

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2020
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

A Work Session/Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Michael Jacobs in the High School Cafeteria.

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:30 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. Acosta	Present
Mr. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Inan	Present
Mr. Morilla	Present
Mrs. Narvaez	Present
Mr. Pych	Present
Mr. Jacobs	Present

There being seven members present, a quorum was declared.

Also present were:

Rory McCourt – Superintendent of Schools

Julyana Ortiz – Business Administrator/Board Secretary

- V. Motion** to Convene in **EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION** for School Board Training, Personnel, Legal, Negotiations, Attorney/Client Privilege and/or Student Matters items, at 8:00 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:

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- () Sub-section 1 dealing with material rendered confidential by express provision of Federal or State law.
- () 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 envisioned that the Board will return to open session after this closed session meeting.

Motion made by Mrs. Narvaez, seconded by Mr. Acosta.

VI. PUBLIC BOARD MEETING reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

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

Mr. McCourt spoke about the parent presentation on mental health awareness and suicide prevention from the Madison Holleran Foundation tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

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Mr. McCourt stated that the District received a grant from NJ Smart Start Buildings in the amount of \$1800.00.

Mr. McCourt spoke about the NJSIAA executive meeting himself, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Cirillo, Superintendent of Palisades Park School District attended to testify about the football proposal. He stated there is no formal guidance from NJSIAA of joining a tri-cooperative football program. He stated that although the proposal is moving slowly, he is cautiously optimistic and thanked Mr. Duncan, Palisades Park's Superintendent and Mr. Bertolini, Leonia's Superintendent in working together and remembering our town's recreation football teams are already joined with Palisades Park.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- A. Student Liaison – **N/R**
- B. Finance Committee – (Chairperson) – **N/R**
- C. Curriculum Committee - (Chairperson) – **N/R**
- D. Operations Committee – (Chairperson) – **N/R**
- E. Personnel Committee – (Chairperson) – Mr. Morilla stated that this year they will be negotiating with the Secretaries and the Teachers.
- F. Policy Committee – (Chairperson) – **N/R**
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Alternates – **N/R**

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. Acosta, seconded by Mrs. Inan..

Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

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Mr. Jacob read in Walk-In Resolution #26 – **APPROVAL OF UNPAID MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE ID#2716** – BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves an unpaid leave of absence for employee ID#2716 for up to twelve (12) weeks in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) beginning January 10, 2020 with an expected return date of March 9, 2020.

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

Motion made by Mr. Acosta, seconded by Mr. Jacobs.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XII. BOARD COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY.

Mr. McCourt thanked and acknowledged the personnel that are leaving, resigning or retiring from the district and wished them well. Mr. McCourt also welcomed new staff members to the district.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

1. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Roll Call

Motion to approve the following consent items
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24 and 25:

Motion made by Mr. Acosta, seconded by Mr. Jacobs.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Acosta	Aye
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Inan	Aye
Mr. Morilla	Aye
Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Psych	Aye
Mr. Jacobs	Aye except Recuse on #2,3,4,5,6,7 and #25

FINANCE – (Items 2-4)

2. MINUTES – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of

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Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 12, 2019 Work Session/Business Meeting and Executive Session (**REF#0102-01**):

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 December 2019 (**REF#0102-02**):

December 2019 Payroll	\$2,411,215.47
December 2019 Benefits	\$ 489,080.85
January 8, 2020 Vendor Batch 1	\$ 440,600.37

4. APPROVAL OF DONATION FROM REPTA - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves a donation from REPTA in the amount of \$1,000 to be used for the eighth grade dinner dance at Slocum Skewes School:

STUDENT SERVICES – (Item 5)

5. APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following class trips for the 2019-2020 school year:

Teacher Name	Location	Purpose	Date	School	Learning Center	General Ed.	# of Students Attending
Ava Maria Spoleti Renee Bennett Veronica Caballero Jane Kim Lourdes Hiciano Merly Reber Veronica Wilenta Romina Carrillo Tina Devone Guadalupe Perez Julia Pollio	Bowler City	In accordance with the IEP, this outing presents the opportunity to scaffold skill development in the natural setting	1/31/20	BB	X		20
Lorraine Ferrante Robert Robins Paul Pahlck Diannys DeArms Laurie Griffin Maria Puga	Monster Mini Golf	Practice/generalize social skills in a community setting, engage in appropriate leisure activities. Make	2/4/20	SS	X		18

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Barbara Chritis Kim DiCiancia Dee-Dee Clark Lelja Buzancic Jackie Marino Simmie Ammons Bianca Llenas Jonathon Gonzalez Nurse		choices, follow directions in a group					
Kelly Kowatch Natalie Scaglione Mildred Morales Lisa Governali Megan Marquez Sebastian Piere Erica Donato Megan Dominquez Melina Morel Noelle Evelina Ralph Torres Jesse Gennarelli Maria Pena Terry Guidi Linda Parent Karin Ruts Kristine Emerson Nati Florez	Jumping Jax	Students will interact with peers in a community setting, engage in appropriate leisure activities. Make choices, follow directions in a group	2/5/20	SS	X		21
Kristen Capotorto Christine Simeone Debbie Becker Ralph Cheuveret Judy Rommes Nikki Kimball Angela Colasante	Barnes and Noble/Blaze Pizza	Students will engage in reading books, magazines for a leisure skill	2/14/20	RMHS	X		15
Ava Marie Spoeti Renee Bennett Veronica Wilenta Veronica Caballero Janet Kim Lourdes Hiciano Julia Polio Romina Carrillo Tina Devone Guadalupe Perez	Bounce U	In accordance with the IEP, opportunity to scaffold skill development in the natural setting	2/20/20	BB	X		20
Amy Moran Manny Diaz Erika Mirkovik David Guidi Modesta Perez Beatriz Zapata Ralph DiStaulio Mildred Martinez Maggie O'Leary Denise Carelli Telma Esponsio	Monster Mini Golf	To practice proper social skills and provide students with hands on experience during a given activity	2/24/20	SS	X		16
Kristin Capotorto Christine Simone Debbie Becker Ralph Cheuveret Nikki Kimball	Brownstone	Students will use social skills, money skills and community skills	2/25/20	RMHS	X		30

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Manal Hamjahmoud Elsie King Kathy DiMichele Angela Colasante Antonella Cosentino						
Steven Lacatena Jennifer Rupprecht Connie Grasso Debbie Torres Phyllis Greco	Bowler City	Students will bowl in a non-competitive environment. Practice social skills, active and listening skills	2/28/20	RMHS	X	12

CURRICULUM – (Item 6)

6. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP EXPENDITURES - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following workshop participation and expenditures:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Workshop</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Vanessa Martyniuk	NJPSA/FEA	Monroe	1/10/20	NO COST
Anna Maric	LGBTQ – Creating a Culture of Acceptance and Understanding	Oradell	1/15/20	NO COST
Theresa Petrov Kara Doviak	Genesis User Group Meeting	Fair Lawn	1/23/20	NO COST
Lisa Brennan Gina D’Amore	Full STEAM Ahead	West Orange	1/24/20	\$279.00 pp
Paul Brodsky	Mitigating the Psychological Effects of Lock Downs	Paramus	1/24/20	\$40.00
Jennifer Rupprecht Steven Lacatena	Person Centered Planning in Classroom Settings	Teaneck	2/7/20	NO COST
Amanda Perow	Bureau of Education & Research	Fairfield	2/24/20	\$279.00
Claudia Firosecco	Is it Sensory? Is it Behavior?	Edison	3/6 & 3/7/20	\$435.00
Lorraine Ferrente Laura D’Amico Joel Werner	Embracing the Whole Child	Mahwah	3/16/20	\$115.00 pp
Laurie Densen Caroline Kim Donna Wietecha	Facing the Future 28 Conference	Rutgers	3/20/20	\$175.00 pp
Vanessa Martyniuk	NJAASA/NHJPSA/FEA	Somerses	3/26 & 3/27/20	\$389.00
Janet Seabold	NJL2L Mentor Recertification	Dumont	4/17/20	NO COST
Danielle Crisafi	313 – Project Based Learning in the Elementary Classroom	BC – ETTC	5/18/20	\$75.00

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OPERATIONS – (Item 7)

7. APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF TEXTBOOKS – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the disposition by sale, donation or discard of the following list of textbooks that are no longer needed, obsolete and/or in working order for school purposes as per NJSA 18A:18A-45:

Title:	Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology
Publisher:	Pearson/Benjamin Cummings
Year:	2010
ISBN:	978-0-13-136216-1
Quantity:	59

PERSONNEL – (Items 8-24)

8. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF PATRICIA ROSSI - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts the resignation (for retirement purposes) of Patricia Rossi, full time teacher assistant at Bergen Blvd., effective January 31, 2020:

9. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF NICOLETTA KIMBALL - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts the resignation (for retirement purposes) of Nicoletta Kimball, full time teacher assistant at RMHS, effective February 28, 2021:

10. APPROVAL TO RESCIND EXTRA SERVICE APPOINTMENT FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education rescinds the following extra service appointment for the 2019-2020 school year as listed below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Matt Tracey	Senior Play – Orchestra Director	3	\$3,671

11. **APPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER EDWARDS AS A SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL NURSE-** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Jennifer Edwards as a substitute school nurse, to be used on an as needed basis, at a rate of \$300.00 per diem for school coverage and \$150.00 per diem for field trips, beginning January 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

12. **APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER MARTUCCI AS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT-** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Christopher Martucci as a substitute teacher assistant, to be used on an as needed basis, at a rate of \$85.00, beginning January 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

13. **APPROVAL OF STUDENT CLINICAL PRACTICES -** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following Rutgers University students, to conduct clinical practices beginning January 6, 2020 through May 29, 2020 as follows:

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Caitlyn Staudt	Bergen Blvd. School	Renee Bennett
Michelle Park	Shaler Academy	Fotini Rossi
Yoo Shin	Shaler Academy	Elizabeth Giannantonio

14. **APPOINTMENT OF JULIA POLLIO AS A PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT BERGEN BLVD. SCHOOL-** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Julia Pollio as a part time teacher assistant at Bergen Blvd. School at a rate of \$15.95 per hour, retroactive beginning January 2, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

15. **REVISION OF APPOINTMENT OF JULIE PATE AS SPEECH LANGUAGE SPECIALIST -** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves a revision to the

appointment of Julie Pate as a speech language specialist, at a pro-rated salary of MA-30 step 4 \$57,768, beginning January 15, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

16. APPROVAL OF AN UNPAID MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE ID#0584 - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves an unpaid leave of absence for employee ID#0584 for up to twelve (12) weeks in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) retroactive from January 4, 2020 with an expected return date of April 1, 2020:

17. APPROVAL OF RMHS MARCHING BAND OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP AND CHAPERONES – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves a RMHS marching band overnight trip to Orlando, FL from May 27, 2020 through May 31, 2020 and the following staff chaperones to be paid the overnight stipend of \$95.87 for four (4) nights:

Staff Chaperones

Matt Tracey
Oliver Islambouli
Thomas Schreck
LeAnn Papadoupalos

18. APPROVAL OF RMHS CHORUS OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP AND CHAPERONE – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves a RMHS chorus overnight trip to Williamsburg, VA from April 23, 2020 through April 26, 2020 and the following staff chaperones to be paid the overnight stipend of \$95.87 for three (3) nights and nurse to be paid the overnight stipend of \$95.87 for three (3) nights in addition to the per diem rate of \$150.00:

Staff Chaperones

Tom Voorhis
Darla Ferdinand
Jazie Holley

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Thomas Schreck
Laura D'Amico
Leijla Buzancic

Nurse
Arielle Ferdinand

19. APPOINTMENT OF SUNGKYUNG KEUM AS A SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL NURSE- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints SungKyung Keum as a substitute school nurse, to be used on an as needed basis, at a rate of \$300.00 per diem for school coverage and \$150.00 per diem for field trips, beginning January 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

20. REVISION OF APPOINTMENT OF CLAUDIA FICOSECCO AS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves a revision of the appointment of Claudia Ficosecco as occupational therapist at a pro-rated salary of MA step 16 \$71,990 beginning on or about October 15, 2019 through June 30, 2020:

21. APPROVAL OF EXTRA SERVICE APPOINTMENT FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following extra service appointment for the 2019-2020 school year as listed below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Richard Buffa	Senior Play – Orchestra Director	1	\$3,112

22. APPOINTMENT OF JESSICA YOO AS A PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT SLOCUM SKEWES SCHOOL- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Jessica Yoo as a part time teacher assistant at Slocum Skewes School at a rate of \$15.95 per hour, beginning January 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

23. **ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF NANCY MURRAY** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts the resignation (for retirement purposes) of Nancy Murray, teacher at RMHS, effective June 30, 2020:

24. **APPOINTMENT OF ERICA ROMAN AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT SECRETARY AT SHALER ACADEMY**– Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, the upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Erica Roman as a leave replacement secretary at Shaler Academy, at a rate of \$16.29 per hour, beginning January 13, 2020 through February 28, 2020 pending submission of required paperwork including criminal background check:

POLICY – (Items)

LEGAL – (Item 25)

25. **AFFIRMATION OF HIB CASE 094** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent’s decision and finding of no HIB offense in HIB Investigation No 094 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent’s decision to the students’ parents and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board’s decision to the affected students’ parents forthwith:

26. **APPROVAL OF UNPAID MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE ID#2716**-Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves an unpaid leave of absence for employee ID#2716 for up to twelve (12) weeks in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) beginning January 10, 2020 with an expected return date of March 9, 2020.

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

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

Motion made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Acosta.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Narvaez, seconded by Mr. Jacobs.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Morilla said it was nice to see some familiar faces in the audience.

Mrs. Ortiz stated that Mr. Matthew Lee from NJSBA will be doing the annual ethics training for Board Members at the March 12, 2020 Board Meeting.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 8:17 p.m.

Motion made by Mrs. Narvaez, seconded by Mr. Acosta.
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julyana Ortiz
Business Administrator/Board Secretary