

**BUSINESS MEETING OF MAY 28, 2020
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

A Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education will be held on May 28, 2020. This meeting will be held remotely as per guidelines to the public posted on the Ridgefield School District’s website. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Michael Jacobs.

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:04 the meeting was called to order.

II. FLAG SALUTE

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

II. 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 | Arrived at 5:09 p.m. |
| Mr. Grippa | Arrived at 5:09 p.m. |
| Mrs. Inan | Present |
| Mr. Morilla | Present |
| Mrs. Narvaez | Absent |
| Mr. Pych | Present |
| Mr. Jacobs | Present |

There being four 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 5:09 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 Mr. Acosta, seconded by Mr. Pych.

VI. PUBLIC BOARD MEETING reconvened at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Jacobs asked everyone to remember the people we have lost to COVID 19 and thanked all the first responders for keeping us safe.

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

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Mr. McCourt thanked the board, administrators, staff, parents and students for continuing working during the extended closure period. He spoke about the Virtual Graduations notice that he received from the New Jersey Department of Education he stated this was required up to last night as of 8:30 p.m. when the New Jersey Department of Education released new guidelines based on Governor Murphy's order saying in person Graduation can be allowed outside after July 6, 2020. He spoke about the guideline and only 25 people being allowed at a time. Mr. McCourt spoke about the safety issues, protecting everyone in attendance and insurance issues. Mr. McCourt spoke about Mrs. Martucci request from the last board meeting for the board to make a donation to Project Graduation, that Mrs. Ortiz checked with our auditors and the board is not permitted to make a donation with public funds. Mr. McCourt reminded the public why the board meeting is starting at 5:00 p.m. due to the fact he is running the meeting from his office and must be home by the 8:00 p.m. curfew. He also explained to the public how they can make comments during this meeting.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- A. Student Liaison – Fatima Hijaza – **N/R**
- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Javier Acosta – Mr. Grippa spoke about the Care Act on he agenda this evening.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Maryam Juliet Inan – Mr. Jacobs thanked the
- D. Operations Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Andrew Grippa – Mr. Pych spoke about the custodian are working in the building during the closure.
- E. Personnel Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), William Pych, Maryam Juliet Inan – Mr. Morilla stated that they settled with the teachers and secretaries and it is on tonight's agenda.
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Claudia Narvaez
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez - Alternates: Michael Jacobs – Mr. Jacobs spoke about the Treasure Report announced there is \$366 million shortage in State Aid.

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 type their question into the "chat" box, identify

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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. Inan, seconded by Mr. Pych.

Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. McCourt if there were any public comments and Mr. McCourt stated no he did not receive any.

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

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

Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XI. BOARD COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY.

Mrs. Ortiz stated that the board will be doing a separate Roll Call on Resolution #14.

Mr. McCourt thanked Ms. Rita Wiss for her years of service and congratulated her on her retirement

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. 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, and 15:

Motion made by Mr. Pych, seconded by Mr. Grippa.

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ROLL CALL

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Mr. Acosta | Aye |
| Mr. Grippa | Aye |
| Mrs. Inan | Aye |
| Mr. Morilla | Aye |
| Mrs. Narvaez | Absent |
| Mr. Pych | Aye |
| Mr. Jacobs | Aye |

FINANCE – (Items 2-10)

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 May 13, 2020 Work Session/Business Meeting and Executive Session (**REF#0528-01**):

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 2020(**REF#0528-02**):

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| May 28, 2020 Vendor Batch 1 | \$110,383.42 |
| May 28, 2020 Vendor Batch 2 | \$ 8,000.00 |

4. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the Board Secretary Report for the periods ending April 30, 2020 (**REF#0528-03**):

5. CASH REPORT- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the Cash Report for the periods ending April 30, 2020 (**REF#0528-04**):

6. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S CERTIFICATION – Consent

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Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6:23-2.11(d), I, Julyana Ortiz, School Business Administrator, certify that as of April 30, 2020 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and 18A:22-8.2.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6:23-2.11(d), I, Julyana Ortiz, School Business Administrator, certify that as of April 30, 2020 no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6:23-2.11(b).

Motion to certify, pursuant to N.J.A.C.6:23-2.11(e), that as of April 30, 2020, after review of the Board Secretary’s monthly report (appropriations sections) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-

expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6:23-2.11(e), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year:

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFER – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the budget transfer for month of April 2020 in the amount of \$12,300.00 as attached (**REF#0528-05**):

8. APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE 2020-2021 IDEA GRANT ALLOCATION –

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application for the 2020-2021 IDEA Grant Allocation, for the 2020-2021 school year in the following amounts:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Basic | \$343,545 |
| Preschool | \$ 19,729 |

9. APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE CARES EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT –

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application for the Cares Emergency Relief Grant in the amount of \$246,369:

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10. SUBMISSION OF 2020-2021 TAX SCHEDULE – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the submission of the 2020-2021 Tax Schedule to the Borough of Ridgefield in accordance with the monthly schedule, as prepared by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary:

| <u>Month of Request</u> | <u>Month of Receipt</u> | Operating Budget | Debt Service | Tax Payment |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
| June, 2020 | July | \$ 1,880,552.25 | - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| July, 2020 | August | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ 1,955,552.25 |
| August, 2020 | September | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| September, 2020 | October | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| October, 2020 | November | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| November, 2020 | December | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| December, 2020 | January | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ 638,507.00 | \$ 2,519,059.25 |
| January, 2021 | February | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| February, 2021 | March | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| March, 2021 | April | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| April, 2021 | May | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| May, 2021 | June | \$ 1,880,552.25 | \$ - | \$ 1,880,552.25 |
| Total July 2020 - June 2021 | | \$ 22,566,627.00 | \$ 713,507.00 | \$ 23,280,134.00 |

STUDENT SERVICES – (Item)

CURRICULUM – (Item 11)

11. 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 Kelvin Hiciano | NJASBO 58 th Annual Conference | Virtual | 6/1-6/5/20 | \$275.00 pp |
| Priscilla Friere | Attendance, Residency and Homelessness Issues | Virtual | 6/3/20 | \$150 (paid by Title II) |

OPERATIONS – (Item 12)

12. APPROVAL OF UPDATED DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN– Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves an updated District Public Health-Related School Closure Plan (**REF#0528-06**):

PERSONNEL – (Items 13-15)

13. APPROVAL OF STUDENT TEACHER PLACEMENT FOR AMELIA MASS– Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves a student teacher placement for Amelia Mass, Rutgers University student, for eighth grade English (under the supervision of Christine Fabiano) at Slocum Skewes School beginning September 1, 2020 through December 18, 2020:

15. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF RITA WISS - 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 Rita Wiss, part time teacher assistant at Bergen Blvd. School, effective June 30, 2020:

Motion made by Mr. Acosta, seconded by Mrs. Inan for Resolution #14.

ROLL CALL on Resolution # 14

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

14. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RIDGEFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE RIDGEFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION TEACHERS AND SECRETARIAL UNIT-Roll Call

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the memorandum of agreement and mutually agreed upon clarifying language between the Ridgefield Board of Education and the Ridgefield Education Association Teachers and Secretarial Unit effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024 (REF#0528-07):

LEGAL – (Item)

XIV. 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. Acosta
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Mr. McCourt read in the following comment. Ms. Helmick -190 Houser Avenue, Weehawken, NJ asked if the parents would be getting a refund for the March lunch money that was not used. Mrs. Ortiz sated she has already reached our food management company and gave her email address to get in touch with her.

Mr. Morilla thanked Mr. McCourt for his guidance and support during negotiations and Mrs. Ortiz for guidance and support and her knowledge of the numbers. He thanked Mrs. Inan and Mr. Pych of the negotiations committee. Mr. Morilla thanked Ms. Ferdinand and her team for their professionalism and working so well with the Negotiations Committee.

Mr. McCourt read in Ms. Ferdinand comment upon the REA she thanked the negotiations for their respect and professionalism and fair manner was handled during this difficult time.

Mr. McCourt read in Mr. Zunick comment upon the REA he thanked the board for working with them over the last few months and doing everything over the computer was interesting and thanked the board for their willingness to complete things quickly and their fairness.

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Mr. Grippa thanked Mr. McCourt for doing a great time and his knowledge during this difficult time. Mr. Jacobs also thanked Mr. McCourt and his six board members for their hard work.

Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone and to please be safe.

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

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

Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 6:37 p.m.

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

Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julyana Ortiz
Business Administrator/Board Secretary