

**WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 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 Deborah Fugnitti at 6:32 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:32 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. Biccocchi	Arrived at 7:20 p.m.
Mr. D'Amico	Arrived at 7:00 p.m.
Mr. Grippa	Present
Mrs. Payerle	Present
Mr. Salazar	Present
Mrs. Fugnitti	Present

There being five members present, a quorum was declared.

Also present were:

Dr. Harry Groveman – Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Richard Guarini – Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Marla Taus – 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 6:35 p.m.**

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

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

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

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**1. Honor Roll Presentations**

Dr. Groveman introduced Dr. DePass who introduced and presented the Honor Roll Students with a certificate.

2. Dr. Groveman spoke about the Image Mar Program at the Slocum Skewes School; the Open House at the High School we had a very large turnout of parents and students.

3. Dr. Groveman spoke about and explained the Ridgefield High School Graduation Rates.

**VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

- A. Finance Committee – Joseph D’Amico (Chairperson),  
Mr. D’Amico stated the Finance Committee met with the auditors to go over the audit report and the Board will be receiving a formal report. The auditor will be at the next Board Meeting and will go over the report with the Board.
- B. Curriculum Committee - Lisa Biccocchi (Chairperson), Ingrid Barbosa – **N/R**
- C. Operations Committee – Andrew Grippa (Chairperson), Joseph D’Amico – Mr. Grippa stated that we had the ribbon cutting at the science labs at the high school and all the members of the science lab committee were there.
- D. Personnel Committee – Lisa Biccocchi (Chairperson), Ray Salazar  
Mrs. Fugnitti stated that the committee did its first round of interviews for the Superintendent of Schools. They interviewed seven candidates and are now down to three. Our second round of interviews will probably be the second week in January.
- E. Policy Committee – Ray Salazar (Chairperson), Andrew Grippa – **N/R**
- F. Student Liaisons – **N/R**
- G. NJSBA/Legislative Delegate – Kathy Payerle  
Mrs. Payerle spoke about NJSBA are tracking a few bills. Two bills are being considered right now. One is when people can file their petitions with New Jersey School Boards to be a Board Member any time so what they are going to do if this passes they are going to be able to file their petitions all the way up till the end of July instead of the June primary date. The second set of bills being considered is the submission of budgets. They want you to have more time to submit your budget. Finally, the last bill is NJSBA is against screening for dyslexia for all students it costs too much. We should only have to do if you see the need for the student.



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**IX. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION -**

**1. High School Administration – Initiative**

Dr. Groveman spoke about the initiative where the administrators Voluntarily teach a course. I want to ask the Board how they feel about that.

Mrs. Fugnitti asked if it would be on a regular basis. My concern is with the new evaluations coming and we added a new administrator because of the time it was going to take to do the evaluations would this interfere with this.

**2. DRAFT 2014-2015 Ridgefield Public School District Calendar**

Dr. Groveman told the Board that he gave them the first rough draft of the 2014-2015 Calendar for then to review. He pointed out a few things such as Labor Day falls on September 1<sup>st</sup> we can start fairly early and I also did not put in a double day of Staff Development because in this calendar I have three full Staff Development days between September 2, 2014 and November 4, 2014. You have to also look at the last day of school is Monday, June 22, 2014. If you wanted to end on Friday, June 19, 2014 we have to find one day. I would like the Board to look at it and give me some feedback. Mrs. Fugnitti stated if school ended on June 19, 2013, the Special Education Summer Program would not start for two full weeks later. Mr. D'Amico said without a long February break till the April break is it too long of period for the students without a break. Ms. Bicocchi stated that she realizes that school is stressful but the students get out at 3:00 p.m. and they do get weekends off. The Board spoke about having the Spring Break the end of March and come back the day after Easter. He asked the Board to please e-mail him any comments/suggests.

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

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

**XI. 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.

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

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**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XIV. 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 and 23:

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

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Barbosa	Aye
Ms. Bicocchi	Aye
Mr., D'Amico	Aye except Recuse on #19
Mr. Grippa	Aye
Mrs. Payerle	Aye
Mr. Salazar	Aye
Mrs. Fugnitti	Aye

**2. MINUTES – Consent**

Motion to approve the minutes from the  
November 14, 2013 Work Session/Business Meeting:

**FINANCE – (Items 3-5)**

**3. BILL LIST – Consent**

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

Batch 18	\$ 80,871.25
Batch 19	\$309,657.55

**4. APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISERS – Consent**

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

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- A.) **Robotics** to hold a **Bake Sale** ongoing from December 2013 through April 2014 with proceeds going towards the purchase of supplies for robotics.
- B.) **World Language Honor Society** to hold a **Film Night** on December 13, 2013, January 10, 2014 and February 7, 2014 at 6:00pm in the RMHS Cafeteria with proceeds going towards future world language honor society events.
- C.) **Robotics** to hold a **Hunger Games Fundraiser** on December 19, 2013 with proceeds going towards the purchase of supplies for robotics.
- D.) **Slocum Third Grade** to hold a **Souper Bowl** during 2014 with the collection of cans of soup to be donated to a food pantry in Englewood.

**5. APPROVAL TO SELL NON-WORKING OBSOLETE 2002 CHEVY SCHOOL BUS –Consent**

Motion to approve the sale of a non-working obsolete 2002 school bus for parts in the amount of \$1,200.00.

**STUDENT SERVICES – (Item )**

**CURRICULUM – (Item 6)**

**6. 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>
Lorenzo Naranjo	Making the Transition from Staff to Supervisor	Saddle Brook, NJ	1/24/14	\$199
Theresa Petrov	Bureau of Education and Research – What's new in Young Literature 2014	Parsippany, NJ	3/26/14	\$235
Robert Francin	A visual Approach to Allgebra	New Brunswick, NJ	2/6/14	\$195

**OPERATIONS – (Item )**



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**PERSONNEL – (Items 7-19)**

**7. APPROVAL OF STAFFING FOR BREAKFAST WITH BSI PROGRAM -**

Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve Tim Yang as the coordinator for the Breakfast with BSI Program to be paid a rate of \$35 per hour effective January 6, 2014:

**8. RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT -**

Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to rescind the appointment of Carol Gonzalez, as a part time teacher assistant, effective immediately:

**9. APPOINTMENT OF FULL TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT -** Consent

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Rosa Chavez as a full time teacher assistant at a salary of \$17,500 effective December 9, 2013 through June 30, 2014:

**10. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION** – Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to accept the resignation of Adriana DeGiovanni, effective January 4, 2014:

**11. APPROVAL OF LATCHKEY STAFF**– Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve Jean Marie Bellotti as a latchkey staff member, effective December 6, 2013 at a salary of \$19.00 per hour to be used on an as needed basis:

**12. APPROVAL OF STUDENT PRACTICUMS**– Consent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve William Paterson University students Amber Fanning, Megan Picnic and Yeong Lee to conduct student practicums in the special education program at Slocum Skewes during the spring of the 2013-2014 school year:

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**13. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE NURSE– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Kristy Agresta as a substitute nurse for Nancy Pupino effective December 11, 2013 through June 23, 2014 at a rate of \$150 per diem with no medical benefits:

**14. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Emma-Rose Trentacosti and Nila DelRio as substitute teachers beginning December 9, 2013 through June 30, 2014 at a rate of \$95 per diem and to be used on an as needed basis:

**15. RECIND APPOINTMENT OF LONG TERM REPLACEMENT– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to rescind motion #21 of the supplemental agenda of November 21, 2013 regarding the appointment of Allison Barrett as the long term replacement for Santina Carbone beginning February 3, 2013 through June 16, 2014:

**16. 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 Adriana DeGiovanni beginning January 7, 2014 through the end of the school year at a salary of BA step 1 \$44,867 pro-rated:

**17. APPOINTMENT OF LONG TERM REPLACEMENT TEACHER–  
Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Joseph Leonelli (currently full time teacher assistant with teaching certification) as the long term replacement teacher for Santina Carbone beginning February 12, 2013 through June 16, 2014 at a rate of \$131.25 per diem for the first ten days and \$183.25 as the eleventh day forward with no break in service:

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**18. APPOINTMENT OF FULL TIME NIGHT CUSTODIAN– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Alket Begaj as the full time night custodian at Slocum Skewes beginning January 2, 2014 at a salary of \$34,000 plus \$1,000 night differential and \$940 black seal stipend pro-rated:

**19. APPROVAL OF STUDENT TEACHER– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve Caitlin Peterman, Dominican College student, to complete her student teaching under the direction of Ms. Acebal at Bergen Boulevard School from January 2014 through May 2014:

**20. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN– Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to approve Michael Rubino, as a substitute custodian beginning December 20, 2013 at a rate of \$21.54 per hour to be used on an as needed basis:

**21. APPROVAL OF REVISED 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 Heather Nydam's request for a revision of maternity leave of absence as follows:

The use of thirty (30) sick days, commencing December 3, 2013 through January 24, 2014 and;

An unpaid leave of absence up to twelve (12) weeks in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act "NJFLA" commencing on January 27, 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 April 25, 2014 and;

An unpaid child rearing leave beginning April 28, 2014 with a return date of June 16, 2014:



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**22. APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER – Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to appoint Ashley Nemec as a district substitute teacher effective December 9, 2013 through June 30, 2014 at a rate of \$95 per diem to be used on an as needed basis:

**23. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF PART TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT – Consent**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, motion to accept the resignation of Lourdes Garcia, part time teacher assistant, effective December

**POLICY – (Item )**

**LEGAL – (Item )**

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

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

Mrs. Maryann Martucci spoke about the article on the web-site Athletics and Sudden Cardiac Deaths in young athletics and in Thursday's Record on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 there was an article about a child was lucky to be alive from another school district because he keeled over and his heart stopped. I know that we have an Athletic Trainer that goes to most of the functions but he can't be in two places at once. Does the Athletic Trainer carry one of these ADD machines with him at the sporting events and if he is not there is there someone else there who is trained and has a machine with him.

**XVI. 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.

Dr. Groveman answered Mrs. Martucci that are Athletic Trainer does have a portable defibrillator at all time with him. A new law was passed as of September every field and every sport facility must have a site a defibrillator. We have to figure out in Ridgefield if the trainer is at our main field he has one but if we have soccer at

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another field in Ridgefield we have to have another one. We have one in the nurse's office at the high school but I need another closer to the gym. We will purchase everything we need for our schools. All our coaches have been trained on these machines.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the business meeting of the Board of Education at 8:44 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