

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2020**  
**RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

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A Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education will be held on June 11, 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 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. Morilla	Arrived at 7:08 p.m.
Mrs. Narvaez	Arrived at 7:08 p.m.
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 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:

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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. Grippa, seconded by Mr. Pych.

**VI. PUBLIC BOARD MEETING** reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

Mr. Jacobs asked everyone to remember the people we have lost to COVID 9 and thanked all the first responders for keeping us safe.

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

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1. Review of HIB grades for 2018-2019

Mr. McCourt discussed and reviewed the HIB grades for 20182019 with the board and public.

2. Retirees -

Mr. McCourt thanked all retirees for their dedication and services and wished them the best in their retirement.

Ms. Janet Seabold spoke about the following retirees regarding their years of service in the district and thanked them, congratulated them and wished them well - Ms. Maria Reyes, Ms. Zully Corrales and Ms. Nancy Murray. She congratulated them and wished them well. Ms. Zully and Ms. Murray thanked the administrators and the board for their well wishes and are looking forward to their retirement.

Mr. Tim Yang spoke about the following retirees regarding their years of service in the district and thanked them, congratulated them and wished them well – Ms. Denise Carelli, Ms. Margaret Oleary and Ms. Linda Parent. Ms. Carelli, Ms. Oleary and Ms. Parent thanked the administrators and the board for their well wishes and are looking forward to their retirement.

Mr. Manny Diaz spoke about the following retirees regarding their years of service in the district and thanked them, congratulated them and wished them well – Ms. Denise Carelli and Ms. Margaret Oleary. Ms. Oleary and Ms. Carelli thanked Mr. Diaz, the administrators and the board for their well wishes.

Ms. Janet Seabold spoke about the following retirees regarding their years of service in the district and thanked them, congratulated them and wished them well – Ms. Mary Ellen Paradiso, Ms. Diana Tannenbaum and Ms. Rita Wiss. Ms. Paradiso, Ms. Tannenbaum and Ms. Wiss thanked the administrators and the board for their well wishes and are looking forwarded to their retirement.

The board thanked and congratulated all retirees.

3. Mr. McCourt spoke about the Governors in person graduation after July 6, 2020. He stated he is staying in touch with the police department and will keep the board and public updated.

**VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

A. Student Liaison – Fatima Hijaza – **N/R**

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- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Javier Acosta – **N/R**
- C. Curriculum Committee – Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Maryam Juliet Inan – Mrs. Narvaez mentioned to the public to go on social meeting and see where the graduating students will be going.
- D. Operations Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Andrew Grippa – Mr. Pych congratulated all retirees and wished them well. He thanked the entire workforce for the great job they have been doing during this difficult time. He stated that we will continue to work on safety projects during the summer.
- E. Personnel Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), William Pych, Maryam Juliet Inan – Congratulated all retirees and wished them well and thanked the everyone for their commit and hard work during this difficult time.
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Claudia Narvaez – **N/R**
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez - Alternates: Michael Jacobs – Mrs. Narvaez reminded the board to go on the NJSBA website for updates. Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone for their dedication and commitment during this time.

**IX. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION -**

Mrs. Ortiz mentioned there was a change on the Personnel Report regarding Teacher Assistants – Ms. Deborah Torres from 12 months to 10 months and Ralph Lauren-Torres from 12 months to 10 months.

Mr. Jacobs read in Walk In Resolutions #24, #25 and #26

**24. APPROVAL OF 2020 SUMMER PROGRAM FULL-TIME TEACHER SUBSTITUTE RATE- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the rate of \$125/day for the 2020 Summer Program Full-time Teacher Substitutes.

**25. APPROVAL TO EXTEND RMHS CLASS OF 2020 STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT-Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the extension of the Class of 2020 student activities account through June 30, 2021 due to the current COVID 19 pandemic.

**26. APPROVAL TO POSTPONE THE 8TH GRADE CLASS OF 2020 DINNER DANCE-Consent**

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

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Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the postponement of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2020 Dinner Dance due to the current COVID 19 pandemic. The date remains to be determined but shall take place no later than June 30, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the transfer of the remaining funds in the 8th Grade Class Slocum Skewes Student Activity Account to the 9th Grade Class RMHS Student Activity Account due to the postponement of the 8th Grade Class of 2020 Dinner Dance as a result of the current COVID 19 pandemic.

**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 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. Morilla, seconded by Mrs. Narvaez.  
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.

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

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

**XII. BOARD COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY.**

**XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIV. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION**

**1. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Roll Call**

Motion to approve the following consent items  
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25 and 26:

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

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Acosta	Absent
Mr. Grippa	Aye except Recuse on #25
Mrs. Inan	Absent left the meeting
Mr. Morilla	Aye
Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Pych	Aye
Mr. Jacobs	Aye except Abstain on #8

**FINANCE – (Items 2-6)**

**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 28, 2020 Business Meeting and Executive Session (**REF#0611-01**):

**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 months of May and June 2020 (**REF#0611-02**):

May 2020 Payroll	\$2,383,743.15
May 2020 Benefits	\$ 463,113.08
June 13, 2020 Vendor Batch 1	\$ 344,104.65

**4. APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE 2020-2021 ESEA CONSOLIDATED GRANT – Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application for the 2020-

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2021 ESEA Consolidated Grant in the following amounts:

Title IA: \$318,656  
Title IIA: \$59,591  
Title III: \$24,610  
Title III -I: \$6,758  
Title IV: \$22,628

**5. APPROVAL OF TUITION AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES RATES FOR THE 2020-2021 LEARNING CENTER PROGRAMS** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following tuition and additional services rates for the Learning Center Programs for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

BD Program - \$48,343 (No ESY)		
MD Program - \$48,478	ESY – \$6,538	10 Months – \$41,940
AUT Program -\$63,199	ESY – \$8,419	10 Months – \$54,780
PSD Program - \$33,318	ESY – \$4,495	10 Months – \$28,823
LC Mainstream Program \$24,854 (No ESY)		
FT 1:1 Aide 12 Months - \$47,911	FT 1:1 Aide 10 Months – \$44,872	
PT 1:1 Aide - \$26.69 per hour		
OT/PT Services - \$90 per session		
Kindergarten	\$13,249	
Grades 1 — 5	\$11,268	
Grades 6 — 8	\$11,086	
Grades 9 — 12	\$15,430	

**6. APPROVAL OF RESIDENT STUDENTS SENT OUT-OF-DISTRICT FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following list of resident students sent out of district based on requirements of their IEP’s for 2020-2021:

Student I.D.#	Placement	Tuition
7448947422	Children’s Therapy Center	1,361.00

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**STUDENT SERVICES – (Item )**

**CURRICULUM – (Items 7-8)**

**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>
Ashley Burke	AP Statistics Summer Institute	Virtual	6/29-7/2/20	\$850.00
Denise Long Margaret Caruso Leann Papadoupolos	School Nurses: Best, Up-to-Date Critical Strategies to Address COVID-19 and Related Issues	Virtual	7/14/20	\$279.00 pp (paid by Title IIA)

**8. 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>
Michael Jacobs	NJSBA Spring School Law Forum	Virtual	6/17/20	\$299.00

**OPERATIONS – (Item 9-13)**

**9. APPROVAL OF TITLE III SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM – Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves a Title III Summer School Program, for identified Title III students to receive extra help in the areas of English Language acquisition skills as determined by the school Monday-Friday beginning July 6, 2020 through July 31, 2020. Sessions will be virtual with individual and small groups scheduled at times agreed upon between teachers and families:

**10. APPROVAL OF TITLE I SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM–**



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BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves a Title I Summer School Program, at approved Ridgefield Title I Schools (to be determined through grant application), for identified Title I students to receive extra help in the areas of ELA and math based upon inclusion in RTI and Title I services determined by the school Monday-Friday beginning July 6, 2020 through July 31, 2020. Sessions will be virtual with individual and small groups scheduled at times agreed upon between teachers and families:

**11. APPROVAL OF RENEWAL APPLICATION TO BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR MODULAR UNITS AT SLOCUM SKEWES SCHOOL – Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application to the Bergen County Department of Education for the use of the Substandard Instructional Space for Special Education at Slocum Skewes Schools for the 2020-2021 academic year (REF#0611-03):

**12. APPROVAL OF RENEWAL APPLICATION TO BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR MODULAR UNITS AT BERGEN BOULEVARD SCHOOL – Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application to the Bergen County Department of Education for the use of the Substandard Instructional Space for Special Education at Bergen Boulevard School for the 2020-2021 academic year (REF#0611-04):

**13. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF 2020 FORD F-350 DRW (F3H) XL 4WD REG CAB 10' BOX ESCNJ 17/18-21- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the purchase of one 2020 Ford F-350 DRW (F3H) XL 4WD REG CAB 10' Box through the

Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Co-Op  
Bid#65MCESCCPS – ESCNJ 17/18-21 to Beyer Ford at the purchase price of \$32,370.50:

**PERSONNEL** – (Items 14-23)

**14. APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT FOR PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME**

**TEACHER ASSISTANTS** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the personnel report for Part-Time and Full-Time Teacher Assistants for 2020-2021 as per the attached list submitted by the Supervisor of Special Projects and recommended by the Superintendent as per salaries set forth in the Board/RTAA contract  
**(REF#0611-05)**

**15. APPROVAL OF TITLE III SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF-**  
Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following summer school program staff at a rate of \$40.00 per hour beginning July 6, 2020 through July 31, 2020, Monday through Friday. Sessions will be virtual with individual and small groups scheduled at times agreed upon between teachers and families:

Coordinator  
Anna Georgiou

Teachers  
Amy Oliff  
Min Jon Pak  
Teresa Serafimov

**16. APPROVAL OF TITLE I SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF-**  
Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following summer school program staff at a rate of \$40.00 per hour beginning July 6, 2020 through July 31, 2020, Monday through Friday. Sessions will be virtual with individual and small groups scheduled at times agreed upon between teachers and families:

Teachers/Coordinators  
Dawn Galbraith-Mazzola  
Charlotte Weeks

Teachers

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Cassandra Lange  
Ruth Willey  
Michele Mariani  
Erin Carlin  
Pandora Antzoulatos  
Josephine Mendoza  
Eileen Schmidt  
Kate Elefante  
Joanna Bell  
Ashley Burke  
Jacqueline Pergola  
Courtney Goch

17. **ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF DAVID GUIDI** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts the resignation of David Guidi, full time teacher assistant at Slocum Skewes School, effective July 1, 2020:

18. **APPOINTMENT OF JULYANA ORTIZ AS SCHOOL 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 School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2020-2021 school year, at a salary of \$131,328 effective July 1, 2020:

19. **TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE ID#2328**- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby terminates employee

ID#2328 effective June 1, 2020:

20. **APPROVAL OF TATIANA PORTALATIN AND ALEXANDRA KRUEGEL AS SOCIAL WORK INTERNS**- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves Tatiana Portalatin, Rutgers University Student and Alexandra Kruegel, Ramapo College student as social work interns (under the supervision of Paul Brodsky) at RMHS beginning September 7, 2020 through April 23, 2021:

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**21. APPOINTMENT OF ALYSSA KAHWATY AS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Alyssa Kahwaty as a special education teacher at Shaler Academy at a salary of BA-15 step 3 \$51,422 beginning September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021:

**22. APPOINTMENT OF JILLIAN CASELLA AS PHYSICAL THERAPIST- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Jillian Casella as a physical therapist at a salary of MA-30 step 10 \$65,577 beginning September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021:

**23. APPOINTMENT OF SUNYONG IM AS ELL TEACHER- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Sunyong Im as an ELL teacher at a salary of MA step 11 \$60,345 beginning September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021:

**24. APPROVAL OF 2020 SUMMER PROGRAM FULL-TIME TEACHER SUBSTITUTE RATE- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the rate of \$125/day for the 2020 Summer Program Full-time Teacher Substitutes.

**25. APPROVAL TO EXTEND RMHS CLASS OF 2020 STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT-Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the extension of the Class of 2020 student activities account through June 30, 2021 due to the current COVID 19 pandemic.

**26. APPROVAL TO POSTPONE THE 8TH GRADE CLASS OF 2020 DINNER DANCE-Consent**

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BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the postponement of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2020 Dinner Dance due to the current COVID 19 pandemic. The date remains to be determined but shall take place no later than June 30, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the transfer of the remaining funds in the 8th Grade Class Slocum Skewes Student Activity Account to the 9th Grade Class RMHS Student Activity Account due to the postponement of the 8th Grade Class of 2020 Dinner Dance as a result of the current COVID 19 pandemic.

**POLICY** – (Items )

**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. Pych.  
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Mr. McCourt read in the following comment Mrs. Martinelli - 303 Shaler Boulevard, Ridgefield, New Jersey 07657. asked if there are any plans or discussion on graduation. Mr. McCourt spoke about the Governors live/ in person graduation announcement after July 6, 2020 and stated we are looking into this and will keep the public updated.

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

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

Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone and to please be safe.

**XVII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 9:13 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