

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

A Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education was held on March 24, 2022 in the High School Cafeteria. The meeting was called to order by Mr. 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. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Inan	Present
Mr. Morilla	Absent
Mrs. Narvaez	Present
Mr. Pych	Absent
Dr. Ryu	Present
Mr. Jacobs	Present

Also present were:

Julyana Ortiz – Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mark Wenczel – Board Attorney from Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC

V. Motion to Convene in EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION for School Board Training, Personnel, Legal, Negotiations, Attorney/Client Privilege and/or Student Matters items, at 7:05 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 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.

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- () 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 9:20 p.m.

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

Ms. Ortiz summarized the preliminary 2022-2023 Budget. She thanked the budget team including Board of Education, administrators, superintendent, operations, and finance committees for their assistance in building our district's 2022/2023 Budget. Ms. Ortiz reviewed the preliminary budget with the Board of Education and answered comments and/or questions from Board Members.

Mr. Jacobs advised there was a walk-in Agenda Item No. 22 – Disenrollment of student #232389.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- A. Student Liaison – Sophia Narvaez- N/R
- B. Finance Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), William Pych, Michael Jacobs- N/R
- 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- N/R
- F. Policy Committee – Ralph Morilla (Chairperson), Michael Jacobs, Maryam Juliet Inan- N/R
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Claudia Narvaez – Alternates: Michael Jacobs- N/R
- 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 Dr. Ryu

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 Dr. Yu.

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, and 22:

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

Ms. Ortiz may we have a roll call please.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Inan	Aye
Mr. Morilla	Absent

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Mrs. Narvaez	Aye
Mr. Pych	Absent
Dr. Ryu	Aye
Mr. Jacobs	Aye

FINANCE – (Items 2-9)

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 February 10, 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 March 2022:

March 24, 2022 – Vendor Batch A	\$362,025.77
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4. 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.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM STEVE LINZEY – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves to accept a donation from Steve Linzey in the amount of \$1,500.00 to be used for the Slocum Skewes Science Fair:

6. APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE 2021-2022 IDEA APPLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves the amendment to the 2021-2022 IDEA Application in the following amounts:

Basic	\$471,500
Pre-School	\$ 20,322

7. APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR SY 2022-2023 – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ridgefield Boro Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the preliminary 2022-2023 school year budget as follows:

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	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Local Tax Levy</i>
General Fund (Fund 10)	\$ 40,065,753	\$ 23,478,319
Special Revenue Fund (Fund 20)	\$ 601,218	\$ 0
Debt Service Fund (Fund 40)	\$ 689,423	\$ 597,620
Total Base Budget	\$ 41,356,394	\$ 24,075,939

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Fund tax levy \$24,075,939 is approved to support Current General Expense that includes an adjustment for Debt Service Fund tax levy of \$597,620 to support Debt Service for the 2022-23 school year budget;

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ridgefield Boro Board of Education accepts State School Aid for the 2022-23 school year as follows:

Equalization Aid	\$ 1,968,319
Special Education Categorical Aid	\$ 1,119,247
Security Aid	\$ 96,410
Less: SDA Assessment	<u>\$ -474</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,183,502
Debt Service Aid	<u>\$ 91,803</u>
Total Aid	\$ 3,275,305

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ridgefield Boro Board of Education withdraws from the Board of Education's approved Capital Reserve Account in the amount of \$168,000 to fund the following Capital Project:

Bergen Boulevard School:

- Remove and Replace Side Staircase by Parking Lot - \$14,000
- Remove and Replace Sidewalk slabs and staircase - \$24,000

Slocum Skewes School:

- Paving of Slocum Schools Playground - \$80,000
- Paving of Slocum Schools Parking Lot - \$40,000

Ridgefield Memorial High School:

- Roof Replacement, Athletic Storage Unit - \$10,000

8. APPROVAL OF THE 2022-23 PRELIMINARY BUDGET – WITHDRAWAL FROM MAINTENANCE RESERVE– Consent

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 6A:23A-14.2(d) permits a Board of Education to withdraw such funds from the maintenance reserve account and appropriate into the required maintenance account lines at budget time or any time during the year for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-4;

WHEREAS, the Ridgefield Boro Board of Education is desirous to withdraw funds from the Maintenance Reserve Account in the amount of \$47,000 and appropriate said funds into the required maintenance account line in the general fund for the following:

- Fire Alarm Communication Device/Monitoring Upgrade Districtwide (\$4,000)
- Intercom Upgrade in Slocum Skewes School (\$25,000)
- Repair of staircase at Ridgefield Memorial High School (\$18,000)

WHEREAS, according to 6A:23A-14.2(e), the Ridgefield Boro Board of Education shall restore any Unexpended required maintenance appropriations up to the amount of maintenance reserve account funds withdrawn, to the maintenance reserve account at year-end;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ridgefield Boro Board of Education approves the withdrawal of \$47,000 from the Board of Education’s approved Maintenance Reserve account to be used in SY 2022-2023:

9. APPROVAL OF MAXIMUM TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR – Consent

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, in each pre-budget year the Ridgefield Boro Board of Education is required to establish a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year which may not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgefield Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount includes all travel that is supported by state and local funds; and

WHEREAS, the Ridgefield Board of Education had previously established a maximum amount for the pre-budget year 2020-2021 as \$60,000;

WHEREAS, the Ridgefield Board of Education has expended \$5,736.20 of the maximum amount for the pre-budget year to date; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum travel expenditure amount of the 2021-22 school year as \$60,000.00:

STUDENT SERVICES – (Item 10)

10. APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS - Consent

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

Teacher Name	Location	Purpose	Date	School	Learning Center	General Ed.	Students Attending
Mike Zunick Oliver Islambouli	I Fly	Honors geophysics lessons/ STEM Workshop	4/29/22	RMHS		X	24

CURRICULUM – (Item)

OPERATIONS – (Item 11)

11. 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 Request:

- A. Slocum Skewes School revised the use of the Gym on Tuesdays for Volleyball starting February 22, 2022 – June 24, 2022 – 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. (subject to availability and when school is open).

PERSONNEL – (Items 12-19)

12. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF EMMANUEL BARZAGA - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Emmanuel Barzaga, full time teacher assistant, effective March 28, 2022:

13. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF DORIS PAEZ - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation (for retirement purposes), of Doris Paez full time teacher assistant, effective July 1, 2022:

14. APPROVAL OF REVISION 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 revision of the resignation of Erica Cucco-

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Campbell, teacher, effective May 6, 2022:

15. APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR TRISTA LAVINO – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves Trista Lavino’s request for an unpaid medical leave beginning retroactive from March 11, 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 April 15, 2022 with an anticipated return date of April 18, 2022:

16. APPROVAL OF UNPAID DAY FOR VERONICA WILENTA - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby approves unpaid days for Veronica Wilenta retroactive for March 17, 2022 and March 18, 2022:

17. 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 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>
Dallas Fugnitti	Softball – Assistant #2	1
Frank Sarmiento	Baseball – Assistant #2	1

18. APPOINTMENT OF SHARYSS SANCHEZ AS A 1:1 FULL TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT SHALER ACADEMY – Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ridgefield Board of Education hereby appoints Sharyss Sanchez as a 1:1 full time teacher assistant at Shaler Academy, at a pro-rated salary of step 1, beginning March 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022:

19. APPOINTMENT OF SHARYSS SANCHEZ 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 hereby appoints Sharyss Sanchez as a full time teacher assistant substitute, to be uses on an as needed basis, beginning March 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022:

POLICY – (Items)

LEGAL – (Items 20-21)

20. AFFIRMATION OF HIB DECISION AS TO STUDENT ID#20002169 - Consent

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Interim Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No 109 as to student ID #20002169, 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:

21. AFFIRMATION OF HIB DECISION AS TO STUDENT ID#20002162 - Consent

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Interim Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No 109 as to student ID #20002162, 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:

22. DISENROLLMENT OF STUDENT NO. 232389 – Consent

WHEREAS, the Board of Education held a residency hearing at its March 24, 2022 meeting during executive session, to review information related to Student No. 232389 for purposes of assessing the student's eligibility to attend its schools under N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(a); and

WHEREAS, following the residency hearing, the Board finds that Student No. 232389 is not domiciled within the Borough of Ridgefield for entitlement to attend its school under N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(a), nor is the student qualified to attend its schools without payment of tuition under N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(b), (d), (e), or (f); and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the removal of Student No. 232389 from its schools for being ineligible to receive a free, public education under N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(a), effective 21 days from the date of the Board's vote to remove the student; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education assesses tuition against the Parent(s)/guardian(s) of Student No. 232389 for the period of ineligible attendance, including any period of appeal, at the per diem rate of \$91.90 and authorizes its administrators and employees to take necessary action to assess the tuition owed and enforce the collection of such tuition.

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.

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

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

Motion made by Mr. Grippa, seconded by Dr. Ryu.
Motions unanimously approved by Board Members present.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 9:33 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julyana Ortiz
Business Administrator/Board Secretary