

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING MARCH 10, 2022  
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

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A Work Session/Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education was held on March 10, 2022 in the High School Cafeteria. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jacobs:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:07 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. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Inan	Absent
Mr. Morilla	Present
Mrs. Narvaez	Present
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  
Matthew Lee, NJSBA Field Representative

**V. Motion to Convene in EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION for School Board Training, Personnel, Legal, Negotiations, Attorney/Client Privilege and/or Student Matters items, at 7:09 p.m.**

Motion was made by Mrs. Narvaez, 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.

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- ( ) 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 7:43 p.m.

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

Dr. Pantoliano deferred to Mr. Lee for the ethics presentation.

1. Ethics Refresher – Matthew Lee, NJSBA Field Representative

Mr. Lee presented “Ethics for School Officials”. He said board members are required to review Code of Ethics once per year. The presentation reviewed code and most recent decisions and advisories by School Ethics Commission (SEC). Mr. Lee reviewed the ground rules of board member activity.

Board members followed up with questions which were answered by Mr. Lee.  
Mr. Jacobs thanked Mr. Lee.

Dr. Pantoliano said there is one change to agenda item Number 7. The date school is to be closed will be May 3, 2022 not May 2, 2022. She explained since we only used one school closing the calendar revisions were made to close school the following days:

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May 3, 2022 - Schools/District Closed  
May 27 & 31, 2022 - Schools/District Closed  
June 17, 2022 - Schools/District Closed

Dr. Pantoliano mentioned QSAC did a virtual review on instruction and programs on February 25 and the in-person component will be April 1, 2022.

She spoke with Dr. DePass who informed her the mentoring program and ESL program in the evenings are both going well. They will be presenting at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting along with DECA.

**VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

- A. Student Liaison – Sophia Narvaez – Ms. Narvaez reported on the following school activities (See attached report.)
- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), William Pych, Michael Jacobs- Mr. Grippa said they have a financial meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> to review finalized school aid and implications for the budget and will report at the next meeting.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Claudia Narvaez (Chairperson), Dr. Yongki Colin Ryu, Michael Jacobs-N/R
- D. Operations Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Andrew Grippa, Michael Jacobs-N/R
- E. Personnel Committee – William Pych (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Dr. Yongki Colin Ryu- Mr. Pych said they met with administrators and are also in the process of a superintendent search.
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Maryam Juliet Inan- Mr. Morilla said they will be meeting in April to discuss and revise some policies.
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez – Alternate: Michael Jacobs – Mrs. Narvaez gave Governor Murphy’s report on the State budget.
- 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. Grippa, 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 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

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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 Mrs. Narvaez.  
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

**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 and 24:

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

**Ms. Ortiz may we have a roll call please.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Grippa	Yay; recuse on Item #6 for self only
Mrs. Inan	Absent
Mr. Morilla	Yay; recuse on Item #6 for self only
Mrs. Narvaez	Yay; recuse on Item #6 for self only
Mr. Pych	Yay; recuse on Item #6 for self only
Dr. Ryu	Yay; recuse on Item #6 for self only
Mr. Jacobs	Yay; recuse on Item #6 for self only

**FINANCE – (Items 2-4)**

**2. 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 March 2022:

March 10, 2022 – Vendor Batch A	\$ 241,248.67
February 2022 Payroll	\$2,426,481.60

**3. 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

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year:

- A.) **Music Parents Association** to hold a **Concession Stand at HS Musical** on March 18, 2022 and March 19, 2022 with proceeds going towards the music program.
- B.) **National English Honor Society** to hold **Bake Sales** on 3/25,3/31,4/1,4/7,4/8,4/21,4/22,4/28,4/29,5/5 and 5/6/2022 with proceeds going towards honor chords, membership dues and shirts.
- C.) **REPTA/DEAR Committee** to hold a **Bingo for Books** on March 31, 2022 with proceeds going to funding reading activities.
- D.) **Student Council & World Language** to hold a **Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine** during March 2022 with collection proceeds going to the Ukraine Church in Clifton, NJ.
- E.) **REPTA** to hold a **Spring Walk-A-Thon** during April 2022 with proceeds going to help schools provide educational experiences for the students.

**4. APPROVAL OF TUITION CONTRACTS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR BETWEEN THE RIDGEFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE FOLLOWING SENDING DISTRICTS – Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the following tuition contracts for the 2021-2022 school year between the Ridgefield Board of Education and the following sending district:

District	SID	Amount
Fairview	7604773361	\$ 24,119.20
Fairview	1010980875	\$ 35,041.00
Leonia	5369471995	\$ 24,199.20
Lodi	2124745653	\$ 34,193.71
Lodi	9464477445	\$ 45,794.90
Palisades Park	9579878445	\$ 27,172.20
South Hackensack	7528414485	\$ 40,926.10

**STUDENT SERVICES – (Item 5)**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE RIDGEFIELD ANTI-BULLYING COMMITTEE (ABC) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE CLASS OF 2022- Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves The Ridgefield Anti-Bullying Committee (ABC) scholarship program for the class of 2022 with funds to be distributed through the Borough of Ridgefield via the use of vouchers:

**CURRICULUM – (Item 6)**

**6. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP EXPENDITURES - Consent**

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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>
Amy Oliff	NJ Gifted and Talented Conference 2022	Virtual	3/18/22	\$114.00
Jean Marie Westervelt	IMSE – Literacy Summit 2022	Virtual	3/23/22	\$20.00
Michael Jacobs Andrew Grippa Ralph Morilla Claudia Narvaez Maryam Juliet Inan William Pych Yongki Colin Ryu	NJSBA Spring Education Symposium	Virtual	4/26 & 4/27/22	\$300.00 – Group Rate
Julyana Ortiz Kelvin Hiciano	NJASBO Conference	Atlantic City	6/7-6/10/22	Not to Exceed \$800.00 pp
Theodore Siegel	AP Research Training	Virtual	6/20-6/24/22	\$1,095.00

**OPERATIONS – (Items 7-8)**

**7. APPROVAL OF THE REVISION OF THE 2021-2022 RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT CALENDAR - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the revision of the 2021-2022 Ridgefield Public Schools District calendar as follows:

May 3, 2022 - Schools/District Closed  
May 27 & 31, 2022 - Schools/District Closed  
June 17, 2022 - Schools/District Closed

**8. APPROVAL OF USE OF FACILITIES - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the following Use of Facility Requests:

- A. Ridgefield Recreation to use Bergen Boulevard School for basketball/baseball/ and softball practice for use of the gym on Mondays through Fridays starting March 14, 2022 through June 17, 2022 - 5:45p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (subject to availability and when school is open).
- B. Ridgefield Recreation to use Slocum Skewes School for basketball/baseball/ and softball practice for use of the gym on Mondays through Fridays starting March 14, 2022 through June 17, 2022 - 5:45p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (subject to availability and when school is open).

**PERSONNEL – (Items 9-19)**

9. **APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** - 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 teacher, at the board approved rate, beginning March 14, 2022 through June 30, 2022:

Sharyss Sanchez

10. **APPOINTMENT OF YANIRIS SILVESTRE AS 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 Yaniris Silvestre as a part time teacher assistant at Shaler Academy, pending criminal history background check, with a start date TBD:

11. **APPOINTMENT OF ISABEL CONFORME 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 Isabel Conforme as a 1:1 part time teacher assistant at RMHS (paid by Guttenberg), pending criminal history background check, with a start date TBD:

12. **APPOINTMENT OF JULIANNA VAZQUEZ AS SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT**  
- Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Juliana Vazquez as a substitute teacher assistant, to be used on an as needed basis, pending criminal history background check, with a start date TBD:

13. **ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF YAMILETH MARTINEZ** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Yamileth Martinez, full time teacher assistant, effective March 15, 2022:

14. **APPROVAL OF UNPAID DAY FOR JANET BUSH** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves unpaid day for Janet Bush for June 1, 2022:

15. **APPROVAL OF EXTRA SERVICE APPOINTMENT** - 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 appointment for the

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2021-2022 school year:

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>
Antonio DiBona	Baseball – Head Coach - SS	1

**16. APPOINTMENT OF DANILO BARQUIN AS SECURITY AIDE AT SLOCUM SKEWES SCHOOL - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves Danilo Barquin as a security aide at Slocum Skewes School, pending criminal history background check, with a start date TBD:

**17. APPROVAL OF REVISION OF NURSES TO COMPLETE CONTACT TRACING/COVID PAPERWORK – Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the revision of the following nurse to complete extra service hours of contract tracing and/or COVID paperwork, at a rate of \$29.46/hr., during the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Staff Name</u>	<u>Maximum Hours</u>
Lindy Gelber	91

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

Maria Vazquez (Jewelry Making Class)

**19. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF ERICA CUCCO-CAMPBELL - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Erica Cucco-Campbell, teacher, effective May 9, 2022:

**POLICY – (Items 20-21)**

**20. APPROVAL OF THE SECOND READING AND ADOPTION 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 second reading and adoption of revised policy #0155.1 – Board Member Participation at Board Meetings Using Electronic Device:

21. **APPROVAL OF THE SECOND READING AND ADOPTION 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 second reading and adoption of revised policy #1648.14 – Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19:

**LEGAL – (Items 22-24)**

22. **AFFIRMATION OF HIB CASE 106** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby affirms the Interim Superintendent’s decision in HIB Investigation No 106 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:

23. **AFFIRMATION OF HIB CASE 107** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby affirms the Interim Superintendent’s decision in HIB Investigation No 107 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:

24. **AFFIRMATION OF HIB CASE 108** - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby affirms the Interim Superintendent’s decision in HIB Investigation No 108 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). 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 Mr. Grippa  
Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

**XVI. NEW BUSINESS**

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 9:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Julyana Ortiz  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary