18A:18A-45:

2005 Blue Bird International Handicap School Bus VIN#1BABDCKH85F226965

PERSONNEL – (Items 8-20)

8. APPOINTMENT OF KATIE BARRERA-LABOY AS PART TIME BUS DRIVER – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves Katie Barrera-Laboy as a part time bus driver at a salary of \$19.63 per hour beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018:

9. APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR GIUSEPPE CACIOPPO – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves Giuseppe Cacioppo's request for an unpaid medical leave of absence retroactively beginning May 15, 2017 with an anticipated return date of September 1, 2017:

10. APPROVAL OF SICK LEAVE BANK DAYS (SLB) FOR EMPLOYEE ID#0093 – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves twenty-four and a half (24.5) sick leave bank days (SLB) for employee ID#0093 with a daily substitute charge to the employee of \$110 and with unused days to be returned to the sick leave bank as per the sick leave bank agreement:

11. EXTENSION OF UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR JOSEPH SKUNCA

-Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves Joseph Skunca's request for an extension of an unpaid leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act ("NJFLA") retroactive beginning May 1, 2017 with an anticipated return date of September 1, 2017 (seven (7) weeks). Included within this approval is approval of an unpaid leave pursuant to the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") which leave shall commence and run concurrently with the NJFLA leave:

12. APPOINTMENT OF DEBORAH BISSELL AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Deborah Bissell as Executive Secretary to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$77,285 effective July 1, 2017 (**REF#0608-04**):

13. APPOINTMENT OF KELLY HERNON AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Kelly Hernon as Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$74,272 (\$73,572 + \$700 Longevity) effective July 1, 2017 (**REF#0608-05**):

14. APPOINTMENT OF JULYANA ORTIZ AS ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Julyana Ortiz as Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$96,900 effective July 1, 2017 (**REF#0608-06**):

15. **APPOINTMENT OF STAVROS NIKAS AS TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Stavros Nikas as Technology Coordinator for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$70,023 effective July 1, 2017 (**REF#0608-07**):

16. **APPOINTMENT OF EDWARD VALDEZ AS TECHNICIAN (MAGNET SCHOOL)** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Edward Valdez as Technician (Magnet School) for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$50,540 effective July 1, 2017 (**REF#0608-08**):

17. **APPOINTMENT OF KARA DOVIAK AS SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Kara Doviak as Supervisor of Special Projects for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$125,735 effective July 1, 2017 (**REF#0608-09**):

18. **APPOINTMENT OF JANET SEABOLD AS DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Janet Seabold as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$150,004 effective July 1, 2017 (**REF#0608-10**):

19. **APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF NEW POLICY#8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the first reading of new policy #84654 Management of Pediculosis (**REF#0608-11**):

20. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR FLORO VILLANUEVA AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY**- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the contract with Floro Villanueva as Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2017-2018 school year, at a salary of \$132,600 effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018
(REF#0608-12):

21. **APPROVAL TO INVOKE THE DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY**- Consent

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators, and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, questions arose regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a Board of Education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission (“Commission”) provided guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-9 (April 1, 1998); and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary, and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission, by Resolution dated February 25, 2003, clarified and required a Board of Education invoking the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so, and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission further directed Boards of Education that invoke the Doctrine to read the Resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for thirty (30) days, and provide the Commission with a copy; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education promulgated N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2, which places additional standards and restrictions upon the ability of a board member to vote on a particular issue; and

WHEREAS, the Board is required by law to participate in collective bargaining with its unions; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgefield Board of Education may desire to adopt and ratify the terms of agreement as set forth in a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and the Ridgefield Education Association (Teachers), which would, after such adoption and ratification by the parties, form the basis of the Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in order to adopt and ratify the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement, the Board desires to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Board Attorney has reviewed the State Regulations and the advisory decisions of the Commission and determined board member conflicts prohibit four members of the Board from voting on the Memorandum of Agreement and corresponding Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the four board member conflicts are as follows:

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WHEREAS, in order to permit the Board to possibly adopt and ratify the Memorandum of Agreement and a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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2. That this Resolution shall be read at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and be posted on the Board's website; and
3. That a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the School Ethics Commission.

POLICY – (Item)

LEGAL – (Item)

- XV.** Motion to move into **PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS** Session of the meeting (any items).

Please follow the guidelines as stated under “Questions and Comments from the audience on Agenda items”.

Motion made by Mr. Grippa, seconded by Mr. Salazar.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Ms. Maggie Hill – 581 Prospect Avenue, Ridgefield, NJ stated that the children had a fantastic time at the 8th Grade Dance Dinner. She also mentioned how a parent at Slocum Skewes School brought in pizza and dessert for lunch for a select group of students and how it made the other students in the class feel left out and that no one said anything to this parent. She wanted the board to be aware of this.

Mr. Warren Vincentz – 606 Prospect Avenue, Ridgefield, NJ spoke about Monday Night's Scholarship Dinner and said it was an excellent affair. He said he is proud to continue the tradition of the Ridgefield Senior Citizens of Ridgefield giving a scholarship to a graduate.

Mr. Mike Zunick stated on behalf of the entire REA negotiations team, he would like to publicly thank the Board of Education for negotiating fairly, quickly, respectfully, and in good faith. He said he would like to publicly acknowledge Mr. Villanueva's role in the process. In closing, he thanked the board's negotiations team for listening to the concerns and thoughts of the teachers and for considering them and look forward to continuing an amicable and collaborative partnership for many years to come.

Ms. Nancy Acuri said to expand upon Mr. Zunick's comments, as co-chair, and on behalf of the entire membership, would also like to thank Mr. Yang, Mr. Morilla and Mr. Salazar and Mr. Villanueva for their dedication to coming to a mutually beneficial settlement.

Mr. Ralph Morilla expressed his appreciation to the members of the committee and the Teacher's Association for a respectful negotiations process. He said that there was

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compromise and walked away in the process where the teachers are valued and at the same time remain responsible to the taxpayers. He also mentioned a few exceptional staff members. He said that tonight is a night of celebration and thanked the teachers for the professionalism and hard work.

XVI. Motion to close **PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS** Session of the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Morilla, seconded by Mr. Grippa.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 9:14 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Grippa, seconded by Mr. Yang.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Respectfully submitted by,

Floro M. Villanueva, Jr.
Business Administrator/Board Secretary