

**BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2022
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

A Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education was held on February 24, 2022 in the High School Cafeteria. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Michael Jacobs:

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:04 PM 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

Ms. Ortiz may we have a roll call please.

Mr. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Inan	Absent
Mr. Morilla	Present
Mrs. Narvaez	Present – Arrived 7:06 p.m.
Mr. Pych	Present
Dr. Ryu	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, was at 7:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Grippa, seconded by Dr. Ryu

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-

- () 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 8:05 p.m.

A. Student Liaison – Sophia Narvaez – Did not attend

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS –

Mr. Jacobs stated for the record he was notified of some questions and concerns over the Islam training that was presented to the staff on February 18, 2022. The training was contemplated and publically discussed during several of the Board Meetings; giving the community and interested organizations the opportunity to provide the Board with information and feedback. At one of its public meetings, a member of Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) introduced himself and his mission. He said he could offer training relating to Islam in response to an incident that raised concern. District administrators made the decision to provide training to staff to insure the school community was up-to-date with issues affecting the Muslim community. So as to support their students and families and to provide an inclusive and welcoming school environment. Some have criticized the amount of time it took to be offered. The Bergen Record made some insinuations that timing was politically motivated. This is absolutely false. As a public entity the Board must make sure the training does not create an entitlement with religion. As such, time was taken to include the community to offer training, for the training materials to be vetted for legal compliance, and for

the training to be scheduled during non-instructional work days in accordance with applicable negotiation agreements. He said there is no affiliation between the Board and CAIR. The Board remains a distinct, separate, and independent entity. Thank you. Dr. Pantoliano please present your report.

Dr. Pantoliano deferred the beginning of her report to Mrs. Seabold.

1. Testing Presentation – Janet Seabold – At the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022, the Curriculum Department presented a presentation on Ridgefield Public School District testing data. The data that was presented included reports of the scores for all students who participated in the Start Strong Assessment for grades 4 – 10, DLM, Access for ELLs, the SAT, and our AP testing. The information from all of the standardized testing results will be used within our classrooms to address areas of need in both curriculum and instruction.

Dr. Ryu inquired about testing and subgroups. A discussion followed and Mrs. Seabold and Dr. Pantoliano explained the subgroup comparisons and resources.

Dr. Pantoliano spoke about the mentoring with ELL through grant funds. The mentoring program was expanded to include students who are in I&RS who may need extra support. She asked Mrs. Ferdinand if overall mentoring is going well. Ms. Ferdinand said yes for the students that take advantage of it.

Dr. Pantoliano pointed out two policy changes. Agenda items number 27 and 28 both relate to the pandemic. Item number 27 is revision of Bylaw #0155.1 so that Board members can in special circumstances participate in Board Meetings without physically being present. She stated it's important to have a quorum. Agenda item number 28 is a revision of Policy #1648.14 stating we will follow federal, state, and local health departments. Guidance changes every week and Ridgefield schools will follow the most current guidance from Branka Lulic the Ridgefield Health Officer. She said moving forward we won't need to change policy but just follow the guidelines.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), William Pych, Michael Jacobs – Mr. Grippa mentioned working on documents for the County for QSAC to review. Also working on 2022/2023 budget. State budget address changed from 2/22 to 3/8. March 8th is when they finalize school aid. The budget cannot be finalized until after that. Mrs. Ortiz will send out an updated budget calendar reflecting the change and how it will affect the whole budget process.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), Dr. Yongki Colin Ryu, Michael Jacobs- Mrs. Narvaez said Mrs. Seabold already gave the report.
- D. Operations Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Andrew Grippa, Michael Jacobs – Mr. Pych advised that extra fencing has been installed at Slocum along the modular to protect the building from balls and to protect the balls from the building. They did a secondary walk through and any items that still needs to be done will be completed during the week of spring break. He said the gym floor at high school is being used and all are happy with outcome and the way it looks.
- E. Personnel Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Dr. Yongki Colin Ryu – N/R
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Maryam Juliet Inan - N/R

G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez – Alternate: Michael Jacobs – Mrs. Narvaez said last week congress passed a resolution in senate designating 2/21 to 2/25 Public Schools Week to celebrate public schools and their students and educational staff. On 2/23 Governor Murphy held a media briefing to let mask mandate end 3/7. The Governor noted decisions will be made at district levels. She also mentioned the Department of Education is inviting groups to apply for grants from the Jacobs Javits Gifted and Talented Student Education Program.

H. Technology Committee (ADHOC) – Michael Jacobs, William Pych, Andrew Grippa-N/R

IX. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION -

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

Motion made by Mr. Pych, seconded by Mrs. Narvaez
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 step up to the microphone, identify themselves by name and address, and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda. The Board may or may not respond to issues raised by members of the public. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks all members of the public to be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, the Board discourages comments regarding students and employees and will not respond to such comments. Please note that after the public discussion is closed by the President, no other questions or comments from the audience will be permitted until the “Questions and Comments from the Audience on Any Topic of Concern” at the end of the agenda. At that time, questions do not have to be confined to agenda items.

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

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

XI. BOARD COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY.

Mr. Grippa thanked Mrs. Seabold for the presentation and acknowledged the amazing job and amount of work she has done over the years.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

1. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Roll Call

**BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2022
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Motion to approve the following consent items 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27 and 28:

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

Ms. Ortiz may we have a roll call please.

Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Inan	Absent
Mr. Morilla	Aye
Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Pych	Aye
Dr. Ryu	Aye
Mr. Jacobs	Aye

FINANCE – (Items 2-10)

2. MINUTES – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the January 20, 2022 Work Session/ Business Meeting and Executive Session:

3. BILL LIST – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the bill list from the month of February 2022:

February 24, 2022 – Vendor Batch A \$401,699.76

4. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the Board Secretary Report for the period ending January 31, 2022:

5. CASH REPORT - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the Cash Report for the periods ending January 31, 2022:

6. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S CERTIFICATION – Consent

**BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2022
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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 January 31, 2022 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 January 31, 2022 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 January 31, 2022, 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 TRANSFERS – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the budget transfers for month of February in the 2021 in the amount of \$12,715.00:

8. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the following fundraisers for the 2021-2022 school year:

- A.) **Project Graduation/PTA** to hold a **Funds Collection (\$20 per grad/pay to play)** beginning February 25, 2022 through June 23, 2022 with proceeds going towards project graduation.
- B.) **RMHS Golf** to hold a **Fan Clothing Apparel Sale** beginning March 2022 with proceeds going towards the team to purchase team pullovers.
- C.) **RMHS Softball** to hold a **BSN Online Clothing Store** in March 2022 with proceeds going towards team apparel, end of season dinner and summer league
- D.) **RMHS Softball** to hold a **Mr. Cupcakes Sale** from March 2022 through April 2022 with proceeds going towards team apparel, end of season dinner and summer league.
- E.) **Class of 2022** to hold a **Students vs. Staff Volleyball and Tournament** on March 7, 2022 with proceeds going towards the senior prom.

9. APPROVAL OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR AUDIT FINDINGS – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the Corrective Action Plan for the year ending June 30, 2021:

10. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM SUNOVION PHARMACEUTICALS – Consent

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BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves to accept the following donated items from Sunovion Pharmaceuticals:

- 6 Leather Chairs
- 31 Green Mesh Chairs
- 60 Black Mesh Chairs
- 1 Smart Board

STUDENT SERVICES – (Item)

CURRICULUM – (Item 11)

11. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP EXPENDITURES - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the following workshop participation and expenditures:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Workshop</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Rebecca Zuniga	Photoshop in a Day	Online	3/7/22	\$325.00
Susan Chung Julie Pate	Augmentative Communications Workshop	Virtual	3/17/22	\$75.00
Suzanne Erickson	Prologue Advanced – BCSS	Virtual	3/17/22	\$75.00
*Lauretta Allen	LEAD Conference	Atlantic City	3/18-3/22/22	\$225.00 \$15.81 – Resort Fee

*Revision

OPERATIONS – (Items 12-14)

12. APPROVAL OF THE 2022-2023 RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT CALENDAR- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the 2022-2023 Ridgefield Public Schools district calendar:

13. APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE BASEBALL SPORTS PROGRAM BETWEEN THE RIDGEFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE PALISADES PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves an agreement of a cooperative baseball sports program between the Ridgefield Board of Education and the Palisades Park Board of Education beginning March 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

14. **RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP**– Consent

WHEREAS, a number of Boards of Education in Bergen County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance GROUP as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-.18B and;

WHEREAS, said GROUP was approved effective July 1, 1985 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date and;

WHEREAS, the Bylaws and regulations governing the creation and operation of this Insurance GROUP contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a GROUP, and;

WHEREAS, the Ridgefield Board of Education has determined that membership in the NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP is in the best interest of the District;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Ridgefield Board of Education does hereby agree to renew membership in the NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the GROUP as are required by the Group's Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

PERSONNEL – (Items 15-26)

15. **APPOINTMENT OF CAROL HENDERSON AS A TEACHER ASSISTANT SUBSTITUTE** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Carol Henderson as a teacher assistant substitute, to be used on an as needed basis, beginning February 28, 2022 through June 30, 2022:

16. **APPROVAL OF SICK LEAVE BANK DAYS FOR EMPLOYEE #0477** – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves thirty (30) sick leave bank days for employee #0477:

17. APPOINTMENT OF SUMMER MENTOR COORDINATOR AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints the following staff as summer mentor coordinator and summer enrichment program coordinator for the summer of 2022:

Tamika DePass – Summer Mentor Coordinator
Brian Sansanelli - Summer Enrichment Program Coordinator

18. APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints the following as district substitute teachers, at the board approved rate to be used on an as needed basis, beginning February 28, 2022 through June 30, 2022:

Karima Elayan
Felopateer Boulos

19. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF GIANNA HAASE - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Gianna Haase, part time teacher assistant, effective retroactive from January 14, 2022:

20. APPROVAL OF HOME INSTRUCTION/INSTRUCTOR FOR STUDENT ID#292196 – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the following home instruction/instructor for student ID#292196, beginning January 18, 2022:

Katherine Neary

21. APPROVAL TO RESCIND THE APPOINTMENT OF TAEYUNG JUN AS PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves to rescind the appointment of Taeyung Jun as a permanent substitute teacher, effective February 25, 2022:

22. APPROVAL OF REVISION OF MENTORING PROGRAM STAFF FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education approves the revision of the mentoring program and staff at a rate of \$40/hr. for mentors and a rate of \$50/hr. for coordinators, at a maximum of one-hundred fifty (150) hours, for the following mentor, for the 2021-2022 school year at no cost to the District:

Mentor
Seon Hee Lim

23. APPOINTMENT OF SPRING SATURDAY HAPPENING STAFF FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints the following Spring Saturday Happening Staff to work the following program dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 2022 from 8:45am-11:00am (registration March 1, 2022):

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

Isaac Archbold	(Soccer)	Teacher
Rebecca Zuniga	(Art & Painting)	Teacher
Daniel Gonzalez	(Substitute)	Teacher

The para-professionals will be paid \$20.00 per hour and used on an as needed basis:

Tia Szewczyck	(Chess)
Elisetta Governali	(Playdough)

The following school will be paid \$60.00 per hour and used on an as needed basis:

PEAK Performing Arts Center (PEAK PAC NJ)	(Dance)
Bergen Jang Star Taekwondo School, INC.	(Taekwondo)

The following class will run under volunteer:

Ridgefield High School Community Service Students under the supervision of Brian Sansanelli (Jewelry Making)

24. APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR KRISTY PRIETO– Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves Kristy Prieto’s request for a medical leave effective April 14, 2022 with the use of two (2) personal days and ten (10) sick days through May 10, 2022 with an unpaid leave of absence of up to twelve (12) weeks in accordance with

the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (“FMLA”), through June 27, 2022 with an anticipated return date of October 3, 2022:

25. APPROVAL OF EXTRA SERVICE APPOINTMENTS/REVISION- 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 appointments/revision for the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>
John Biggiani	Baseball – Assistant #1	1
Jaelyn Vanore	Softball – Assistant #1	3
Ann Behrens	Track – Assistant #1	3
Lamarche White	Track – Assistant #2	1
*Stephanie Sinclair	Track – Head Varsity (Girls)	3
*revision		

**26. APPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE SIMMS AS 1:1 PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT
- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Stephanie Simms as a 1:1 part time teacher assistant, (for student ID#5568489824) at Slocum Skewes School, pending criminal history background check, with a start date TBD:

POLICY – (Items 27-28)

27. APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF REVISED BYLAW #0155.1 – BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS USING ELECTRONIC DEVICE - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the first reading of revised policy #0155.1 – Board Member Participation at Board Meetings Using Electronic Device:

**28. APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING OF REVISED POLICY #1648.14 – SAFETY PLAN FOR HEALTHCARE SETTINGS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS - COVID-19 –
Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the first reading of revised policy #1648.14 – Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19:

LEGAL – (Item)

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

Statements made by individual participants are limited to a duration of five (5) minutes unless otherwise announced at the beginning of the discussion. The Board urges large groups to select one person to represent them. The Board reminds those individuals who take the opportunity to speak to please step up to the microphone, identify themselves by name and address. 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.

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

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

Motion made by Mrs. Narvaez, seconded by Dr. Ryu.
Motion Passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Morilla thanked Mr. Jacobs for his statement in the beginning of the meeting with regard to timing it took the district to reply to the allegations. Mr. Morilla asked where the Board's vision is with respect to equality and acceptance.

The Board discussed diversity and past district trainings Ridgefield has and still offers to staff and students.

Dr. Pantoliano stated Ridgefield has an Affirmative Action Officer who is sitting right here and everyone just praised what a wonderful job she has done and she has done a wonderful job. The training that is State mandated which teachers take every year online is training on equity and diversity. It is required by all teachers and staff.

Mrs. Seabold said as Affirmative Action Coordinator, the incident that occurred was an isolated incident, and we can't look at the district as a whole based upon one incident by one person because that's truly not a representation.

Dr. Pantoliano said the State mandates training in diversity. QSAC and State monitoring make sure we are in compliance with all of that.

Mr. Morilla asked about the allegations in the email that was received.

Dr. Pantoliano said all of that training and company was vetted by the Board's Attorney and your Superintendent.

Mr. Jacobs said there are protocols that the administration follows and number one is basically the vetting and that the curriculum was vetted by Mr. Matt Giacobbe. It conformed with law and especially with separation of church and state. Administration did what they elected to do and it's within their purview to do professional development. He understands, for the record, the Board gets involved only when money passes hands for approval of training. It's on our resolution so we had oversight and based on the recommendation of the superintendent, we approve or disapprove. I thank you for your comments.

Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone and said conversation and input were noted.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 9:05 p.m.

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

Motion Passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julyana Oriz
Business Administrator/Board Secretary