

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 10, 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 June 10, 2021. 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 7:00 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	Aye
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Inan	Aye
Mr. Morilla	Aye
Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Psych	Absent
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 7:02 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 7:44 p.m.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Pantoliano stated that the principals will speak about the retirees in their buildings. Dr. DePass, Shaler Academy and Bergen Boulevard School Principal spoke about Lisa Brennan, Catherine Cohen, Annette Farelli, Denise Long and Nancy Solomon. Dr.

DePass spoke about their dedication and years of service in the district and congratulated them and wished them well.

Mr. Yang, Slocum Skewes School Principal spoke about Joan Furman and Jooneui Kim. Mr. Yang spoke about their dedication and years of service in the district and congratulated them and wished them well.

Ms. Seabold, RMHS Principal spoke about Paul Brodsky, Marguerite Neenan, Cynthia Reardon, MaryAnn Mattessich and Nicoletta Kimball. Ms. Seabold spoke about their dedication and years of service in the district and congratulated them and wished them well.

Mr. Michael Jacobs told the retirees that they are amazing and the strength and courage that they have shown especially in the last year and half. Mr. Jacobs stated in the next chapter of your life on behalf of the Ridgefield Board of Education we want to thank you and wish you God Speed. He stated they are all pandemic proven and that can be your badge of courage in everything that you do in the next chapter of your life. Mr. Jacobs stated congratulations to all.

Mrs. Inan wished all the amazing teachers a happy and healthy retirement.

PDA Traffic said congratulations to all teachers and especially to my favorite teacher Mrs. Farelli who was always the best Mom and even better teacher in life.

Ms. Elizabeth Giannantonio beautiful legacy. Thank you for inspiring you all.

Dr. Pantoliano thanked all retirees from Ridgefield and the children and wished them well.

Dr. Pantoliano stated the review of modular unit's timeline is on schedule. She stated she received an email regarding our amendment to the Long Range Facility Plan and it has been accepted by the Department of Education.

Dr. Pantoliano stated that President Biden put a significant amount of federal funds into the American Rescue Plan Act. Dr. Pantoliano stated as part of receiving that money we must publish a plan for the reopening of schools and maintaining a healthy and safe environment.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- A. Student Liaison – Sophia Popp – Dr. Pantoliano reported on the following school activities. June 6th RMHS Musical, June 7th Scholarship Awards, June 8th, Induction of new members of the STEM Academy, June 9th RMHS Prom, June 10th RMHS STRIVE Graduation, June 15th Awards Assembly and June 16th CAP & Gown Parade at 1:00 p.m. in front of high school.

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- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Ralph Morilla, Michael Jacobs – **N/R**
- C. Curriculum Committee – Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Javier Acosta – **N/R**
- D. Operations Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Andrew Grippa, Michael Jacobs – **N/R**
- E. Personnel Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Maryam Juliet Inan, William Pych, - Mr. Morilla spoke about negotiations with the Teacher Assistants and thanked them.
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Maryam Juliet Inan, Javier Acosta – **N/R**
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez - Alternates: Michael Jacobs – **N/R**

Dr. Pantoliano stated that the Board pulled Resolution #14 – Approval of a Student Centered – Project Based Learning Summer Program and Staff.

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. Grippa.
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 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.

Ms. Ortiz stated that there were no public comments.

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

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

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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
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18 and 19:

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

Ms. Ortiz may we have a roll call please.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Acosta	Absent (left the meeting early)
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Inan	Aye
Mr. Morilla	Aye
Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Psych	Absent
Mr. Jacobs	Aye

FINANCE – (Items 2-6)

2. 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 May and June 2021 (**REF#0610-01**):

May 2021 Payroll	\$2,393,247.55
May 2021 Benefits	\$ 424,588.95
June 10, 2021 Vendor Batch 1	\$ 141,843.99

3. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the following fundraisers for the 2020-2021 school year (**REF#0610-02**):

- A.) **Eighth Grade Class** to hold a **Donate for a Jean/Denim Day** on June 14, 2021 with proceeds going towards eight grade end of year traditions and events.

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4. APPROVAL OF RESIDENT STUDENTS SENT OUT-OF-DISTRICT FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim 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 2021-2022:

<u>Student I.D.#</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
3306150114	Children’s Therapy Center	\$93,147.02

5. 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 Interim 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 2021-2022 academic year (REF#0610-03):

6. SUBMISSION OF 2021-2022 TAX SCHEDULE – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the submission of the 2021-2022 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>	<u>Operating Budget Amount</u>	<u>Debt Service Amount</u>	<u>Tax Payment Amount</u>
June, 2021	July	\$ 1,918.163.33	-	\$ 1,918.163.33
July, 2021	August	\$ 1,918.163.35	\$ 95,054.00	\$ 2,013,217.35
August, 2021	September	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
September, 2021	October	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
October, 2021	November	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
November, 2021	December	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
December, 2021	January	\$ 1,918.163.35	\$ 659,727.00	\$ 2,577,890.35
January, 2022	February	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
February, 2022	March	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
March, 2022	April	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
April, 2022	May	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
May, 2022	June	\$ 1,918.163.33	\$ -	\$ 1,918.163.33
Total July 2020 - June 2022		\$ 23,017,960.00	\$ 754,781.00	\$ 23,772,741.00

STUDENT SERVICES – (Item 7)

7. REVISION OF APPROVAL OF TITLE III IMMIGRANT TEACHER /STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves a Title III Immigrant Teacher/Student Mentor Program beginning May 3, 2021 through June 22, 2021 with approved staff to meet with students in-person and/or virtual, and be paid \$40/hr., not to exceed 20 hours at no cost to the District:

CURRICULUM – (Item)

OPERATIONS – (Items)

PERSONNEL – (Items 8-17)

8. APPOINTMENT OF CHELSEA JONES AS FIRST GRADE TEACHER AT BERGEN BVLD. SCHOOL – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Chelsea Jones as a First Grade Teacher at Bergen Blvd. School at a salary of \$54,663, BA step 8 beginning September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

9. APPOINTMENT OF DENISSE SOTO 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 Denisse Soto as an Art Teacher at RMHS at a salary of \$54,035, BA15 step 4 beginning September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

10. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF TAMMY GANCI - 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 Tammy Ganci, Teacher Assistant, effective June 30, 2021:

11. 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

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Teaching Staff (\$11.67 per diem) - & \$1,200 prorated for actual days worked for Teacher Assistant Staff (\$6.67 per diem) effective retroactive beginning May 17, 2021 through June 30, 2021 as follows:

Teacher Assistants
Yulexis Freire-Cardosa

12. **APPROVAL OF DIANNYS DEARMAS AS A FULL TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT SUBSTITUTE** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves Diannys DeArmas a full time teacher assistant to substitute for a teacher, at a rate of \$40.00 per diem, to be used on an as needed basis, beginning June 14, 2021 through June 30, 2021:

13. **APPROVAL OF JULIANNE D’AMICO TO CONDUCT AN OBSERVATION** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves Julianne D’Amico, Sacred Heart University Student, to conduct an occupational therapy observation, for 10-15 hours per week beginning June 11, 2021 and during the extended school year program:

Resolution Tabled

14. **APPROVAL OF A STUDENT CENTERED - PROJECT BASED LEARNING SUMMER PROGRAM AND STAFF** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves a student centered - project based learning summer program and staff beginning July 1, 2021 through July 30, 2021, Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm:

Teachers at \$40/hr. plus 10 hours of teacher preparation
Charles Ries

15. **APPOINTMENT OF KARA DOVIK AS SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Kara Doviak as Supervisor of Special Projects for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary of \$138,452 effective July 1, 2021:

16. APPOINTMENT OF JULYANA ORTIZ AS SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education appoints Julyana Ortiz as School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2021-2022 school year, at a salary pending County approval, effective July 1, 2021:

17. APPROVAL OF ADJUSTMENT OF STIPEND FOR AN EXTRA SERVICE POSITION-Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves an adjustment to the stipend for the Cheerleading Head Coach extra service position as follows:

Step 1 - \$6,436
Step 2 - \$7,466
Step 3 - \$8,071

POLICY – (Items 18-19)

18. APPROVAL OF SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICY #3421.13 – POSTNATAL ACCOMODATIONS- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of the new policy #3421.13 – Postnatal Accommodations (**REF#0610-04**):

19. APPROVAL OF SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICY #4421.13 – POSTNATAL ACCOMODATIONS- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of the new policy #4421.13 – Postnatal Accommodations (**REF#0610-05**):

LEGAL – (Item)

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

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

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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. 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.

Ms. Ortiz stated there were no public comments.

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

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

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Grippa stated he has been privileged and have known a lot of the retirees thanked them and congratulated them.

Mr. Jacobs spoke about Ms. Ganci at Slocum Skewes Schools about letting the public into the building.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 8:40 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