

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING OF MAY 13, 2021
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

A Work Session/Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education will be held on May 13, 2021. This meeting will be held remotely as per guidelines to the public posted on the Ridgefield School District’s website. Mr. Michael Jacobs call the meeting to order.

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:03 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”.

Ms. Ortiz may we have a roll call please.

IV. ROLL CALL

Mr. Acosta	Absent
Mr. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Inan	Present
Mr. Morilla	Present
Mrs. Narvaez	Present
Mr. Pych	Present
Mr. Jacobs	Present

Also present were:

Dr. Letizia Pantoliano – Interim 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 7:04 p.m.

Motion made by Mrs. Narvaez, seconded by Mrs. Inan.

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

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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.
- () 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.

VI. PUBLIC BOARD MEETING reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS
Dr. Pantoliano stated that Curriculum Writing is going on right now to address the new New Jersey students learning standards.

Dr. Pantoliano stated that there was a correction on Resolution #14 – Approval of Personnel Report for Administrators, Teachers, Secretaries, Clerical Aides, Custodians

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and Bus Drivers that Michelle Novak is down that she is at the Bergen Boulevard School and it should say Shaler Academy School for next year.

Dr. Pantoliano stated she will be reporting on the Modular Units Timeline over the next few months. The town has issued us a Demo Permit. The teachers will be out of building and moving to RMHS early next week. If you drive by Slocum Skewes School near the trailers, you will see containers there that will store items that will not be needed by the teachers/staff till they are in the new building. Demolition will begin on May 24, 2021. Dr. Pantoliano stated we have awarded the contract to Mobilease, the engineering ed-specs (the drawing of the building) have been done, we have had a permit review and we the demo permit the building is in the process of being fabricated so the first four items on the timeline has been done. Dr. Pantoliano stated we are cooperating with the Ridgefield Police Department and Mobilease Police. Dr. Pantoliano stated we are on track with this project.

Dr. Pantoliano shared some important dates with the public regarding the RMHS. On June 4, 2021 will have their musical; on June 7, 2021 Seniors Scholarship Awards Night; June 8, 2021 an induction ceremony for the students entering into the STEM Academy; June 9th is the Senior Prom; June 11, 2021 is the STRIVE Graduation; June 15, 2021 is the awards Assembly on June 16th Cap & Gown Parade in front of the high school. Dr. Pantoliano stated RMHS was ranked 144 in the state of New Jersey by US News and World Reports. This is based on the 2018/2019 school year. Dr. Pantoliano stated because we have one academy and we are opening a second one we are eligible for CTE money through perkins grants. We are eligible for funding but not enough funding to apply for the grant. One of our neighboring school district Leonia was in the same situation as us. We are in the process of having a consortium with Leonia to bring some more money for our academies.

Ms. Ortiz stated that Darla Ferdinand sent through the chat room that we have thirteen RMHS students graduating tonight with their associated degrees through their early college program with Bergen Community College. RMHS student, Ms. Eileen Kang won the NJIC Girls Golf Championship and finished second in the Bergen County Woman's Coaches Association Golf Tournament. Dr. Pantoliano mentioned we will be collaborating with Cliffside Park for football, cheerleading, band and we are discussing wrestling and golf.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- A. Student Liaison – Sophia Popp – Ms. Popp reported on the following school activities. (See attached report).
- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Ralph Morilla, Michael Jacobs
Mr. Grippa stated we are working on our ESSER Grant Application and that it will be going out shortly. The district received tuition certification adjustment for 2019/2020

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school year and we will be billing out \$400,000 as opposed to paying \$400,000. Mr. Grippa thanked Ms. Ortiz, Mr. H and the administrators.

- C. Curriculum Committee – Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Javier Acosta – Mrs. Narvaez stated the committee will be having a meeting on June 10, 2021.
- D. Operations Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Andrew Grippa, Michael Jacobs - Mr. Pych stated he thought it is wonderful for the students receiving an Associate’s Degree while still in high school. Mr. Pych thanked Dr. Pantoliano for her update on the modular units at Slocum Skewes School. Mr. Pych thanked Ms. Ortiz, Mr. H and the Operations Committee for their hard work. Mr. Pych stated that there will be police emergency training going on in the building at night before demolition. Mr. Pych mentioned the security project that we have been working on with Eastern Data Comm has been completed. This project is in and around all our school buildings to keep our students and staff safe. Maintenance Department started their spring work. They are also doing some construction work in front of Shaler Academy School. Dr. Pantoliao stated that the students will be doing the design and planting as part of the ESSER Grant part of stem and steam project in front of the school. Mr. Pych stated that Maintenance Department has been working on the playground area at Slocum Skewes School. Mr. Pych stated that the Maintenance Department will be getting rid of one of their vehicles that is very old and obsolete.
- E. Personnel Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Maryam Juliet Inan, William Pych, Mr. Morilla stated that the committee is in the middle of negotiations with the Teacher Assistants and the Custodial/Bus Drivers. He stated they are hoping to settle with the Teaching Assistants by the next meeting. He thanked Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Pych and Mrs. Inan for their hard work and late hours.
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Maryam Juliet Inan, Javier Acosta – **N/R**
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez - Alternates: Michael Jacobs
Mrs. Narvaez stated that Governor Murphy has proclaimed May 9 – 15, 2021 is Special Education Week in New Jersey.

IX. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION -

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

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

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

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

Ms. Ortiz stated that Dr. Pantoliano mentioned that they attended the Eastern Data Comm testing today and all went well.

XI. BOARD COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

1. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Roll Call

Motion to approve the following consent items
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26 and 27:

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

Ms. Ortiz may we have a roll call please.

Roll Call

Mr. Acosta	Absent
Mr. Grippa	Aye except Recuse #14 Dr. Pantoliano, Dr. DePass, Mr. Mastrangelo, Ms. McGlynn and Mrs. Grippa
Mrs. Inan	Aye
Mr. Morilla	Aye
Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Pych	Aye
Mr. Jacobs	Aye

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FINANCE – (Items 2-8)

2. **MINUTES** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the minutes of the March 30, 2021 Special Meeting and Executive Session and the April 21, 2021 Special Meeting and the April 29, 2021 Work Session/Business Meeting and Executive: **(REF#0513-01)**:

3. **BILL LIST** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the bill list from the months of March and April 2021 **(REF#0513-02)**:

May 13, 2021 Vendor Batch A	\$ 709,536.49
May 13, 2021 Vendor Batch B	\$ 7,133.00

4. **APPROVAL OF APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE CRRSA CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application and accepts the funds for the CRRSA Consolidated Application for the 2020-2021 school year in the following amounts:

ESSER II - \$1,007,122
Learning Acceleration - \$64,632
Mental Health - \$45,000

5. **APPROVAL OF APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE DIGITAL DIVIDE APPLICATION** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application and accepts the funds for the Digital Divide Application for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$149,508:

6. **APPROVAL OF APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE SECURITY GRANT** - Consent

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BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application and accepts the funds for the Security Grant for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$93,311:

7. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION, AMENDMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE CARES ACT - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the application, amendment and accepts the funds for the CARES Act for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$259,828:

8. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PURCHASES USING STATE CONTRACTS – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves district purchases using state contracts above the bid threshold of \$44,000 as of July 1, 2020 – May 4, 2021.

- **Academy Furniture & Supplies - \$64, 343.80**
 - Contract – NJ Ed-Data Co-Op Services Contract/Bid #8576 and #10430
- **CDW Government - \$268,297.18**
 - Contract – Technology Supplies & Service #ESCNJ18/19-03 (18/19-03)
- **Eastern Datacomm - \$411,843.69**
 - Contract – ESCNJ Emergency Notification Systems - #65MCECCPS ESCNJ 18/19-16
 - Contract – NASPO NJ Contract #89980 #MNWNC-124
- **Hertz Furniture - \$63,750.41**
 - Contract – ESCNJ (Formerly MRESC) 17/18-16
 - Contract – ESCNJ Furniture & Accessories 20/21-01 #65MCECCPS
- **Rubbercycle - \$80,750.00**
 - Contract – NJ Co-Op 16-Fleet-00131

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9. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PURCHASES ABOVE THE QUOTE THRESHOLD OF \$10,000.00 - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves district purchases above the quote threshold of \$10,000.00 using federal grants as of as of July 1, 2020 – May 4, 2021 as listed below:

- **Academy Furniture & Supplies** (Teacher Desk Shields) - \$63,858.70
- **Aspiris** (Ethernet Drops) - \$13,459.00
- **CDW Government** (Student Chromebooks) - \$200,885.60
- **Fast Signs** (Social Distancing Signs/Floor Decals) - \$13,573.47

- **L. Esposito Corp.** (COVID HVAC Maintenance) - \$12,000.00
- **Pennetta Industrial Automation** (COVID HVAC Maintenance) – \$14,225.00
- **Pure Lighting Company** (UVC Disinfectant Lamps) - \$12,900.00
- **School Health Corp.** (COVID Nurse Supplies) - \$28,246.31

STUDENT SERVICES – (Item)

CURRICULUM – (Item 10)

10. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP EXPENDITURES - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim 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>
Claudia Ficosecco	Thinking Back, Looking Ahead – How did Covid-19 Challenge Our Students Sensory Processing	Virtual	5/18 & 6/4/21	\$90.00

OPERATIONS – (Items 11-13)

11. APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF RMHS AND SLOCUM SKEWES SCHOOL GRADUATION DATES– Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves to change the RMHS and Slocum Skewes School graduation dates to June 22, 2021 (with a rain

date of June 23, 2021) in order to accommodate the possibility of inclement weather with an outdoor graduation event:

12. **APPROVAL OF THE REVISION OF THE 2020-2021 RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT CALENDAR-** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the revision of the 2020-2021 Ridgefield Public Schools District calendar as follows:

May 28, 2021 - Schools/District Closed

June 1, 2021 - Schools/District Closed

13. **URGING RELIEF FROM INCREASED COSTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS RESULTING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "CHAPTER 44" THE 2020 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH**

BENEFITS REFORM LAW- Consent

WHEREAS, P.L.2020, c.44 ("Chapter 44") requires the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to offer plans, beginning on January 1, 2021, for medical and prescription benefits coverage including the New Jersey Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); as adopted and implemented by the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 established reduced premium contributions for any employee who selects, or is placed into, the NJEHP as his or her health care coverage option; and

WHEREAS, The SEHBP applies to the following employers who elect to participate in the SEHBP: local school district, regional school district, county vocational school district, county special services school district, jointure commission, educational services commission, state-operated school district, charter school; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of Chapter 44 also apply to these same employers even if they do not elect to participate in the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, Many school districts had previously negotiated health benefit agreements with lower net costs compared to the plan design and cost-sharing requirements under "Chapter 44," and/or have staff that previously declined coverage but now are choosing to enroll in the NJEHP due to its low employee cost-sharing provisions; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of school districts will experience a net increase in their health care costs because the NJEHP premiums are higher than

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the premiums for the collectively bargained plans previously offered by the district, which is further exacerbated by reduced employee contributions under Chapter 44; and

WHEREAS, Other school districts will experience a net increase in their overall health care costs even if the NJEHP premiums are lower than that of the previous plan offerings because the reduction in employee contributions will offset any overall premium savings, resulting in increased net costs to the district; and

WHEREAS, The low employee contribution requirements under NJEHP encourage employees who had previously waived or declined coverage to enroll thereby increasing the districts' health benefit costs for the balance of fiscal year 2021, continuing into fiscal year 2022 and likely beyond; and

WHEREAS, These costs may exceed districts' ability to address within their budgets owing to the limitations of the 2% property tax levy cap; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 was a well-intentioned proposal that aimed to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for school districts, school employees and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, While some school districts may indeed be realizing savings due to the provisions of Chapter 44, many are experiencing the opposite effect and witnessing an increase in their health care costs, which may result in cuts to critical programs, services and staff in order to balance their budgets; and

WHEREAS, Since Chapter 44 essentially froze the level of health benefits and employee contributions for the seven-year period following the law's effective date, districts are unable to control cost increases through the traditional collective bargaining process; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the Legislature and Governor to address and correct the unintended financial consequences districts are experiencing due to Chapter 44 and ensure that all districts share in the anticipated savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ridgefield Board of Education requests that the State Legislature and Governor provide relief from the increased health care costs experienced by school districts due to the implementation of Chapter 44; and be it further

RESOLVED, that relief from Chapter 44 should include direct, short-term assistance from the state to ensure that all school districts are held financially harmless in both the current and subsequent fiscal years; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor should expeditiously begin to explore long-term structural reforms that reverse the unintended consequences of Chapter 44 and generate lasting savings for school districts, employees and taxpayers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any proposals to amend or revise Chapter 44 include input from all affected stakeholders before moving forward, including feedback from representatives of local boards of education, school business administrators, superintendents, building-level supervisors and school employees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the 36 Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey School Boards Association:

PERSONNEL – (Items 14-26)

14. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT FOR ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, SECRETARIES, CLERICAL AIDES, CUSTODIANS AND BUS DRIVERS-** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the personnel report for Administrators, Teachers, Secretaries, Clerical Aides, Custodians and Bus Drivers for the 2021-2022 school year as per the attached list submitted by the Supervisor of Special Projects and recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools as per salaries set forth by the Board and applicable collective bargaining contracts (**REF#0513-03**):

15. **APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MARGARET CARUSO** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves an extension of an unpaid medical leave of absence for Margaret Caruso retroactive beginning April 29, 2021 with an anticipated return date of May 18, 2021:

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**16. APPROVAL OF FAMILY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR JOSEPH PRIDAY–
Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves an unpaid family leave of absence for Joseph Priday, for the care of a family member, retroactive beginning May 10, 2021 through August 6, 2021 with an anticipated return date of August 9, 2021:

**17. APPROVAL OF FAMILY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR DANIEL PRIEST–
Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves an unpaid family leave of absence for Daniel Priest, for the care of a family member, retroactive beginning May 3, 2021 through May 14, 2021 with an anticipated return date of May 17, 2021:

18. APPOINTMENT OF EXTRA SERVICE POSITIONS AND STAFF - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the following extra service positions and staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Positon</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Tom Voorhis	Senior Play - Director	3	\$5,060
Ross Buffa	Senior Play – Orchestra Director	3	\$3,671
Tom Schreck	Senior Play – Choreographer Director	2	\$3,398

19. APPOINTMENT OF LINDY GELBER AS SCHOOL NURSE AT BERGEN BLVD. SCHOOL – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Lindy Gelber as a School Nurse at Bergen Blvd. School at a salary of \$66,429, BA15 step 15 beginning September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

20. APPOINTMENT OF LINDY GELBER AS SCHOOL NURSE FOR THE 2021 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Lindy Gelber as a School Nurse for the 2021 extended school year program at a stipend of \$7,000:

21. **ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF JOONEUI KIM -** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts the resignation (for retirement purposes) of Jooneui Kim, ESL teacher, effective June 30, 2021.

22. **ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF HOPE YUSCHAK -** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education accepts the resignation of Hope Yuschak, full time teacher assistant, effective May 21, 2021:

23. **APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION BUSSING STAFF & STIPEND-** Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following staff for the special education bussing stipend (\$2,100 prorated for actual days worked for Teaching Staff (\$11.67 per diem) - & \$1,200 prorated for actual days worked for Teacher Assistant Staff (\$6.67 per diem)) effective retroactive beginning September 8, 2020 through June 30, 2021 as follows:

Teachers

Jodi Hess
Stephen Lacatena
Debora Carlson
Matilda Miano

Teacher Assistants

Colleen Lofaro
Deborah Torres
Angela Colasante
Ellen Cinello
Doris Paez
Concetta Grasso
Linda Kowatch

24. **APPOINTMENT OF SPRING SATURDAY HAPPENING STAFF FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints the following Spring

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Saturday Happening Staff to work the following program dates: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021 and June 5, 2021 from 8:45am-11:00am with rain dates June 12 and 16, 2021:

The following teachers will be paid \$28.00 per hour and used on an as needed basis:

Kathleen Estevez (Tennis In-Person) Teacher

25. APPOINTMENT OF REBECCA ZUNIGA AS ART TEACHER AT RMHS – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Rebecca Zuniga as an Art Teacher at RMHS at a salary of \$56,710, MA step 6 beginning September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

26. APPROVAL OF FAMILY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR KYRIAKI KAOUULA– Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves an unpaid family leave of absence for Kyriaki Kaoulla, for the care of a family member, beginning May 17, 2021 through May 21, 2021 with an anticipated return date of May 24, 2021:

POLICY – (Items)

LEGAL – (Item 27)

27. AFFIRMATION OF HIB CASE 098 - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Interim Superintendent’s decision in HIB Investigation No 098 for the reasons set forth in the Interim

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:

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

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

Ms. Ortiz stated there were no comments at this time.

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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.

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

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

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

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 8:09 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Julyana Ortiz
Business Administrator/Board Secretary