

A Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Payerle at 7:01 p.m.in the High School Cafeteria.

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:01 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”.

IV. ROLL CALL

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Barbosa | Arrived at 7:05 p.m. |
| Mr. D’Amico | Present |
| Mr. Grippa | Present |
| Mr. Morilla | Present |
| Ms. Narvaez | Present |
| Mr. Salazar | Present |
| Mrs. Payerle | Present |

There being six members present, a quorum was declared.

Also present were:

Dr. Frank Romano – Superintendent of Schools
Rich Guarini – Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Marla Taus – Board Attorney

IV. Motion to Convene in EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION at 7:02 p.m.

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 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 not envisioned that the Board will return to open session after this closed session meeting.

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

VI. PUBLIC BOARD MEETING reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Marla Taus, Board Attorney read Resolution #25 that the Board added to the Agenda.

#25 – BE IT RESOLVED by the Ridgefield Board of Education that for the reasons set forth in tonight's closed session minutes, the matter being a confidential personnel matter, the Board has determined, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that in accordance with state statute and board policy an employee named in said minutes shall be directed to undergo an independent examination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent and Board Secretary are directed to furnish the employee with notification of the Board's determination in accordance with state law and board policy.

Ms. Taus told the public based on legal advice the Board Members will not be responding to any questions regarding this resolution.

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Dr. Romano discussed with the board and public.

He spoke about the letter that went out regarding the catastrophe that happened in Edgewater, so as a general effort to get us started we are engaged in a relief effort by placing drop boxes in all the school location and the borough hall and we will be dropping off the contents every day in Edgewater. He stated that in regard to the board’s goals that Mr. Guarini was able to secure two dates with Mr. Al Annunziata, who is our NJSBA representative, so our first two trainings will take place on February 12, 2015 and March 12, 2015. The first one on February 12, 2014 will begin at 8:00 p.m. and it is on Ethics Training and the second one on March 12, 2015 will begin at 8:00 p.m. will be on Board Rolls and Responsibilities. He said some of the other items he would like to see added to the agenda over the next several months as information sessions and notifying the parent community kinds of things going on at the Board Meetings. He spoke about curriculum updates we are heavily engaged in language curriculum work and math curriculum work just for instance just yesterday I had 10-12 teachers and supervisors/administrators in my office working with reps from different companies examining materials for language arts grades K-6 and last week we were looking at geometry material in the curriculum office so the Central Office has come alive in terms of program and instructional work. Strategic Planning Update – He spoke about the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting that took place on January 7, 2015 as you can see the plan is starting to take form. He spoke about the web-site success and said we were approached by the company School Wires and asked if I would allow them to use our web-site in a massive campaign to bring on new clients. Our parent information night was very successful we had about 50 + attendees last Wednesday night. We spoke about common core, PARCC and the new web-site and very specifically homework. He spoke about the Bond Sale it came in lower than we thought so that is good news and the closing is January 28, 2014. He spoke about the 2015-2016 school calendar April Break will be April 11th through April 15th to coincide with Region V Calendar. Auto dialing he said we have this capacity to actually call parents through an automatic system in the morning to let parents know of students absences and will start that on Monday. I will put out a letter to parents explaining the process. Safety and Security Update - he said a few weeks ago some people had questions about the cost of the safety and security work that we are doing. He spoke about some of things we are doing. He said we have a Safety and Security team that consists of building administrators also program administrators such as technology coordinator, supervisor of buildings and grounds, supervisor of special services, some central office personnel, building principals, some of our assist principals and Officer Bruno Carbone. We meet regularly and we are led by consultant Stonegate Associates, Stonegate Associates have a wealth of experience of working with organizations like ours, hospitals, and private sector companies and the services that they provide for us include security evaluations of our four schools which they have done, staff and parent law enforcement meetings, confidential written reports which they produced for us which identifies all of the security issues that they see in every one of our buildings including the central office and recommendations for remedies. Some cost zero dollars some cost moderate dollars and some cost a lot of dollars. Written emergency management plan which we do not have in place right now but we will have in the next month or two. Development of color emergency management quick reference guide so every one of our teachers which will include everything from the different kinds of lockdowns, tornadoes, coyote/bear sightings. It is a flip chart stored in the teacher’s classroom. Student safety is number one, our safety is number one and we are worth the spending the time and the money. We also have table top exercise with local law

enforcement in other words we come in as administrators who work with local law enforcement who actually practice in our buildings in the summer time and run scenarios and you brain storm. So everything I mention is at a price not to exceed \$12,000.00 and in addition to that we are having evacuation diagrams of our school floor plans. So the board early this year allocated \$120,000 of extraordinary aide towards safety and security for this district so from that we have allocated not to exceed \$18,400 towards the consultant company. We just passed a Bond Reference for #3,000,000.00 and almost everything on that list of items has to with safety and security so this is the year of safety and security and yes we are going to savings in terms of heating and yes we will be able to open windows with screens on them, doors that close and lock so it is all about safety and security. I am looking forward to major revisions in terms of safety and security for the rest of this year over the summer with the referendum work and into next year. Lastly, I would like to start a conversation with the board in response to a question that was raised by Ms. Biccocchi at our last meeting regarding PTA funding graduation at Bergen PAC. I want to start off by thanking Ms. Biccocchi for being very gracious in her presentation. She could have got up and said we are no longer paying for this but she said we are having a hard time fundraising \$4,000.00. At one time the district had desperate needs we had to give back learning center funds, in terms of withholding of state aid payments and slashing budgets and we needed every single dollar and from what I understand the PTA has graciously half of the expense and the other half came from ticket sales. The good news is this year we can afford and we have the funds to cover it completely this year and thank you for asking if we can cover it. The reason we can cover this we always plan a year ahead we never knew if the PTA would have the funds so responsible budgeting you always plan a year ahead. This year we can cover it and next year we have to have \$4,000 in the budget.

Mr. Salazar said he is concern that the parents will not have fundraisers because the board will pay for it. Mr. Grippa stated that the same group of parents who work the fundraisers and the same group of parents who work the carnival and you can't depend on the PTA have the parent run because it is dwindling every year and we do have an obligation to have a graduation for the students, so if we have to cut a television in the cafeteria to pay for it that is what we have to do. Our obligation is to the students not to the PTA, not to the parents but to the students to have a graduation. Mrs. Barbosa said that Project Graduation should try to save money for the next year and give back to the next class. Mrs. Payerle said we should look our own venue right now we have issues about accommodating all the people in the gym we have the issue of the ventilation maybe there are some things we can do to improve the ventilation in the gym so that when we have rain dates we are not all melting. We also have the limits of the amount of people that can be in the gym at the same time I remember two years ago when people were standing outside and could not even get in to see the ceremony and I think that is a limitation and that would make it in favor of the Bergen Pac. I think we should be looking forward to trying to improve our own district to accommodate a better graduation site if possible. Mr. Grippa said that when it was in the gym there was no circulation when we had the referendum meetings there was conversations about the ventilation in the gym was not part of the referendum and look at ways to improve the ventilation in the gym.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

A. Finance Committee – Joseph D'Amico (Chairperson), Ingrid Barbosa – N/R

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555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657

- B. Curriculum Committee - Claudia Narvaez(Chairperson) , Ingrid Barbosa
Mrs. Narvaez said she was just appointed to the committee and we are in the process to get together to set up a meeting.
- C. Operations Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Joseph D’Amico – Mr. Grippa said after tonight’s conversation we need to set up a meeting to speak about the air conditioning.
- D. Personnel Committee – Ray Salazar (Chairperson) , Ralph Morilla, Ingrid Barbosa – N/R
- E. Policy Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson) , Ray Salazar – N/R
- F. Student Liaison – Nulee Lee

Ms. Lee spoke about the following activities:

Shaler Academy

1/13/15 – BCUA Assembly Water Cycle Education Program at Kindergarten

1/13/15 – REPTA & KPAC Meeting

1/15/15 – Trip to Bounce U – Ms. Matarazzo, Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Miano’s Classes

1/15/15 – Water Cycle Education Program for Pre-Kindergarten

1/16/15 – Safety Assembly (Officer Phil Assembly)

1/22/15 – Ronald McDonald presents “You’re the Star”

1/29/15 – World of Wings Trip

Bergen Boulevard School

January “Souper-Thon” collection (students are asked to bring canned foods)

1/13/15 – REPTA Meeting

1/15/15 – Officer Phil visits for Safety Assembly

1/22/15 – Fire Prevention Visit

Slocum Skewes School

1/6-9/15 – Parent Teacher Conferences

1/10/15 – Rec Basketball Game every Saturday

1/13/15 – Drama Club

1/13/15 – PTA, KPAC and Principal Forum

1/14/15 – Applebees Breakfast Fundraiser

1/14/15 – Bel Canto Dress Rehearsal

1/15/15 – Officer Phil Safety Assembly

1/15/15 – 9th Grade Winter Concert Feat. Bel Canto

1/16/15 – Spelling Bee

1/21/15 – Gifted & Talented Field Trip

1/22/15 – Photo Retakes

1/23/15 – Geography Bee

Ridgefield Memorial High School

1/9/15 – Film Night

1/13/15 – Parent Financial Aid Workshop FAFSA

1/14/15 – Parent PARCC Conference

1/15/15 – 9th Grade Concert

1/22–1/27/15 – Midterms

January – Coats for the Homeless

1/30/15 – LEAD Program DC

New Year Resolution on the Announcements
Basketball is having a fantastic season

G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Ralph Morilla – Alternate: Claudia Narvaez – Mr. Morilla said he just got appointed to this position and for the next meeting he will have something to report on. Mrs. Payerle said there will be a workshop on February 19th you can sign up on the web-site. They are going to go over the task force report on security for schools. I thought that would be interesting for us to learn about. It is at Montville High School.

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

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

Mrs. Deborah Fugnitti said she would like to know about the Stonegate Report that she understand that you cannot share it with the public but I hope you will share with the police department because they are the number one people to respond. Resolution #22 – Approval of Absence for Andrea Facciolo – Child Care Study Team Chairperson and would like to know if she is going to be replaced. If she is not going to be replaced how my daughter’s IEP is going to be covered. Resolution #18 – Appointment of Floro Villanueva as Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary. She said Mr. V I love you to death but I have a problem. It has been brought up before that we playing the fire drill and this is really looking like a fire drill. I sat in your seat and I was told that Mr. Villanueva fit that curriculum position better than a glove and I agreed and he received a substantial raise and it was the best fit. We spent a lot of money to have Mr. Villanueva come in the summer to spend with Janet Seabold and work on curriculum. That being said, we had a terrific Assistant Business Administrator Bernice served as Business Administrator and Assistant Business Administrator for two years she was outstanding. Our negotiation team met with her and she wanted more money and the board said no. Bernice left for more money and she was not making \$95,000 when she left. Joann Frias asked for money and the board said no and she is leaving for more money. If Joann was offered \$95,000 she would not be leaving plus we invested a lot of money for her to attend workshops we were all angry on the board and for what she is leaving, two females leaving for more money that could come back to bite you. You should not just stamp, you should really think of what it looks like to the public because now I am the public and it looks like best fit well maybe now it doesn’t fit so well and I also pay a lot of money in tax dollars and I want to make sure it goes to education not to fill lawsuits because this very well could be a discrimination lawsuit. She also said in October, 2014 there were workshops for the Assistant Business Administrator to go on and a few of them are just recently and I am just wondering if she attended the workshops on January 7th and January 22nd and if she did are we educating her to go on to her next job.

Ms. Lisa Biccocchi said she wanted to thank the Board regarding the Bergen Pac I think that is the right decision. I just want to ask what the total cost of the Bergen Pac and I also want to thank the people who made a donation and the PTA really appreciate it. I would like to ask the Board to reconsider the \$7.50 tickets. Mr. Grippa made a very good point which is it is the same

parents who are running everything, who are the ones donating, who are buying tickets are the very same parents who came here tonight to talk about this. It is a small select group we sent out e-mails, we have asked people, we have done everything possible people just do not come, they do not donate. Not only did we buy tickets but these people are the ones that bought and donated the cake, bought and donated the decorations and I will not even tell you how much money I personally have donated. The parent in this room and it is a small group of us have already contributed \$3,000.00 to this Project Graduation. The school should be paying not the parents for the tickets for graduation. The board paid for the trip for the kids to go to New York as we should, we paid \$1800.00 to go to training in Washington, D.C. which we should, we hired back Assistant Coaches these are all things for the kids which we should but my concern that we are spending it on things that are not related for the children. Example bills for water we have spring water mostly used by the staff members it is not in the hallways for the children. We are now paying \$4.15 a bottle we were paying \$2.95 until recently. We switch from spring water to deionized water. I happen to know a lot about water, I did litigation on it. Deionized water takes the minerals out of the water for highly specialized uses like science labs and science where you have minerals in it and for equipment where the salts can build up. There actually is a theory that it may be dangerous for people if they drink too much of it because you do not get the minerals and the same salt in your diet as you would otherwise. Basically there is no reason for it and there is no reason you should be paying extra for this water. On the bill list there is a bill for \$587.00 for this. Pennies add up we are paying \$1900.00 for baseballs on the bill list we are \$1300.00 bats, belts and pants on the bill list. Ms. Biccoci's time ran out.

X. 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.

Dr. Romano answered Mrs. Fugnitti's comment about Stonegate's Report. He said that the police department already has a copy of the report and the police department has a representative serving on the committee and the police department will be involved in the table top exercises and the police department has permission to practice drills in the summer in our schools. One of the wonderful things in Ridgefield is that we have very strong ties and close ties with the police department.

Mrs. Payerle asked Dr. Romano if he wanted to answer Mrs. Fugnitti's question regarding resolution #22 - Approval of Absence for Andrea Facciolo – Child Care Study Team Chairperson. Dr. Romano stated for a five or six week leave we are not going to get a replacement for that period but if we have a question regarding IEP's not completed we have the benefit of membership in Region V and if we needed services to perform Child Study Teams services we could do so. Yes, we do have provisions in place to make sure IEP's are completed and completed well.

Mrs. Payerle said in regard to Resolution #18 - Appointment of Floro Villanueva as Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary as you know Mr. V is highly qualified in the math area and the business administrator area and he was found to be a very good fit and it is unfortunate

that we lost someone who was qualified as well. In terms if Joann went to a couple of workshops in terms of the timing I am not quite sure when she handing in her resignation letter versus being booked for it, it was not apparent to any of us that maybe she should not of attending one of those. Dr. Romano said he could not comment on half of it because we are still bound and Mrs. Fugnitti you are not and you can get up and make comments and mislead the public and I am not saying you are doing this initially but you know fairly well that we cannot response to some of it, but I can give you one man's opinion that Ms. Frias was treated poorly in her time here. She was never valued for her full worth and she was never compensated accordingly. I thing human beings live and learn and grow and when you lose one too many people you start to think about starting salaries, you start to think about salaries you are paying your current employees, you start to think about market value and start of all that you invested in those individuals and then you say to yourself let's do what we can to not make that mistake again. Part of the living and learning is knowing that Ridgewood Public School's is willing to pay Ms. Frias in the mid 90's. As far as Mr. Villanueva I do not want to address that specifically because that is his private matter but I can tell you as a school leader, as an organization leader I do like to promote from whenever possible. I want the best person for the job. It is like when you raise children and you over see an organization and dealing with the personnel if you raise them well you are unintentionally raise them to leave you, however, sometime opportunities to harvest their powers to harvest their passions to keep them and if you don't you lose them. So, you can read between the lines and learn the lesson and for me what I want to do is I want to attract the best and the brightest, I want to keep the best and the brightest and sometimes that means providing for their accelerating growth, their accelerating of self in public education. As far as salaries \$95,000.00 is the starting salary for entry level administrator's position in this district. It has been for a while now form what I understand and that is the appropriate starting salary for an administrator and it should have been all along and I think that is part of the lack of value demonstrated towards Ms. Frias and it was no shock to me when she told me she was leaving.

Mrs. Payerle addressed Ms. Bicocchi's question regarding the total cost of gradation at the Bergen PAC and Dr. DePass from the audience said the cost is \$9,000. Mrs. Payerle asked the board if they wanted to address the matter of the board paying for the graduation tickets that are \$7.50 each or discuss it a later time. Dr. Romano said he sees what Ms. Bicocchi presented as closely related items and what I hear is that we are spending differently. We are not spending more money we are now spending money on curriculum and instruction, we converted my office into a professional development center just yesterday I had a dozen teachers engaging in very important work with vendors from a variety of language arts resource companies, we have administrative council meeting we have a \$5,000 smart board in there that does not need a projector and we are using it frequently. We do not have a professional development center in the district but now we do and I am able to sit in my office and get my work done and also participate at the same time. We also have new teacher orientation monthly. Mr. Malaquias who is an incredible talented carpenter expanded my table to fit 14 people. The water situation I happen to think teachers drink water that tastes good. When I came in the district I could not help but notice the water we had tasted awful it tasted like really bad tap water and what happened the Central Office wanted to satisfy me because I was the new guy on the block and they got the better grade of water, I did not ask the deionized water and what you do as a school leader you thank them and acknowledge it knowing that you are going to switch to a company that is going to cost you \$2.35 a bottle for better tasting water next summer, but for now we are

going to live with the fact that we went from .05 cents per oz to .06 cents per oz. and a news flash this water here that the board has been drinking for a while costs 1 cent per oz. It is double the price. I think it is irresponsible that every penny has to go to student spending that is misleading, that is not true you have to invest in the people who stand in front of the kids, you have to invest in the people support the people who stand in front of the kids otherwise what are the kids getting, so let's be responsible in our statements and thoughtful and again my door is open and I am willing to have these conversations before it gets to this and I have proven that over and over again. So back to the Bergen PAC Graduation yes we could fund the \$8,700 but then something else has to give so what you try to do is divide up so that you can benefit in all areas so again it is misleading to say that we can fund all of that but you know what that cuts from somewhere else so then you can say you shouldn't of gotten that smart board, or the water and I shouldn't have an MAC Pro lab top on my desk that cost \$1,800, that is the only computer in my office I have no printer in my office but I do not believe in them I do not believe they are efficient but I am not going to take them away from the teachers this year. I want to be clear that we are spending money differently and we are not being irresponsible, we do not care less about the children we are not focus less on education. Dr. DePass said for this year we will have to sell the tickets in order to pay the full price because we always pay in advance because we did not know in time as far as reserving and we always relied on the other half coming from tickets sales. Given the facility we have the graduation; the fact that we can accommodate only two parents per child and you pay a little extra if you want more tickets is only fair.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY

Mr. D'Amico asked if the board could get some information on Resolutions #23 and #24. Mr. Guarini spoke about Resolution #23 – Approval of a Waiver for the 2015-2016 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI). He said what the SEMI is the federal government for special education when you have related services given to the children will fund part of it only if the parents of the child agree. Historically Ridgefield has waived out of that. This year the county made us do and we have collected no dollars and no parents allowing us to collect it. We just got a notice for 2015-2016 school year that requires us to book \$50,000 revenue that we do not think we will every collect and it could create a problem for us because it is revenue that does not exist. So we are requesting to waive out and we have to prove our case to the county but we have to have the board agree to do that. We will show them the data that we have the parents that have said no. Resolution #24 – Approval of Joint Transportation Agreement with Union City, NJ School District we have some homeless children that are now living in Union City that we have to transport back and forth to school. We had John Leckie, Inc. doing this getting the children home almost at 5:00 p.m. and that is not acceptable to us. We found out that some Union City students are attending our schools and put them on the bus going home for \$1,900 so we will save some money and have the children home timely. Mrs. Payerle asked when the district's obligation end to pay for transportation for these homeless children. Mr. Guarini said it will end at the end of this school year.

Dr. Romano said he realized he left out to minor details he wanted to share. I want you to know that you have someone who is responsible and sometimes quote frugal at the helm and wants to allocate the money where money is needed. I hope and you understand and appreciate that we certainly need a Strategic Plan. Mr. Al **Annuziatta** is going to be here on February 12th and for

those who can't be here he will be back on March 12th and ask him about Strategic Planning and what it cost the district. New Jersey School Boards will do a nice little job to help frame out the basics for \$6,000, Mr. Al An_____ in his home town school district engaged in Strategic Planning is going to cost them \$20,000 it is costing us zero dollars because I am doing the work myself. It is important work and I want to do the work and I could use that \$20,000 elsewhere. It will probably pay for our language arts material next year. The other thing is I want you to know our administrators have stepped up to the plate. Over the past three months we have had void we have been down one full time administrator and because of their good work we have spent only \$6,000 to fill that void. Lots of places would have spent \$18,000, \$20,000, \$25,000 and \$30,000 to fill that void and these are some examples and I want you to really appreciate the kind of work that is going on.

XII. NEW 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 and 25:

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

ROLL CALL

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Barbosa | Aye |
| Mr. D'Amico | Aye |
| Mr. Grippa | Aye and Recuse #25 |
| Mr. Morilla | Aye |
| Mrs. Narvaez | Aye |
| Mr. Salazar | Aye |
| Mrs. Payerle | Aye |

2. MINUTES – Consent

Motion to approve the minutes from the Work Session/Business Meeting of December 11, 2014 & Executive Session and the December 18, 2014 Business Meeting & Executive Session (**REF#0122-01**):

FINANCE – (Items 3-10)

3. BILL LIST – Consent

Motion to approve the bill list from the month of January 2015 (**REF#0122-02**):

Batch 24 \$570,750.55

4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY – Consent

Motion to approve the Report of the Secretary for the period ending December 31, 2014 (**REF#0122-03**):

5. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Consent

Motion to approve the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending December 31, 2014 (**REF#0122-03**):

6. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S CERTIFICATION – Consent

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6:23-2.11(d), I, Richard Guarini, School Business Administrator, certify that as of December 31, 2014, 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, Richard Guarini, School Business Administrator, certify that as of December 31, 2014 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 December 31, 2014, 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 TRANSFER – Consent

Motion to approve a budget transfer for December 2014 in the amount of \$19,668.44 as attached (**REF#0122-04**):

8. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS- Consent

Motion to approve the following fundraisers for the 2014-2015 school year (**REF#0122-05**):

**BUSINESS MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2015
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

- A.) **National Honor Society** to hold an **SAT-ACT Practice Test** on February, 7, 2015 with funds to be placed into NHS account for end of the year awards and/or social events.
- B.) **Class of 2015** to hold a **Chipotle Fundraiser** on February 25, 2015 with funds for the Class of 2015 to offset cost of expenses associated with senior prom.
- C.) **Class of 2015** to hold a **Mr. Royal Fundraiser** on March 20, 2015 with proceeds to be deposited in Class of 2015 account to offset expenses for prom.

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

Approve the Corrective Action Plan for the year ended June 30, 2014 per attachment (REF#0122-06):

10. APPROVAL OF TUITION CONTRACTS FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR BETWEEN THE RIDGEFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE FOLLOWING SENDING DISTRICTS – Consent

Motion to approve the tuition contracts for the 2014-2015 School Year between the Ridgefield Board of Education, receiving district, and the following sending districts:

| DISTRICT | SID | Tuition |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Carlstadt | 8167215755 | \$ 41,539.40 |
| Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional | 3931379006 | \$ 28,545.18 |
| Edgewater | 5372595578 | \$ 22,232.15 |
| Paterson | 4327678054 | \$ 20,621.91 |
| Ridgewood | 9062073650 | \$ 19,891.93 |
| Rutherford | 3525196722 | \$ 21,620.26 |
| Tenafly | 3327502489 | \$ 21,620.26 |

STUDENT SERVICES – (Item 11)

11. APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS - Consent

Motion to approve the following class trips for the 2014-2015 school year:

| Teacher Name | Location | Date of Trip | School | Learning Center | General Ed. | Number of Students Attending |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Gavin Cooper | Slocum Skewes – Heros & Cool Kids | 1/16/15 | RMHS | | X | 40 |
| Jennifer Rupperecht | Liberty Science Center | 1/28/15 | RMHS | X | | 20 |
| Kindergarten | Bergen PAC | 2/9/15 | SH | | X | 90 |

BUSINESS MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2015
555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------|---|---|-----|
| Teachers | | | | | | |
| Camille Stahl | La Grand Buffet & Grill | 2/23/15 | RMHS | X | | 12 |
| Laura D'Amico | Newark Museum | 2/11 & 2/12/15 | SS | | X | 124 |
| Janet Bush | Dynasty Buffet | 3/3/15 | SS | X | | 20 |
| Renee Bennett | Wildlife Conservation Ctr. | 3/11/15 | SH | X | | 8 |
| Michele Scirocco | Museum of Jewish Heritage | 3/13/15 | RMHS | | X | 33 |
| Robert Robins | Edgewater Commons | 3/26/15 | RMHS | X | | 20 |
| Robert Robins | Palisades Center Mall | 4/17/15 | RMHS | X | | 25 |
| Janet Bush | Bowler City | 4/30/15 | SS | X | | 20 |
| David Crum | Dorney Park | 5/1/15 | SS | | X | 65 |
| Robert Robins | JCC | 5/1/15 | RMHS | X | | 20 |
| Robert Robins | Lodi Lanes | 5/7/15 | RMHS | X | | 24 |
| Jean Marie Westervelt | Memorial Auditorium – MSU | 5/14/15 | BB | | X | 117 |
| Tom Voorhis | Hershey/Lancaster/Gettysburg | 5/14-5/16/15 | RMHS | | X | 120 |
| Robert Robins | Light Rail/Pizzeria | 5/15/15 | RMHS | X | | 20 |
| Jessica Abrams | Dorney Park | 5/22/15 | SS | | X | 80 |
| Robert Robins | JCC | 6/5/15 | RMHS | X | | 20 |

CURRICULUM – (Item 12)

12. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP EXPENDITURES - Consent

Motion to approve the following workshop participation and expenditures:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Workshop</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Fee</u> |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Dr. Frank Romano Janet Seabold Stavros Nikas Theresa Petrov Edward Valdez | Ramsey Google Apps Summit Workshop | Montvale, NJ | 1/31/15 | \$129 pp |
| Emily Vidal | Woodcock IV | Ramsey | 1/30/15 | \$100 |
| Lisa Brennan | Early Intervention Strategies for Challenging Behaviors | Newark | 2/2/15 | \$235 |
| Rachel Williams | Behaviour Management & Support Strategies | Region V | 2/3/15 | NO FEE |
| Charles Trentacosti | CPR/AED Instructor Cert. Training | Long Branch | 2/24/15 | \$125 |
| Janet Seabold | NJ Regional Workshop – Rubicon Atlas Curriculum Development | Princeton | 2/23 & 2/24/15 | \$360 |
| Donna Caroccia | Assisting Students with Informational Text Reading, Word Study, Comprehension and Content Learning | Garwood | 3/3/15 | \$210 |
| Nicola Schneider | Handle with Care | Clementon | 3/4-3/6/15 | \$1,000 |
| Kate Elefante | Keys to Meeting the Rigorous Common Core State Standards for Writing in Grades K-2 | Newark | 3/18/15 | \$235 |
| Jie Young Won | SAT Subject Program Development Committee Meeting | Princeton | 3/20/15 | NO FEE |
| Charles Ries | LASR Academy Robotics Teacher Training | Paramus | 4/11 & 4/18/15 | \$249 |

OPERATIONS – (Items 13-16)

13. APPROVAL OF THE REVISION OF THE 2014-2015 RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve the revision of the 2014-2015 Ridgefield Public School District Calendar as attached (**REF#0122-07**):

14. APPROVAL OF THE 2015-2016 RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve the 2015-2016 Ridgefield Public School District Calendar as attached (**REF#0122-08**):

15. APPROVAL OF THE 2015 EXTENDED YEAR SUMMER PROGRAM CALENDAR- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve the 2015 Extended Year Summer Program Calendar as listed below:

JUNE/JULY

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | OFF |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

AUGUST

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

16. APPROVAL OF USE OF FACILITIES – Consent

Motion to approve the following Use of Facilities Request High School Athletics to use the Shaler Academy School Gym on Wednesday's for Spring Sport open gym starting January 28, 2015 through March 4, 2015 6 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. when it is available and school is open (**REF#0122-09**) :

PERSONNEL – (Items 17-22)

17. APPOINTMENT OF PETER MASTRANGELO AS ACTING PRINCIPAL OF BERGEN BLVD./SHALER ACADEMY- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Peter Mastranglo as Acting Principal for Bergen Blvd./Shaler Academy effective January 6, 2015 through February 3, 2015:

18. APPOINTMENT OF FLORO VILLANUEVA AS ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Floro Villanueva as Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary effective February 16, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at a pro-rated salary of \$95,000:

19. APPOINTMENT OF JOANNE SALOV AS LONG TERM LEAVE REPLACEMENT GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AT SLOCUM SKEWES SCHOOL- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Joanne Salov as a long term leave replacement Guidance Counselor at Slocum Skewes (for Anna Marie) effective February 23, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at a pro-rated salary of MA step 1 \$47,102:

20. ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF PURA CENTENO – CUSTODIAN- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to accept the retirement of Pura Centeno, Custodian, effective December 31, 2014:

21. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF MELISSA DESMANGLES - PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT RMHS -Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to accept the resignation of Melissa Desmangles, part time teacher assistant at RMHS, effective January 15, 2015:

22. APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ANDREA FACCILOLO - CHILD STUDY TEAM CHAIRPERSON- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools;
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ridgefield Board of Education that the Board hereby

approves Andrea Facciolo, Child Study Team Chairperson at Bergen Blvd. School, request for a leave of absence as follows:

The use of thirty-two (32) sick days commencing May 20, 2015 through July 10, 2015 with a return date of July 13, 2015:

23. APPROVAL OF A WAIVER FOR THE 2015-2016 SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI) – Consent

Motion to approve the waiver request for the 2015-2016 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI).

24. APPROVAL OF JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT WITH UNION CITY, NJ SCHOOL DISTRICT – Consent

Motion to approve the joint transportation agreement with Union City, NJ school district in the amount of \$1,901.28 from January 20, 2015 through June 22, 2015.

POLICY – (Item)

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.

Mr. Tom Fords I want to talk about the PARCC Testing. I am a former teacher and I am opposed to high stake testing and the way it is being rolled out I am very much opposed what is happening. Last year I actually refused to allow my son to take the state exams. This year they are different, they are PARCC and they are going to give them twice instead of once and I will probably refuse again this year. Unfortunately in New Jersey they do not allow you to opt out so parents have to officially refuse. Last year I did that informally with Mrs. Seabold, I did not write a letter I just kept my son home for four days of testing and when he returned and they had the alternate test dates he was not required to take the tests. It did not affect his promotion and I know the only thing parents were concerned about graduation from high school but apparently what I heard there are alternative assessments for graduation. I spoke to a number of parents and I do not know if they are going to refuse to take the test or not but I would like to know officially what accommodations will be made. I know some school boards are allowing for alternative instruction for that day and there also is a sit and stare policy which most school districts

will adopt which means if students show up they will not be allowed in the same room as the test but they will be sitting and staring or you can keep your child at home. I took the fourth grade math PARCC test on line early this evening I went through 15 questions, it was horrible and I got three wrong. I went over the Study Island PARCC for English for fourth grade and he is getting 15 to 30% on most activities he is a fairly low function student and he has an IEP and I am very concerned and it is very frustrating. PARCC was originally adopted by 25 states and now it is down to 10 states and what is interesting is that most of states that dropped out are due to more tea party leaning politics and so you are getting opposition from the far left and the far right politically. I would like the board to have an official policy on how you are going to accommodate the students that are not going to take the test.

Mrs. Denise Magriples said just to piggyback. This PARCC thing is very scary and I have been doing a lot of reading and researching not only are parents opting out this year, but schools are backing out, cities and states and know most recently teachers are actually refusing to administer the PARCC testing to their students. Just one last note that I highlighted everything that I read and the one common link is the statement is that we are setting up our children to fail and I do not understand. No matter who I speak to no one can make me understand why this is happening.

Ms. Bicocchi said the \$7.50 I realize that Dr. DePass said she would have to budget and that would come out of the high school budget but there is a bigger pot and I am not going to mislead the public because I was on this board and I know how it works and the notion that if it is not budgeted we can't spend it is not true. We did not budget a safety study for \$18,000 last year, we didn't budget \$14,000 increase for the Assistant Business Administrator's salary but we are paying for it because we are finding the money. We did not budget for new windows in the Superintendent's office and new air conditioner in the Superintendent's office, new Mac Book and \$5,000 Smart Board and you can laugh and I know that you think you are using for a good use but there are teachers in this room who do not have a Smart Board in their room and it is nice that it works well but for many years they used the write on boards and is that the best thing in the world of course not but our children really need Smart Boards and if the board office finds it very useful then find an empty classroom and do your professional development here so the kids use the Smart Boards. My next question is how much have you budgeted for substitutes and extra period coverage and how far over we are on it. I know that and I do not know how many on the board know that. Last week my son had a substitute in his Italian class there was no substitute or teacher but I do not know how that happened. She said on the subject of Mr. Villanueva and he knows very well that I hold him incredible high regard and he is one of the few teachers praising my son has had him in two classes and he is phenomenal and so it nothing personal. Dr. Romano you talk about you talked about harnessing power in the position and having the best and brightest people in the position, Mr. Villanueva is in the curriculum position because he is the best and brightest and that is the best talent is used. He was there for twenty something days and now you are going to put him the Assistant Business Administrator's position. He does not have that experience he has a certificate and has not done any Business Administrator's work and he has done incredible amount of curriculum work and education he works well with the other people and he has a lot of respect from his staff and everyone else. He is in the best

position he is in. When you talk about Ms. Frias salary I know what her salary is \$91,000 that is the market so yeah did it go up from the \$84,000 we budgeted. There is an extra \$4,000 jump now so you are paying above market. I understand that we want to promote from within. We are not parents to the people working here it is a business. It is the business to educating our children and you pick the people who are in the best position to do the best job. Mr. Villanueva skills are best used in curriculum where he is now not to go into entry level person who has no experience in a Business Administrator's job so we can try to go find a person with his experience to do the job he is presently doing, go find a Business Administrator. I am not going to get into the spending but I want to know why the board members are not asking these questions and we are not bound by the Ethics Rules and that why I am happy we are here because we are going to expose it. The Bergen PAC is \$9,000 and now you are going to push it back on the parents. You are going to still make them pay \$7.50 per ticket. I know about the water people did not complain about the water.

Mr. Angelo Severino said he was here to talk about the Recreation Department on Saturday mornings in Slocum Skewes gym. I stopped by Dr. Romano's office and he had a couple of guys get back to me Mr. Guarini and Mr. Coviello. There seems to be an issue with access to the bathrooms there. We have 100 to 150 people and there is only one bathroom that we can use. I am glad that Dr. Romano said there is a safety upgrades and grant so that the ladies and gentleman can use the bathrooms like we should. The other thing is I stopped at Bergen Boulevard School and the rims and the backboards that I am told by my friend that has coached there for forty years are the same and they are old and tired. It is time for them to be changed so that they can go up and down and wider range of kids can practice on them effectively. The other end of Slocum one of the rims and back boards broke and came down and fell suddenly and someone could have got hurt. That got fixed rather quickly for the game on Saturday. The rims and back boards are not multimillion dollar projects they are actually \$7,000-\$8,000 from what I understand and I think it is time to be upgraded for the kids. For years there has been bad blood between the board and the borough and we have not gotten along the way we should get along. One of grieves is buses. On football games days we have to rent buses for our games when there are board of education buses sitting there. Other towns are using their board of education buses and they probably pay the drivers. Everything belongs to the people, taxpayers, and the kids and it our responsibility to make it available to us and make it work properly.

Mr. Warren Vincentz said once again I am bringing you something for free. I bumped into representative of New Jersey Manufacturer's and he teaches driver education in high schools. I do not believe I ever heard you discuss it and I brought you his card and maybe you want to offer driver's education in your curriculum. I am also happy about the air conditioning in the gym. It is regretful that we were not able to take advantage of the free grant that I brought to the schools.

Mrs. Fugnitti asked if Eighth Grade Graduation are they in Five Fireman's Field or has something been changed to move it somewhere else. Mrs. Fugnitti said she had a statement to make. I sat in that seat for twelve years sometimes uncomfortable,

sometimes questions came to me that I felt were very uncomfortable this is the seat you sit in. I do not think that anything I said about Mr. V was rude in any way. I could have made the same statement if I was sitting on the Addis I did not begrudge him in anyway. Dr. Romano I worked with for a very short time and I know we did not part on the best of terms but I do not think I was rude and I think that your comment to me was extremely rude and that is the way we are going to go let's roll up our sleeves because most people who know me I know what I am doing. When an OPRA request comes in the public has the right to know and I will say for myself and some of the other people I know who are staff members know that I respect them very well but I feel as taxpayers we put \$19 million close to \$20 million in the hands of the seven board members. I know that I ask too many questions but I think they should all step up and ask questions. We are putting you there and we are giving all the money. Ralph I know you said we have to start thinking out of the box, Ridgefield is not the money town that it used to be and watch our dollars. So when we see dollars that maybe we can be spending somewhere else I would encourage you all to stand up and question. I probably took more training than most of you, sorry that was my thing and I enjoyed it. She told Kathy that the roll of president is a great course and I probably took it three times and you should take it. She told the board not to be afraid to ask questions. I will never be intimidated to come up and ask the hard questions.

Ms. Darla Ferdinand said she doesn't want anyone leaving her tonight to think that Mr. Villanueva just has certificate in Business Administration; the man has a degree in Business Administration and Management Information Systems along with all the many other degrees that he has he is by no means his he entry level.

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

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

Mrs. Payerle told Mr. Fords that Dr. Romano would answer his questions. Dr. Romano said he was not able to attend the last parent information night. I did hear some of the feedback and your conversation with Mrs. Seabold and I would being willing to bet if me and you met individually we would probably agree on almost every point in terms of the speed, the amount and the intensity of the way things are coming and that the state is failing miserably in its delivery and the way they are making educator and parents feel. It makes you want to say I am keeping my child home. I attended a Region V Superintendent's Meeting regarding this. We can't get straight answers from the state and yet we are mandated to do these things. We were supposed to implemented the Common Core by 2012 and we did not and that accounts for a lot of what we are experiencing this year as far as trying to catch up. Do I love Study Island as the support system that is going to get us there this March and May, no but it is a good system but a better system is having a curriculum supervisor and an instructional supervisor for a decade and implemented the common core by the deadline is a better system to get you to success. As far as the quality of the test I bet we have very similar feelings on standardized testing

and the use of time and the whole teaching to the test concept but what I cannot get my head around as the Superintendent of Schools, the act of keeping the kids out. I believe that we need to send a message and I think the message comes from people we voted into office, I think we need to speak out and board resolutions that find their way to the top are important. You can even go to media and share your concerns. When you pull the kids out though giving the system that are state is probably going to be last to succeed from. I believe it was original 26 states and we are down to 10 they are still saying 11 to 12 but I believe New Jersey is going to be one of the last ones to pull out if ever. I know that one of responses you received at the presentation was that it is tied to funding and yes it is but that is not the most important reason that we are doing this. We do not even know what the funding is going to look like but there are other things such as we are going to be rated on that and we have a reputation problem as it and it is going to make us look really bad if we perform really poorly and it is going to impact us negatively and so they have us in some ways but not all ways. There are ways to rise up. In terms of plans we have actually been directed not to provide alternative plans so that if a child shows up at school they will be seated in front of a computer and expected to take the test we cannot force them but they will be seated for that time. If they stay out the four days there is makeup that they also have to stay out for in order to not be seated to take that test. There are talks that we are going to seat them in a separate room and give them a book but I do not believe that will fly in the state of New Jersey at the end of the day that is where it stands right now. The inside information among educators is actually that the state's that pulled out realized that they can't not compete. All 26 states that participated where going to be compared among them and the states that pulled out we know what their status is and what they can and cannot do for kids. New Jersey we are in the top three we are rated very high despite what our governor says about us that is why they are pulling out they cannot compete with us and I do not blame them. We are all angry about the speed the amount and the intensity that it is coming, it is overwhelming. We are making the best of the situation, making it real and learning to the best of our ability. We are not loving it but you make the best out of it and you find value in it as opposed to revoking against it in that way. Like I said there are other ways to revoke against it so that is how I feel about it.

Mrs. Payerle stated that Ms. Biccocchi brought up that we were using subs for BD and I believe you answered that partially you said instead of having the children out the entire day we take the teachers out for only part of the day so that we still have some time directly with the children. Unfortunately, when the teachers are out of the classrooms you do need coverage for the teachers that are out. Dr. Romano said this is a very tuff year for us and because we went through some changes in practices but in terms as far as board members asking questions I like to believe if they ask questions they are asking challenging/difficult questions but for the most part I like to believe they are informed they are not shocked and they are not hearing it on the street but they are hearing it from me and if I missed something I apologize but I try to keep them well informed.

Mrs. Payerle told Mr. Servino said the board will look into equipment he spoke about being broken and old and hopefully we can look into some of these things and surely we can get more access to the rest rooms to accommodate the people that are at the sport events. I think it is point well taken that the borough should have more interaction with the school district and we should work in a coordinated effort for the benefit of the taxpayers and I totally

agree with all those and now we have to come up with the ideas to do that and I am totally open to suggestions to save taxpayers money. I have confidence that the administration will look into some of the maintenance issues. Dr. Romano said since he has come on board that the relationship with the town and the schools is so bad. What I have seen is people come and sit down at a table have conversations have agreements and abide by those agreements that is what I have seen. My experience is we are in this together and what do I mean by that. When you take a look at safety and security studies, audits and recommendations the consultants would say to you, your schools need to be closed and secure at night. It is not safe to have additional wear and tear on your equipment we are going to tempered those recommendations and be in it together and I know you are frustrated right now and I promise you that I am not looking to shut down shows and keep the community out but we need to make sure the environments become more secure. I hope over the next year you are going to see changes that are going to satisfy you like roll down gates that lock where you can provide additional access that does not risk students safety the next day by having foreign people coming into the schools you never know who is coming into the schools, you mentioned a 100 people you cannot account for them you do not know what their intentions are. Here we are we have all this security from 7:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. and after that it is out the window but we are in this together and we will find a way to make it work.

Mr. Coviello said nothing has changed regarding 8th grade graduation.

Dr. Romano said he had one more comment he believe he answered all Ms. Bicocchi's questions. Image my surprise when they were replacing all the windows in the Central Office I was the last one to know. Apparently that had been planned before I came in. I did not need new windows but I did need a new air conditioner that worked and there happened to be a hole there through bugs were coming in and biting my ankles and low and behold they were replacing with a new air conditioner that cost approximately \$300.00. I do not take it lightly, we actually had an interview committee session and the air conditioner broke down in Central Office and I had ten community representatives sweating for about four hours one afternoon and we decided it would be good to have air conditioning in that room considering the variety of uses it was going to have. As far as being respectfully I promise you this, we may agree to disagree but I will always be respectful please do confuse being direct and responsible for being disrespectful. I will also be direct and I will always be responsible and sometimes when we do not hear what we want to hear it sounds or feels disrespectful but I do not take any of your questions lightly I wish that we had conversation under a different form initial because it is not like I have never experienced this before but I have experienced it in places that had the time and the resources and we do not. We operate at a point of inadequacy of

XVI. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Barbosa said to Mrs. Fugnitti I have great respect for you and I may have not always agreed with you but you dedicated a lot of your time and you did a lot of good things but I am very surprised and disappointed in the fact that you sat here as President of the Board of Education and disrespected the seat you had on the board by comments that were made in private session and you know better than that.

Mrs. Narvaez said she had a comment about the high school PTA but when the mentioned was made about the dinner at the last meeting that was the first time I heard about it and I do not know of any other people in the elementary schools who heard about it also. So perhaps we can work on this so the whole community can come together.

Mr. Grippa said he would like to have a meeting with Mr. Guarini about the air conditioning in the gym at the high school and about what Mr. Severino brought up and also if that same day I can meet with Dr. Romano to review any policies that have come up and if there are any mandated policy regarding the PARCC testing.

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 9:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

**Richard A. Guarini
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**