

**BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020  
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

---

A 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 7:05 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	Absent
Mr. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Inan	Present
Mr. Jacobs	Present
Mr. Morilla	Arrived at 7:25 p.m.
Mrs. Narvaez	Present
Mr. Pych	Present

There being five 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 7:07 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:

**BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020  
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

---

- ( ) 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 Mrs. Inan.  
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**  
Mr. McCourt thanked the parents and the public who attended the presentation about suicide prevention and mental health awareness at the Slocum Skewes School on February 19, 2020 presented by Ms. Diane Grossman, founder of Mallory's Mom and Mallory Army.

Ms. Janet Seabold and Mr. Anthony DiBona introduced the new cooperative education program at RMHS. Within this program, students have the opportunity to earn high school credit while participating in the true workplace environment. This program provides students with the opportunity to sample actual careers, learn valuable workplace and communication skills, and gain information for their post-secondary goals and plans. This program will also provide the internship experiences for our high school students enrolled in our Career and Technical Education program in the Business Pathway.

#### **VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

- A. Student Liaison – Fatima Hijaza – Ms. Hijaza reported on the following school activities. (See attached report).
- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Javier Acosta – Mr. Grippa stated we need to change the April 23, 2020 Board Meeting to April 30, 2020.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Maryam Juliet Inan – Mrs. Narvaez stated that the committee had their first meeting earlier this evening and she spoke about how the district has been focusing on mental health and wellness with a series of student and parent trainings over the past few months. Mrs. Narvaez spoke about the NJDOE has provided the district with changes in the social studies and health/pecurricula. Mrs. Narvaez stated that the district is exploring the re-implementation of the Achieve 3000 online ELA program. Mrs. Narvaez stated that the district continues to strengthen the links between the middle and high schools. The curriculum department will be attending the Rubicon Atlas training in March to ensure that the district curriculum is aligned to all of the latest NJDOE requirements and that we are using the program to full capacity. Mrs. Narvaez stated the district will be implementing 5-year curriculum plan to ensure all of our curricula are current and aligned to state mandates.
- D. Operations Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Andrew Grippa – Mr. Pych stated they haven't met since their last meeting but they continue to discuss the upgrades to our buildings.
- E. Personnel Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), William Pych, Maryam Juliet Inan – Mr. Morilla stated that they will be having negotiations tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. with the REA.
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Claudia Narvaez – **N/R**
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez - Alternates: Michael Jacobs – Mrs. Narvaez stated that she received an email regarding nominating a student who is a senior for the Unsung Hero Award. She stated the student receiving this award on March 30, 2020 is Christian Grippa.

**IX. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION -**

Mr. McCourt stated that the Board is tabling Resolution #5 – Acceptance of Donation from Jaludi Family.

**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 Mrs. Narvaez, seconded by Mr. Morilla.  
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

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

Motion made by Mr. Grippa, seconded by Mrs. Narvaez.  
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**

Mr. Pych spoke about Mr. Luis Hidlago who now is volunteer coach for the Ridgefield baseball team use to played for the Ridgefield Royals and was North Jersey’s Player of the Year is a wonderful asset to the team.

**XIV. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION**

**1. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Roll Call**

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

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

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Acosta	Absent
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Inan	Aye
Mr. Morilla	Aye
Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Psych	Aye
Mr. Jacobs	Aye

**FINANCE – (Items 2-5)**

**2. MINUTES – Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 13, 2020 Work Session/Business Meeting and Executive Session (**REF#0226-01**):

**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 February 2020 (**REF#0226-02**):

February 26, 2020 Vendor Batch 1	\$	285.00
February 26, 2020 Vendor Batch 2	\$	514,153.68

**4. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following fundraisers for the 2019-2020 school year (**REF#0123-03**):

- A.) **Seventh Grade Advisors** to hold a **Easter Egg Hunt** on March 28, 2020 with proceeds going towards the Frost Valley trip.

**BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020  
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

---

- B.) **REPTA** to hold a **Spring Walk-A-Thon** on April 2, 2020 with proceeds going towards helping our schools benefit students.
- C.) **REPTA** to hold a **Bingo for Books** on April 2, 2020 with proceeds going towards helping our schools benefit students.
- D.) **REPTA** to hold a **Father/Daughter Dance** on May 1, 2020 with proceeds going towards helping our schools benefit students.
- E.) **Seventh Grade Advisors** to hold a **Movie Night** on May 15, 2020 with proceeds going towards the Frost Valley trip.
- F.) **Seventh Grade Advisors** to hold a **Karaoke Contest** on June 4, 2020 with proceeds going towards Frost Valley trip busing expense/replenish funds.

**RESOLUTION TABLED**

**5. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM JALUDI FAMILY– Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts a donation from the Jaludi Family in the amount of \$23,648.00 to be used to purchase new LED marquee signs for Shaler Academy School and the Bergen Boulevard School.

**STUDENT SERVICES – (Item 6)**

**6. 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:

<u>Teacher Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Learning Center</u>	<u>General Ed.</u>	<u># of Students Attending</u>
Donna Wietecha Caroline Kim Yule Cardoso Debbie Becker Ralph Cheuveret Judy Rommes Nikki Kimball Manal Hamjahmoud Elsie King Maria Parisi Grace Choi-Kim Richard McGaw Inase Mansour Janice Kochanski Linda Kowatch Barbara DeGroot Kathy DiMichele Concetta Celentano	CBI	To visit job sites and post secondary programs	3/5,3/12,3/19, 3/26,4/2,4/23, 4/30,5/7,5/14, 5/21,5/28, 6/4/20	RMHS	X		6

**BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020  
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

Angela Colasante Pamela Medina George Wagner Mary McNicholas Lisa Sackman							
Donna Wietecha Janice Kochanski George Wagner Jule Cardoso Mary McNicholas Kathy DiMichelle	Walmart/BJ's/ Target/Buffer	To generalize and introduce skills in the natural setting of the community	3/6,3/13,3/20, 3/27,4/3,4/17, 4/24,5/1,5/8, 5/15,5/22, 5/29,6/5	RMHS	X		12
Jennifer Rupprecht Steven Lacatena Connie Grasso Todd Mahoney Carleen Wright-Westphal Phyllis Greco Debbie Torres	Liberty Science Center	Special Needs Day exhibits/programs	3/31/20	RMHS	X		20
Lorraine Ferrante Robert Robins Paul Pahlck Diannys DeArms Laurie Griffin Maria Puga Barbara Chritis Bianca Llenas Simmie Ammons Debi Clough Jonathan Gonzalez Kimberly DiCiancia DeeDee Butlar Lelja Buzancic Jackie Marino	Van Saun Park/Wendy's	To generalize social skills in a community setting. To support science curriculum, animal traits and habitats	4/1/20	SS	X		18
Amy Oliff	Primoris Academy	STEM conference, science, technology, engineering and math challenges	4/23/20	SS		X	8
Amy Moran Manny Diaz Denise Carelli Liz Nunez Telma Espinosa Maggie O'Leary David Guidi Mildred Martinez Diane Anastasiou Beatriz Zapata Erika Mirkovic	Outback Steakhouse	Students will look and read a menu and properly order food and use money to determine the cost of a menu item	4/29/20	SS	X		15
Amy Moran Manny Diaz Denise Carelli Liz Nunez Telma Espinosa Maggie O'Leary David Guidi Mildred Martinez Diane Anastasiou Beatriz Zapata Erika Mirkovic	Color Me Mine	Provide students with hands on experience during the given activity, emphasizing goals and objectives	5/8/20	SS	X		15

**BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020  
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

Manny Diaz Amy Moran Telma Esponisa Denise Carelli Maggie O'Leary David Guidi Mildred Martinez Diane Anastasiou Beatriz Zapata Erika Mirkovic	Bowler City	Provide students with hands on experience during the given activity, emphasizing goals and objectives	6/12/20	SS	X		15
--	-------------	---	---------	----	---	--	----

**CURRICULUM – (Item 7)**

**7. 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>
Julyana Ortiz Stavros Nikas	School Safety and Security Seminar	Basking Ridge	3/5/20	NO COST
Teresa Becker Ylenia Fuccilli	Strategies to Teach Vocabulary	Mahwah	3/6/20	\$179.00 pp
Peter Mastrangelo	Intervention and Referral Services “The Next Generation”	Monroe Township	3/11/20	\$149.00
Anna Georgiou	Bergen County Diversity Summit	BCC	4/1/20	NO COST
Caroline Kim	WBD Abilities Committee and Bergen County Job Center	Hackensack	4/22, 7/22 and 10/28/20	NO COST
Andrew Brusgard	Enhancing your Social Studies Instruction	West Orange	4/28/20	\$279.00
Peter Mastrangelo	Leadership Strategies for Effective In-Class Team Teaching	Monroe Township	4/30/20	\$100.00
Caroline Kim	Construction Industry Career Day	Edison	5/27/20	NO COST

**OPERATIONS – (Items )**

**PERSONNEL – (Items 8-15)**

**8. APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS-Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Meghan Geneux and Eamon Catherina as district substitute teachers, to be used on an as needed



basis, at a rate of \$110.00 per diem, beginning March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

**9. APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE ID#2596–Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves employee ID#2596 request for disability leave effective June 23, 2020 followed by an unpaid leave of absence of (12) weeks in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) subject to submission of medical confirmation of the actual period of disability which will determine the expiration of the disability leave and the commencement and expiration dates of the NJFLA leave. Included within this approval is approval of (12) weeks of unpaid leave pursuant to the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) which leave shall commence and run concurrently with the disability leave and NJFLA leave with an anticipated return date of November 30, 2020:

**10. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE ID#2247- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education terminate employee ID#2247 effective February 28, 2020:

**11. APPOINTMENT OF JORDAN KAY AS A PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT SHALER ACADEMY- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Jordan Kay as a part time teacher assistant at Shaler Academy at a rate of \$15.95 per hour, retroactive beginning January 24, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

**12. APPROVAL OF TRANSFER FOR JOHANNA PONTON- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ridgefield Board of Education approves a staff transfer for Johanna Ponton from ICS teacher at Bergen Blvd. School to PSD teacher at Shaler Academy beginning March 18, 2020:

**13. APPROVAL OF MARGARET CARUSO AS HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONA BUILDING COVERAGE SUBSTITUTE- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves Margaret Caruso as a healthcare professional building coverage substitute at a rate of an additional \$80.00 per diem effective February 27, 2020 through June 30, 2020:

**14. APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL GONZALEZ AS TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT SECRETARY AT SLOCUM SKEWES SCHOOL - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves Daniel Gonzalez as a temporary replacement secretary at Slocum Skewes School, at a rate of \$16.29 per hour, retroactive beginning February 21, 2020 through March 26, 2020:

**15. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF STELLA OKONKWO- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts the resignation of Stella Okonkwo, school nurse, effective May 4, 2020:

**LEGAL – (Item 16)**

**16. AFFIRMATION OF HIB CASE 097 - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent’s decision and finding of no HIB offense in HIB Investigation No 097 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:

**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 Mrs. Narvaez, seconded by Mr. Grippa.  
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

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

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

**XVII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 8:52 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Julyana Ortiz  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary