

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2013**  
**RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**555 CHESTNUT STREET, RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657**

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A Work Session/Business Meeting of the Ridgefield Board of Education was called to order by Joseph D'Amico 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	Present
Ms. Bicocchi	Arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Mr. D'Amico	Present
Mr. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Payerle	Present
Mr. Salazar	Present
Mrs. Fugnitti	Arrived at 7:55 p.m.

There being five members present, a quorum was declared.

Also present were:

Dr. Harry Groveman – Interim Superintendent of Schools

Rich Guarini – Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Stanley Turitz – Board Attorney

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

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

Motion passed unanimously by Board Members present.

**VII. PUBLIC BOARD MEETING reconvened at 8:15 p.m.**

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS -**

Dr. Groveman gave a project update and stated that we continue to see progress towards a final closeout as the punch list items are being addressed. He stated that a final walk-through will be conducted in the near future as one of the final close out steps.

He also shared that our Earth Weather Bug was installed this week and should be fully operational by next week. The system itself is on the roof at the Slocum Skewes School and it also has a lightening warning device attached to it and as we move forward and learn how to use the system we will be putting information on our web-site so parents can keep track of our weather in the district and town.

**VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

- A. Finance Committee – Joseph D’Amico (Chairperson)  
Mr. D’Amico said we expect the audit to come back soon. He spoke about a fundraiser for the 30 year old band truck that is in bad condition. This is a fix asset for the district. I appreciate that the music program is trying to raise funds to get a new vehicle. I think this is something that the Board should take some responsibility for this. It is a board vehicle. What about the board paying for half on the new truck. I came up with a resolution that will be #36 on this agenda so I make a motion for this and Mr. Grippa seconded it. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to verify and transfer from unrestricted fund balance an amount equal to the totally raised by the Ridgefield Music Program fundraising efforts to be used for a new truck not to exceed \$25,000.00.
- 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. Policy Committee – Ray Salazar (Chairperson), Andrew Grippa – N/R
- F. Student Liaisons –Jin Lee  
Mr. Jin Lee stated first off Slocum had a “stay in your lane” assembly which is a drug, bullying, gang and violence prevention type assembly on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The National Honor Society had their Induction Ceremony on November 4<sup>th</sup> as well. On November 12th the Language Honor Society had their Induction Ceremony. The Book Fair is going to be at Slocum on November 19<sup>th</sup> to the



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21<sup>st</sup>. Slocum and Shaler are having a sharing assembly on November 26<sup>th</sup>. On the same day the high school is having an open house. The volleyball team went into the state playoffs with the record of 13-8 and won in the first round but lost in the second round in a close match. They finished their season with 13 wins and 8 losses. The girls' soccer team turned their season this year for the better and finished the season 5-4. The boys' soccer team finished the season off strong winning their last game against Queen of Peace 5-2. They finished their season 3-11. The football team ended the season with the record of 3-6. Even though we would've like our record to end up better the football team made the state playoffs which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in Ridgefield history. We have a game tomorrow night in Hoboken hoping to win the first playoff game in the football programs history. This is my report. Thank you.

- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Kathy Payerle  
Mrs. Payerle spoke about the NJSBA Convention. She spoke about some of the classes she took while there and I received 5 more credits. One was on Superintendent's Searches, one was on Special Education Law; one was on Analyzing Salary Guides. She said she thought the classes were very informative and hopes we can use some of this information. I want to tell the Board that on December 3, 2013 there will be a Bergen County meeting in Fair Lawn, NJ regarding Special Sunshine Laws, School Ethics and Contract Negotiations you can register on line. Mrs. Fugnitti mentioned that she wants to go to the next Legislative meeting.

Mrs. Fugnitti mentioned that there are six candidates for the Superintendent Candidates. They discussed dates and they came up with November 25<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> one candidate at 7:00 p.m. and one candidate at 8:00 p.m.

School Board Training will be at 6:15 p.m. on December 5, 2013.

**IX. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION -**

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

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

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**XI. 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.

**XII. BOARD COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY.**

Mr. Grippa said he would like to pull Resolutions #19 and #22  
Resolution #19 – Approval Use of Facilities and Resolution #22 Acceptance of Retirement.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XIV. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION**

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Barbosa	Aye
Ms. Bicocchi	Arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Mr. D'Amico	Aye
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Payerle	Aye
Mr. Salazar	Aye
Mrs. Fugnitti	Arrived at 7:55 p.m.

**1. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Roll Call**

Motion to approve the following consent items  
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,23,24,25,26,27,28,  
29,30,31,32 ,33,34,35 and 36:

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

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Barbosa	Aye
Ms. Bicocchi	Aye except Recuse Batch 16 #PO 1457
Mr. D'Amico	Aye except Recuse #3
Mr. Grippa	Aye except Recuse #3 Batch 15
Mrs. Payerle	Aye except Recuse #31
Mr. Salazar	Aye except Recuse #31
Mrs. Fugnitti	Aye except Recuse Batch 16 P.O. #401516

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**2. MINUTES – Consent**

Motion to approve the minutes from the Motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2013 Work Session/Business Meeting:

**FINANCE – (Items 3-13)**

**3. BILL LIST – Consent**

Motion to approve the bill list from the months of October and November 2013:

Batch 15	\$2,510,199.11
Batch 16	\$ 578,575.89

**4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY - Consent**

Motion to approve the Report of the Secretary for the period ending September 30, 2013

**5. REPORT OF THE TREASURER - Consent**

Motion to approve the Report of the Treasurer of school monies for the month ending September 30, 2013:

**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 September 30, 2013 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 September 30, 2013 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 September 30, 2013 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



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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 FUNDRAISERS- Consent**

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

- A.) **Serendipity** to hold a **T-Shirt Drive** in November/December 2013 with proceeds going towards the offset of costs to create Serendipity.
- B.) **Baseball Team** to hold a **Concession Stand** during home games from December 1, 2013 through April 1, 2014 with proceeds going toward the deferment of costs for the end of the year dinner and any other baseball team needs.
- C.) **Class of 2014** to hold a **Candy Cane Sale** from December 2, 2013 through December 13, 2013 with proceeds going towards defraying the costs associated with senior prom.
- D.) **Class of 2014** to hold an **Empanada Sale** from January 6, 2014 through January 17, 2014 with proceeds going towards defraying the costs of the senior prom.
- E.) **Class of 2014** to hold a **Beaded Necklace Sale** from January 27, 2014 through February 10, 2014 with proceeds going towards defraying the costs of the senior prom.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION- Consent**

Motion to accept a donation from JiYeon Lee, in the amount of \$1,000 to be used towards any school-related expenses.

**9. APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP WITH BERGEN COUNTY REGION V COUNCIL FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR - Consent**

As per Region V Bylaws please pass the following board resolution stating your agreement to remain a member of Region V for the 2013-2014 school year:

“RESOLVED: that the Ridgefield Board of Education desires to enter into shared services agreements and will participate as a full member of the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education for the 2013-2014 school year; does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws; designates Dr. Harry Groveman ,Superintendent, as its representative to Region V; and empowers (him) to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interests in Region V.

The Board further approves the joint bidding and transportation agreements for all Ridgefield (district) students who are transported through Region V;

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The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services agreement; including but not limited to student evaluations, student therapies and other student support services;

The Board further approved the joint bidding and/or shared services for non-public school services; and

The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for other services as requested to be provided by Region V component districts on as needed basis."

The breakdown is as follows:

Transportation is \$28,000.00  
Membership is \$25,866.58  
OT is approximately \$37,989.00  
PT is approximately \$25,326.00  
Evaluations approximately \$2,818.42  
Total for year is approximately \$120,000.00

**10. APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS – Consent**

Motion to approve a budget transfer for August and September 2013 in the amounts as follows:

August 2013	\$14,630.00
September 2013	\$299,368.47

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

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

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

Teachers

Brian Burke	\$52.50/session
Mary Mattesich	\$52.50/session
Marilena Ferraiuolo	\$52.50/session
Gavin Cooper	\$52.50/session
Andrew MacDonald	\$52.50/session
Mike Zunick	\$52.50/session

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**12. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE NCLB AND IDEA GRANTS FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR:**

Motion to accept the funds through the approved NCLB and IDEA Grants for the 2013-2014 school year as listed below and as attached:

**NCLB**

Title I	\$263,529
Title IIA	\$27,661
Title III	\$20,091
Title III Immigrant	\$7,691

**IDEA**

Basic	\$318,825
Pre-School	\$18,865

**13. APPROVAL OF TUITION CONTRACT FOR STUDENT N.F. FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR:**

Motion to approve the tuition contract for student N.F. for the 2013-2014 school year between the Ridgefield Board of Education and The Capri Training Centers, Inc. in the amount of \$6,210:

**STUDENT SERVICES – (Items 14-15)**

**14. APPROVAL OF HOME INSTRUCTION/INSTRUCTOR FOR STUDENT BC- Consent**

Motion to approve home instruction for student BC for home instruction effective October 29, 2013 with approval for the following home instructors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Days (per week)</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Jazie Vega	Anatomy/Physiology	Tuesday – 3:00-4:40pm	\$29.46 hrly.
Brian Sansanelli	College Math	Wednesday – 3:00-4:40pm	\$29.46 hrly.
Marilena Ferraiuolo	English 3	Friday – 4:00-5:40pm	\$29.46 hrly.

**15. APPROVAL OF HOME INSTRUCTION/INSTRUCTOR FOR STUDENT LG- Consent**

Motion to approve home instruction for student LG for home instruction effective November 18, 2013 with approval for the following home instructors:



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<u>Name</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Days (per week)</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Vincent Mariner	2 hours per week	Tuesday	\$29.46 hrly.
Camille Stahl	8 hours per week	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday Friday	\$29.46 hrly.

**CURRICULUM – (Items 16-17)**

**16. 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>
Kate Elefante Lisa Brennan Larissa Risalato	Summer Institute on the Teacher of Reading & Writing Revised  Writing Component	Paramus	7/8-7/12/13 7/15-7/18/13	Writing \$1,100
Melissa Kahn	New Jersey Science Convention	Princeton, NJ	10/17 – 10/19/13	
Lauretta Thrower	Stronge Evaluation Model Training	Middlesex Regional	11/18/13	\$150
Jeanette Fogarty	Helping your Students with Special Needs	Newark, NJ	11/26/13	\$229 Title IIA
Joan Furman Pandora Antzoulatos	Best IPAD Apps. To Enhance Content Instruction	Newark, NJ	12/2/13	\$229 pp
Mike Zunick Jack Casimiro	NJAFPA Winter Training Institute	Eatontown, NJ	12/6/13	\$149 pp Title IIA
Caroline Kim	CBI Reunion Eve	Morris Plains, NJ	12/10/13	\$11
Theresa Petrov	Bureau of Education & Research's "What's New in Children's Literature and how to use it in your Program"	Fairfield, NJ	1/9/14	\$255 Title IIA
Caroline Kim	Transition Coordinators Network of NJ	Edison, NJ	1/15/14 and 5/14/14	\$20

**17. APPROVAL OF NEW CURRICULUM - Consent**

Motion to approve the following new curriculum as attached:

Italian Grades 3-6  
Spanish Grades 3-6

**OPERATIONS – (Items 18-19)**

**18. APPROVAL OF THE NEW JERSEY QUALITY SINGLEACCOUNT-  
ABILITYCONTINUUM (QSAC) STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE FOR  
SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014 - Consent**

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Motion to attest to the accuracy of the self-assessment findings in the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) Statement of Assurance for the 2013-2014 school year and authorize its submission in keeping with the rules and regulations governing the QSAC process as attached:

**PERSONNEL – (Items 20-30)**

**20. APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE –**  
Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve the extension of a medical leave of absence for Nancy Pupino from November 4, 2013 through June 30, 2014:

**21. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE NURSE -** Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Melissa Morales as a district substitute nurse, effective November 18, 2013 through June 30, 2014 to be used on an as needed basis:

**23. APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE -** Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve an extension of Jennifer Greco's leave of absence from November 4, 2013 through December 2, 2013 with the use of two (2) sick days:

**24. APPROVAL OF EXTRA SERVICE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOLYEAR -** Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve the following staff for the following extra service positions/stipends for the 2013-2014 school year as listed below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Jamie Casciano	Basketball – Head Varsity (Boys)	3	\$7,239
Charlie Trentacosti	Basketball – Assistant #1 (Boys)	3	\$4,723
Ivan Stipanov	Basketball – Assistant #2 (Boys)	3	\$4,723
Jorge Reynoso	Basketball – Head Varsity (Girls)	3	\$7,239
Steve Kahn	Basketball – Assistant #1 (Girls)	2	\$4,398
Ken Fugowski	Basketball – Junior School (Girls)	3	\$2,404

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Tom Biggiani	Basketball – Junior School (Boys)	2	\$2,243
Jack Casimiro	Softball – Head Varsity	1	\$5,449
George Wagner	Track – Winter	3	\$4,700
Todd Mahoney	Track – Winter Assistant	3	\$3,031

**25. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATIONS – Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to accept the following resignations of part time teacher assistants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Tracy Callahan	PT-TA	10/28/13
Jasmin Santiago	PT-TA	11/1/13
Joann Fytros	PT-TA	11/22/13

**26. APPOINTMENT OF PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Edgar Lebron as a part time teacher assistant at a salary of \$14.25 per hour, effective November 17, 2013 through June 30, 2014:

**27. APPOINTMENT OF FULL TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT/JOB COACH– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Bernard Gomes as a full time teacher assistant at a pro-rated salary of \$17,500 and as a job coach with a pro-rated transition stipend of \$6,423, effective November 18, 2013 through June 30, 2014:

**28. APPOINTMENT OF LEAVE REPLACEMENT TEACHER - Consent**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint David Cooper as a leave replacement teacher for Fotini Rossi, beginning November 15, 2013 through February 21, 2014 at a rate of \$95 per diem for the first ten days and \$183.25 on the eleventh day forward with no break in service and no medical benefits:

**29. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION - Consent**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to accept the



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resignation of Alisha Stailey, leave replacement in-class support teacher, effective November 6, 2013

**30. APPROVAL OF WEIGHT ROOM SUPERVISORS - Consent**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion appoint Joseph Gambardella and Thomas Biggiani as weight room supervisors at a rate of \$13.00 per hour for three (3) hours per day (3:00-6:00pm), one supervisor to be scheduled per hour and used on an as needed basis:

**31. APPOINTMENT OF LEAVE REPLACEMENT TEACHER - Consent**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Mitsael Trinidadas a leave replacement teacher for Maida Weisman, beginning November 15, 2013 through January 2, 2014 at a rate of \$95 per diem for the first ten days and \$183.25 on the eleventh day forward with no break in service and no medical benefits:

**32. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR THE BUSINESSADMINISTRATOR /BOARDSECRETARY FOR THE 2013/2014 SCHOOL YEAR - Consent**

Motion to approve the contract between the Ridgefield Board of Education and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Richard A. Guarini from the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 pending County approval. (See attachment).

**POLICY – (Item 33)**

**33. APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF NEW POLICY #5351–  
SCHOOL CLEARANCE FOLLOWING CRISIS SITUATION– Consent**

Motion to approve the first reading of new policy #5351 – School Clearance Following Crisis Situation as attached:

**PERSONNEL - (Items 34-35)**

**34. APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE- Consent**

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Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve a medical leave of absence, under the Federal Medical Leave Act (FMLA), for Michele Scirocco effective November 4, 2013 through December 31, 2013:

**35. APPOINTMENT OF LONG TERM REPLACEMENT TEACHER –**

Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Arlene Kaloudis as the long term replacement teacher for Jamie Benson beginning November 19, 2013 through March 31, 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:

**36. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TO  
VERIFY AND TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE  
FOR A NEW TRUCK FOR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOT TO  
EXCEED \$25,000.00 - Consent**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ridgefield Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to verify and transfer from unrestricted fund balance an amount equal to the totally raised by the Ridgefield Music Program fundraising efforts to be used for a new truck not to exceed \$25,000.00.

**XV. BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Grippa said regarding resolution #19 that in the pass the staff felt that there were Ridgefield students were able to work the lighting board so I would like that changed to say that so we can have that option. Mr. Grippa said regarding Resolution #22 – Acceptance of Retirement he just wanted to say he is going to miss Mr. Noonan and Ms. Bracciodieta.

**19. APPROVAL OF USE OF FACILITIES – Consent**

Motion to approve the following Use of Facilities Requests:

- A. A Dance Place Dance Studio to use the Ridgefield Memorial High School auditorium and two classrooms for Dance Recital practice on Thursday, June 4, 2014 – (4:00 – 9:30 p.m.) and the Dance Recital on Friday, June 5, 2014 and Saturday, June 6, 2014 ( 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.) for a fee of \$2,400.00 plus the use of the stage lighting and sound system (requires a

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Ridgefield Staff Member or Student) for each day at a daily per diem of \$150.00 each person for a three days for a fee of \$900.00. Grand Total is \$3,300.00.

- B.** Kirchner's Dance Studio to use the Ridgefield Memorial High School auditorium and two classrooms for Dance Recital Practice on Saturday, June 21, 2014 (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) and Dance Recital on Sunday, June 22, 2014 for a fee of \$1600.00 plus the use of stage lightening and sound system (require a Ridgefield Staff Member or Student) for each day at a daily per diem rate of \$150.00 each person for two days for a fee of \$600.00. Grand Total is \$2,200.00.

**22. ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENTS - Consent**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to accept the retirements of the following staff members as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Peter Noonan	Consociate	1/1/15
Frances Bracciodieta	Teacher	6/30/14

Mrs. Fugnitti asked for Roll Call on Resolutions #19 and #22

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Barbosa	Aye
Ms. Bicocchi	Aye
Mr. D'Amico	Aye
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Payerle	Aye
Mr. Salazar	Aye
Mrs. Fugnitti	Aye

**LEGAL– (Item )**

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

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



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Mrs. Martucci said regarding regarding the election she is sorry that Ms. Bicocchi will not be on the Board any longer. I just want to speak about the literature that Ms. Bicocchi and Mr. Salazar sent out regarding a certain number of board members having conflict is there anything that can't be done and can things still run smoothly with a new person coming on the board because they will have to recuse themselves. The other thing I want to mention is that the Elementary PTA use to always host a candidates night but I notice the last few years that hasn't been done I would like to ask our high school PTA can take this over.

Mrs. Kirk said in regard to Mrs. Martucci comment on Meet and Greet the Candidates said she knows it was brought up just not followed up on and that she is no longer on the PTA Committee. I think maybe the Board should get involved with both PTA's to have a candidate night.

Mr. Vincentz spoke about going around colleges with his son bringing back an idea, it is called Design Day and what happens is the student goes to college for one day on Open House and you design a curriculum for that day. I know that the high school is going to have an open house and I would like to suggest this. It is a great experience.

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

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

Mrs. Fugnitti told Mrs. Kirk that the Board cannot get involved with Candidates Night and that she was going to let the Counsel answer regarding conflict on the Board. Mr. Turitz stated that the Board can only act when they have a quorum regarding this Board it would be four (4) Board Members. When the Board does not have a quorum due to conflicts of interest there is a legal document called the Doctrine of Necessity whereby the Board has to follow a special procedure in terms of a resolution outlining to the public why they are invoking the Doctrine of Necessity they outlined the Conflicts of Interest are and without waiving that conflict by law the Board would not be able to operate and there is no way they could operate unless the Doctrine of Necessity is invoked. In this particular case with the Ridgefield Board of Education starting with the new Board in January it is my understanding that there will be four people who have potential conflicts of interest because of their relationship with the NJEA and/or their spouses relationship to the NJEA. As a result of a School's Ethic decision that came down in August that decision has extended the prohibition to Board Members who have connection to the NJEA in what areas they may or may not participate in. That decision is on appeal but right now that decision is the decision and as a result thereof most personnel decisions will require the invoking of the Doctrine of Necessity unless the law changes. The

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Board will have to pass a certain resolution every time, outline every time what that conflict is and because the Doctrine of Necessity will become eligible in most cases to vote. I will advise the Board that there I believe are two categories of conflict that this Board will have. There are those members who have a conflict because they are members of the NJEA but they teach in other school districts not Ridgefield and then there are members who have spouses who are members of the NJEA in this district. It will be my opinion and advice to those Board Members who spouses who are effected to not waive the conflict and recuse themselves because they have a financial benefit because of their spouses. The other two Board Members who have a conflict does not have the same financial conflict and therefore I believe a better way of invoking the Doctrine as long as there are four or more Board Members it is my advice to remain recuse and not to vote on those issues.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard A. Guarini  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary