A Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Fugnitti at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

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".

IV. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Barbosa Arrived at 7:05 p.m.
Ms. Bicocchi Present
Mr. D'Amico Arrived at 7:20 p.m.
Mr. Grippa Arrived at 7:06 p.m.
Mrs. Payerle Present

Mrs. Payerle Present
Mr. Salazar Present
Mrs. Fugnitti Present

There being four members present, a quorum was declared.

Also present were:

Dr. Harry Groveman – Interim Superintendent of Schools Rich Guarini – Business Administrator/Board Secretary Marla Taus – Board Attorney

V. Motion to Convene in **EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION** for Personnel, Legal, Negotiations, Attorney/Client Privilege and/or Confidential Student Matters, at 7:02 p.m.

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

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS - (Item) 1. Public Presentation Regarding State and Local Testing for 2012-2013

Dr. Groveman introduced Mrs. Anna Gaeta, Principal at Shaler and Bergen Boulevard School. Mrs. Gaeta stated that Bergen Boulevard School first and second grade students take the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) computerized adaptive test that increases or decreases in difficulty depending on the student's answer. Bergen Boulevard students did better than the norm group*. Teachers use the data to inform instruction. We see how the student performed on the different clusters to differentiate instruction.

*Norms are based on grade level samples of at least 20,000 students per grade, randomly drawn from a pool of 5.1 million students and from over 13,000 schools in more than 2,700 school districts in 50 states.

Dr. Groveman introduced Mrs. Janet Seabold, Principal at Slocum Skewes School. Mrs. Seabold presented the score report from the NJASK for grades 3-8 for the 2012/2013 school year. The data for the current year was compared to the past three years and the state and district factor group means. The public was informed that the PowerPoint presentation would be posted on the district website.

Dr. Groveman introduced Dr. DePass, Principal at Ridgefield Memorial High School. Dr. DePass discussed HSPA, AP, SAT, and NJBCT (NJ Biology Competency Test). On the HSPA, our math scores dropped from last year while our LAL scores remained the same. When compared to the state and DFG, the math scores were very slightly below both and the LAL scores were slightly below DFG and slightly above the state scores. 49 students took 89 AP exams. 33 of the 49 students scored a 3 or higher on at least one exam. Students took AP exams in the following subjects: Biology, Calculus AB, English Lit, European History, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, US History. When compared to last year 5 classes scored higher. When compared to the state of NJ, 5 RMHS classes scored higher. RMHS' passing rate was slightly below that of the state. On the SAT our scores on all 3 sections (Math, Critical Reading, Writing) have dropped. We also scored below the state average on all 3 sections. On NJBCT (NJ Biology Competency Test), scores improved from last year. When compared to the state and DFG, RMHS scores were slightly below each.

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- A. Finance Committee Joseph D'Amico (Chairperson), N/R
- B. Curriculum Committee Lisa Bicocchi (Chairperson), Ingrid Barbosa N/R
- C. Operations Committee Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Joseph D'Amico N/R

- D. Personnel Committee Lisa Bicocchi (Chairperson), Ray Salazar
 N/R
- E. 2-Policy Committee Ray Salazar (Chairperson), Andrew Grippa
 N/R
- F. Student Liaison Jin Lee N/R
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate Kathy Payerle
 I have two quick items to mention tonight:
 First, the Assembly Education Committee is working on bill
 A1548 which will require a school to have a written security plan
 when a school is being used as a polling place when that school is
 open to students. Second, there is a bill in the New Jersey
 Legislature that is addressing the question of whether students who
 do *not* have legal immigration status should have in-state
 discounted college tuition rates. This bill has come up in the recent
 political debates for governor.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Payerle, seconded by Ms. Barbosa. Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Mrs. Maryann Martucci asked if she could get a copy of the presentations from tonight. As far as the younger grades I was around when they took the tests and the second time around they did much better. At the middle school level to see how well the children did you should charter them the same way so you can see how well they did each year. As far as the SAT scores they did go down and I feel they are very important.

Mrs. Darla Ferdinand said in regard to the SAT scores as a parent who recently went through this unfortunately nothing that they are learning in high school prepares them fully for the SAT's. You have to send them to classes, get tutors. The child have to be well read and well educated outside of school kids because the New Jersey curriculum is not aligned what so ever for the SAT's.

Dr. Groveman said that the presentations will be posted on-line in a week or so.

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

Motion made by Ms. Bicocchi, seconded by Mrs. Payerle. Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY

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, 25 and 26:

Motion made by Mr. Grippa, seconded by Mr. D'Amico.

ROLL CALL	
Ms. Barbosa	Aye
Ms. Bicocchi	Aye
Mr. D'Amico	Aye
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Payerle	Aye
Mr. Salazar	Left meeting at 8:55 p.m.
Mrs. Fugnitti	Aye

FINANCE – (Items 2-5)

2. BILL LIST - Consent

Motion to approve the bill list from the month of October 2013:

Batch 13 \$324,777.69 Batch 14 \$ 1,500.00

3. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS- Consent

Motion to approve the following fundraisers for the 2013-2014 school year:

- A.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Plant Green Drive during the 2013-2014 school year for collections of used ink cartridges, old cell phones and electronics for recycling.
- B.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Food Drive from October 15, 2013 through November 1,5, 2013 with food donations to be collected and donated to families in need.

- C.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a School Spirit Clothing Sale from October 18, 2013 through November 15, 2013 with proceeds going towards the annual student council donation.
- D.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a 2nd Annual Haunted Hallway on October 30, 2013 where admission cost proceeds will go towards student council activites.
- E.) **RMHS Student Council** to hold a **Jeans for Troops** on November 6, 2013 where staff members pay \$5.00 to wear jeans and proceeds will benefit NJ Veterans.
- F.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Holiday Candy Jar Guess the day before each holiday with proceeds going towards the student council luncheon.
- G.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Hats on Day from November 12, 2013 through April 9, 2014 to raise funds for the Foundation for Children with Cancer.
- H.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Holiday Dance/Toy Drive on December 6, 2013 with toys collected for hospitalized children during the holiday season.
- I.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Valentine Grams on February 13-14, 2014 with proceeds going towards the replenishment of costs of holiday activities.
- J.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Talent Show/Bake Sale on May 8, 2014 with proceeds going towards student council activities, luncheon and charity donation.
- K.) Slocum Skewes Student Council to hold a Mother's Day Flower Sale on May 9, 2014 with proceeds going towards student council activities and charity donation.

4. <u>APPROVAL OF TUTION CONTRACTS FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR FROM SENDING DISTRICTS:</u>

Motion to approve the tuition contracts for the 2013-2014 school year between the Ridgefield Board of Education and the following sending districts:

District	Student	Tuition	
Becton Regional	EJ	\$ 45,780.00	
Cliffside Park	MB	\$ 59,342.00	
Cliffside Park	SP	\$ 59,342.00	
Edgewater	SE	\$ 57,116.68	
Englewood	RD	\$ 45,780.00	
Englewood	TF	\$ 31,206.60	
Fairview	HR	\$ 59,342.00	
Fairview	SS	\$ 34,674.00	
Fairview	МО	\$ 34,674.00	

Pascack Valley Regional	RM	\$ 59,342.00
Teaneck	AB	\$ 34,674.00
Teaneck	DV	\$ 30,603.57
Weehawken	JO	\$ 51,859.75

5. APPROVAL OF STAFF PAID BY GRANTS FOR THE 2013-2014 **SCHOOL YEAR:**

Motion to approve the following list of staff to be paid by grants for the 2013-2014 school year:

The following amounts are to offset the salary, not additional monies to their salary.

Teresa Serafimov-(BSI Lang Arts) \$58,479 Dawn Galbraith-Mazzola-(BSI math) \$32,305 Charlotte Weeks-(BSI math) \$18,411

Title III

Maria Kim-(ESL)

\$10,967

Titles IA, IIA, III, III immigrant

Kara Reynoso (program administration) \$15,359

The below amounts are in addition to the regular salary for Title I Programs before/afterschool/during prep periods.

High School-Strategies for Today's Test Takers Staff Coordinators

Coordinators

Anna Georgiou \$52.50/session Floro Villaueva \$52.50/session

Teachers

Vito Fabiano \$52.50/session Brian Sansanelli \$52.50/session Darla Ferdinand \$52.50/session Jazie Vega \$52.50/session \$52.50/session Noreen Bredhold Ashley Burke \$52.50/session

Slocum Skewes - Breakfast with BSI \$35/hr

Adriana DeGiovanni (coor) Christine Fabiano Teresa Becker Joel Werner Linda Calandrillo Pandora Antzoulatos Jamie Rifkowitz Jamie Gryctko

Josephine Mendoza

Shaler Academy – Seeds of Literacy \$30/session (35 min) Kate Elefante

Lilian Pagano

Bergen Boulevard – Seeds of Literacy \$35/session (45 min)
Catherine Cohen
Rosina Siniscalchi
Marta Acebal
Jean Marie Bellotti

STUDENT SERVICES – (Items 6-8)

6. APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF THE RMHS CHAPER OF NJFEA (NEW JERSEY FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION) — Consent

Motion to authorize the creation of the RMHS chapter of NJFEA (New Jersey Future Educators Association) as an afterschool club on a one year trial basis:

7. <u>APPROVAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM "BATTLE OF BOOKS"</u> – Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to implementation of the middle school program entitled, "Battle of Books" effective for the 2013-2014 school year with the program to be run by the Library/Media Specialist at no cost to the District:

8. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORT ON DISTRICT-WIDE TESTING RESULTS FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR – Consent

Motion to accept the annual report on District-wide testing results covering the 2012-2013 school year:

CURRICULUM – (Items 9-10)

9. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP EXPENDITURES - Consent

Motion to approve the following workshop participation and expenditures:

Name	Workshop	Location	Date	Fee
Gavin Cooper	AP Workshop on European History	Brooklyn, NY	11/5/13	\$215
Brian Burke	AP Workshop on US History	Brooklyn, NY	11/5/13	\$215

Pamela Lowery Mary Mattessich	Good Ideas in Teaching Pre- Calculus Conference	New Brunswick, NJ	3/21/14	\$165 pp
Janet Seabold	Stronge Leadership Conference	Ramapo College, NJ	12/3/13	\$179 Title IIA

10. APPROVAL OF NEW AND REVISED CURRICULUM - Consent

Motion to approve the following new and/or revised curriculum as attached:

Korean IV Honors Korean Grade 7 Italian Grade 7 Spanish Grade 7

OPERATIONS – (Items 11-12)

11. <u>APPROVAL TO ACCEPT DONATION OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS</u> – Consent

Motion to accept a donation of laptop computers for use in the transition department at Ridgefield Memorial High School from China Construction America, Inc. as follows:

- (6) Laptop Computers with MS Office Software and computer bag
- (2) Wireless All-In-One Brother MFC Professional Series Multi-Function Machine
- (1) Box of Ink supply for the Multi-Function Machine

12. <u>APPROVAL OF DISTRICT GOALS AND ACTION PLANS FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR</u> – Consent

Motion to approve and implement the District Goals and Action Plans (as attached) for the 2013-2014 school year as proposed during our work session held on September 12, 2013 and developed into action plans by the Superintendent of Schools as listed below:

- 1. State Testing
- 2. Teacher Evaluation System
- 3. Facility Upgrades
- 4. Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics

PERSONNEL – (Items 13-17)

13. APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE - Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ridgefield Board of Education that the Board hereby approves Santina Carbone's request for a leave of absence as follows:

The use of nineteen (19) sick days commencing February 18, 2014 through March 14, 2014 and;

An unpaid leave of absence up to twelve (12) weeks in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act "NJFLA" commencing on March 17, 2014 in conjunction with her anticipated delivery date and subject to submission of medical confirmation of her actual delivery date and post delivery period of disability which will determine the expiration of this disability leave and the commencement and expiration dates of the NJFLA leave ending June 13, 2014 with a return date of June 16, 2014:

14. APPOINTMENT OF LONG TERM REPLACEMENT TEACHER - Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Allison Barrett as the long term replacement teacher for Santina Carbone beginning February 3, 2014 through June 16, 2014 at rate of \$95 per diem the first ten days and \$183.25 on the eleventh day forward with no break in service and no medical benefits:

15. <u>APPROVAL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INTERN OBSERVATION</u> – Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve Natalie Sayanlar, Kean University student, to conduct a total of fifteen (15) hours of occupational therapy observation under the direction of Diana Lara during the 2013-2014 school year:

16. APPROVAL OF EIGHTH GRADE TRIP AND CHAPERONES - Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve the eighth grade trip to Boston, MA on November 6, 2013 and the following list of teacher chaperones to be paid a rate of \$29.46 per hour for any hours worked beyond their regularly scheduled work day:

Gerard Bellizzi Rosario DiDonna Allison Barrett Christine Fabiano

Ylenia Fuccilli Matthew Mullholland Rich Wroblewski Ken Fugowski Alisha Stailey

17. APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE - Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve a medical leave for Robert DeFelice, full time teacher assistant, beginning October 14, 2013 through November 25, 2013 with the use of five (5) sick days and the remainder to be unpaid:

POLICY - (Items 18-19)

18. APPROVAL OF SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICY #7522- SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY DEVICES TO STAFF MEMBERS— Consent

Motion to approve the second reading and adoption of new policy #7522– School District Provided Technology Devices to Staff Members as attached:

19. APPROVAL OF SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICY #7523–SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY DEVICES TO PUPILS— Consent

Motion to approve the second reading and adoption of new policy #7523— School District Provided Technology Devices to Pupils as attached:

LEGAL - (Item 20)

20. APPROVAL OF HIB (HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING) REPORT – Consent

WHEREAS, at its executive session meeting on October 10, 2013 the Ridgefield Board of Education received a report from the Superintendent of Schools in Accordance with Board Policy 5512 concerning the results of one (1) investigation that occurred Pertaining to reported HIB incident; and

WHEREAS, the Board has had the opportunity to review the report.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ridgefield Board of Education that the Board hereby affirms each of the Superintendent's actions and decisions

as set forth in his October 3, 2013 report concerning the one (1) reported HIB incident:

21. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS- Consent

Motion to approve the following fundraisers for the 2013-2014 school year:

A.) Marching Band to hold a Equipment Truck Drive beginning November 1, 2013 through March 1, 2014 with proceeds going towards the purchase of a new equipment truck.

PERSONNEL - (Items 22-23)

22. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Alket Begaj as a substitute custodian beginning October 21, 2013 through June 30, 2014 to be paid a rate of \$21.54 per hour and to be used on an as needed basis:

23. APPOINTMENT OF PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT- Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Lisa Sancilio as a part time teacher assistant effective October 21, 2013 through June 30, 2014 at a rate of \$14.25 per hour:

24. APPROVAL OF UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE OF ABSENCE - Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve an unpaid Family leave of absence for Rose DeMaio, beginning October 28, 2013 through November 6, 2013.

25. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES BETWEEN FERRARA, TURITZ, HARRAKA & GOLDBERG P.C. AND WINNE, BANGTA, HETHERINGTON, BASRALIAN & KHAN P,C. AND THE RIDGEFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve The Assignment, on the same terms and conditions of the original contract for legal services between Ferrara, Turitz, Harrka & Goldberg P.C. and Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basralian & Khan P.C. and the Ridgefield Board of Education as a result of the merger of Ferrara, Turitz, Harraka & Goldberg P.C. and Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basralian & Kahn P.C., effective November 1, 2013 as per attached "A".

26. APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE - Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ridgefield Board of Education that the Board hereby Approves Maida Weisman's request for her medical leave of absence as follows:

The use of six (6) sick days commencing October 18, 2013 through October 25, 2013;

An unpaid leave of absence with the New jersey Family Leave Act "NJFA" Commencing on October 28, 2013 through December 20, 2013 with a return date of January 2, 2014:

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

Motion made by Mrs. Payerle, seconded by Ms. Bicocchi. Motion passed unanimously by Board Members.

Mrs. Adene Kirk stated she was at a loss for words regarding all the changes, teachers, etc. why must our children suffer. How do we fix the high school scores? We all know that the high school does not have a good reputation and a lot of children are going to private schools so I just want to know how we are going to make our children do better. We have to do something when the students get to the high school level.

Mrs. Maryann Martucci said the high school is implementing a program a strategy for taking tests over the next 12 weeks on Mondays. Hopefully it will help. The other thing I want to ask is about the two new Vice Principal positions that Mr. Vincentz brought up at the least meeting. I am not sure what I wrote down is correct. Dr. Groveman said they are going from 10 months to 12 month position and one of the responsibilities will be discipline of students versus observation of facility and also they will be Assistant Vice Principal but back in April I checked the agenda and they were not 10 month positions they were always 12 month positions so I just want an understanding so my questions is does it warrants a \$15,000 increases over time. I do not know if that is the going rate for this type of position was there nothing a little less out there. I just would like an explanation.

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

Motion made by Mr. Grippa, seconded by Mr. D'Amico. Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

Dr. Groveman said to Mrs. Kirk that since the Basic Skills program was so successful we expanded the whole program to include grades K-12.

Dr. Groveman answered Mrs. Martucci's question regarding the two new Vice Principal positions they were 10 month positions plus a stipend for extra duties. As a Dean of Students they can recommend discipline, as an administrator then can dispense discipline as a Dean of Students they can do an observation but they could not do evaluations because they were members of the REA.

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 9:25 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard A. Guarini

Business Administrator/Board Secretary