



RIDGEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of the Ridgewood Board of Education held on January 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at the Education Center.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 7:00 p.m. Ms. Brogan called the meeting to order with a roll call.

Present:

Ms. Sheila Brogan, President
Mr. Saurabh Dani
Ms. Mary Micale

Absent:

Mr. Muhammad Mahmoud, Vice President
Ms. HyunJu Kwak

Also Present:

Dr. Mark Schwarz, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Richard Freedman, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Jaime Murphy, Director of Human Resources

Also Absent:

Ms. Julie Kot, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Visitors: Approximately 30 community members were present in-person and/or virtually.

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Brogan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. OPENING STATEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER

Ms. Brogan announced that pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), advance notice of this meeting had been given to The Star Ledger, The Record, and the Clerk of the Village of Ridgewood. In addition, notices were posted in the office of the Board Secretary and in all school buildings.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. Retirement Recognition

➤ Christa Valentine, Willard Elementary School

- Ms. Caroline Hoffman, Principal Willard Elementary School spoke about Ms. Valentine's career, recognizing her for thirty two years of distinguished service to the district.

(View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) starting at 00:21:24 .)

B. Student Representative Report

- Oliver Besser, Sloane Gross, Charley Kuiken, Gavin Poureza; Ridge Elementary School
- Members from the Ridge School Leadership Team shared information about what is happening at Ridge School.

(View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) starting at 00:27:18.)

C. Student Representative Report

- Sarah Bronstein, Ridgewood High School
- Ms. Bronstein provided an overview of activities taking place at Ridgewood High School including updates on athletics, performing arts, and club events.

(View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) starting at 00:36:43.)

V. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Elizabeth Frers, advocating for a timely and thoughtful solution for the high school fields. She discussed the petition that was signed, which asks for a quick cleanup of the fields to ensure the fields are ready by the end of February or beginning of March. The second goal is to establish an agreement with neighboring towns to secure field access for March 14 through March 22. They ask the Board to pre-negotiate field related contracts for savings.

Anand Hegedy, he does not think it is right that we keep fixing the fields and asked for the Board to find a solution without asking Ridgewood for money.

(View the full public comments of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) starting at 00:43:36)

VI. PRESENTATIONS**A. District Goals Status Update**

- Dr. Mark Schwarz, Superintendent of Schools
 - Dr. Schwarz presented a status update on the District Goals.

(View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) starting at 01:09:26.)

VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

(This presentation took place prior to the District Goal Status Update)

- Dr. Schwarz reported on the following topics:
 - Schools will be closed on February 13, 2024 due to the inclement weather.
 - Updates/presentation about the fields that was also shared at the February 8, 2024 Superintendent Coffee and is posted to the district website.
 - The vendor who provided a comprehensive quote and is part of the State Contract is on the agenda tonight for approval.

- Next Superintendent Coffee is scheduled for March 14, 2024

(View the full Superintendent Report of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) starting at 00:51:42.)

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS: REGULAR AND ROUTINE ISSUES

A. ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves Attendance at Conferences, as listed on [Attachment A](#).

MOTION by: Ms. Micale **SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

B. ADMINISTRATION

i. Approval: Receipt of Suspensions and Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Reports

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the recommendation of the findings of the suspensions and confidential HIB reports received since the last Board meeting.

ii. Approval: First Reading of New/Revised/Abolished Policies and Regulations

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the first reading of new/revised/abolished policies as listed below:

New:

- [Regulation 4212 Attendance](#)

Revised:

- [Policy 2270 Religion in the Schools](#)
- [Policy 3161 and Policy 4161 Examination for Cause](#)
- [Policy and Regulation 3212 and Policy 4212 Attendance](#)
- [Policy and Regulation 5116 Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#)

Abolished:

- [Policy and Regulation 3432 and 4432 Sick Leave](#)
- [Policy 5460.02 Bridge Year Pilot Program](#)

iii. Approval: Revision to Contract Extension of General Board Counsel

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the revision to the approved following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Ridgewood Board of Education wishes to align its professional services contracts with the school fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024 and,

WHEREAS, the Ridgewood Board of Education requires the professional services of Board Counsel, and

WHEREAS, the nature of the services to be performed meet the definition of “professional services” set forth in the Public School Contract Law, and

WHEREAS, funds are available to obtain such professional services, and

ACCORDINGLY, the Ridgewood Board of Education, at the public meeting held on February 12, 2024 authorizes the award of the following professional services appointment and contract:

Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, & Jacobs LLC, Oakland, NJ, be appointed Board Counsel for the period February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

Hourly rates are as follows:

~~All Attorneys: \$165 per hour~~

Partners and Counsel: \$180

Associates: \$170

All Law Clerks and Paralegals: \$90 per hour

This professional services contract is made and awarded without competitive bidding as the services will be rendered by the persons experienced in the practice of a process requiring specialized knowledge and resources.

⇒ **MOTION to Move Items i. and iii.**

by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Mr. Dani

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

⇒ **MOTION to move Item ii.**

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Mr. Dani

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

Recused: Ms. Micale

C. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

i. **Approval: Field Trips**

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves field trips as listed in [Attachment B](#).

ii. **Approval: Elementary Author Visit Agreements**

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves six agreements with John Parra to provide a series of presentations at each of the district's elementary schools at a total cost of \$9,000 (\$1,500 per school). Each school's Home and School Association (HSA) will pay the other half of the cost.

iii. Approval: Additional Community School Spring 2024 After-School Programs

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Additional Community School Courses for Spring 2024, as listed on [Attachment C](#).

iv. Approval: Community School Summer 2024 Programs

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Summer 2024 Programs, as listed on [Attachment D](#).

v. Approval: Professional Development Agreement with Molly Ness LLC

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves an agreement with Molly Ness LLC for three days of professional development for K-5 teachers (half-day training for each grade level) on September 18, 2024, September 19, 2024, and September 20, 2024, at a cost of \$3,000 per day (\$9,000 total cost for three days).

The Board has received background information.

MOTION by: Ms. Micale **SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

i. Revised Job Descriptions

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves revised job descriptions below:

- [Payroll Specialist/Bookkeeper](#)
- [Supervisor of Transportation and Operations](#)

ii. Appointments

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the appointments listed below, subject to receipt of appropriate documentation and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) certificate, if required.

ii-a. 2023-2024 School Year - Appointments

Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date	NJDOE Certificate	Salary	Account #
Support Staff						
Cirillo, Tara	Part-time Registered Nurse	Ridge	02/27/24-06/30/24	N/A	\$45.00 per hour	

ii-b. Paraprofessionals for the 2023-2024 School Year

Name	Assignment	Location	Hours	Days	Salary	Effective	Account #
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			per day	per week		Date	
Connelly, Heather	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) Non-certified revision	Glen	5.75	5	\$24,455 revision	01/02/24-06/30/24	11-000-217-106-00-01-024-001
Freudenberg, Debra	Brailist	RHS	5.75	5	\$29,756	02/13/24-06/30/24	11-213-100-106-00-10-024-001
Ozturk, Yesim	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) Non-certified revision	Glen	5.75	5	\$24,455 revision	01/29/24-06/30/24	11-000-217-106-00-01-024-001
Saki, Somayeh	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) Non-certified	Ridge	5.75	5	\$24,455	02/21/24-06/30/24	11-000-217-106-00-04-024-001
Scheps, Nicholas	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA)	RHS	5.75	5	\$29,105 revision	08/31/23-06/30/24	11-212-100-106-00-10-024-001
Valencia, Jie	Spec Ed LLD	GWMS	5.75	5	\$21,852 revision	08/31/23-06/30/24	11-204-100-106-00-09-024-001

ii-c. Infant/Toddler Development Center

Name	Assignment	Hours per day	Days per week	Hourly Rate	Effective Date	Account #
Gessmann, Karen	Aide (High School)	3	5	\$15.13	02/13/24-06/30/24	62-990-100-106-00-62-060-001

ii-d. 2023-2024 Painter

Name	Position	Hourly Rate	# hours	Account #
Lug, Raymond	Supervisor, Painter	\$40.00	12 additional	11-000-261-104-00-42-019-000

ii-e. 2024 Spring Coaching Assignments and Spring Site Managers

As listed on [Attachment E](#).

2024 Spring Volunteer Coaches

Baseball	
Cardew, Charles*	Schneider, Phil
Lowy, Brett	
Boys Lacrosse	
Jarvis, Ryan	Santiago, Mickey
Petzold, John*	
Flag Football	

Depken, Sam	Tozzi, Anthony
Boys/Girls Golf	
Besser, Lauren	Gregory Zaino
Softball	
Beyer, James	Skettini, Donna*
Klion, Emily	Skettini, Kelly*
Boys Tennis	
Kirtane, Anirudh*	
Track	
DaVita, Tara	Wohner, John
Witham, Lynn	

**ii-f. Substitutes for the 2023-2024 School Year
Teachers**

Baney, Patricia	Lear, Christine		
Dever, Joan			
Haug, Sheri			

\$160 Daily Rate

*Related to staff member

iii. Change in Salary Classification, effective February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024, in accordance with the REA/Board Agreement

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Changes in Salary Classification, effective February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024, in accordance with the REA/Board Agreement, as listed on [Attachment F](#).

iv. Change of Assignments for the 2023-2024 School Year

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the change of assignments for the 2023-2024 school year, as listed below.

Name	From FTE Assignment Location	From Salary/ Hourly Rate	To FTE Assignment Location	To Salary/ Hourly Rate	Effective Date	Account #
Teachers						
Berliner, Sarah	1.0 FTE Behaviorist/ Therapist Glen/Willard/ Ridge	No Change in Salary	1.0 FTE Behaviorist/ Therapist Ridge Revision	No Change in Salary	10/16/23-06/30/24	11-000-219-104-00-24-019-000

Brophy, Nancy	1.0 FTE Spec Ed RES/INCL/LLD BFMS	\$107,557 Cl. MA, St. 18	1.20 FTE Spec Ed RES/INCL/LLD BFMS	\$129,068 Cl. MA, St. 18 (non pensionable)	02/12/24- 02/29/24	11-213-100-101-00-08-019-000
Ferreri, Todd	1.0 FTE Spec Ed BFMS	\$107,557 Cl. MA, St. 18	1.20 FTE Spec Ed BFMS	\$129,068 Cl. MA, St. 18 (non pensionable)	02/12/24- 02/29/24	11-204-100-101-00-08-019-000
Leonard, Mark	1.0 FTE Spec Ed BFMS	\$81,917 Cl. BA, St. 13	1.20 FTE Spec Ed BFMS	\$98,300 Cl. BA, St. 13 (non pensionable)	02/12/24- 02/29/24	11-213-100-101-00-08-019-000
Lora, Cindy	1.0 FTE Behaviorist Analyst (K-12)/ Coordinator Ridge	No Change in Salary	1.0 FTE Behaviorist Analyst (K-12)/ Coordinator Glen/Willard/ Ridge Revision	No Change in Salary	10/16/23- 06/30/24	11-000-219-104-00-24-019-000
Sutera, Lisa	1.0 FTE Spec Ed Res/Incl BFMS	\$114,187 (\$113,887 + \$300 CP) Cl. MA+30, St. 18	1.20 FTE Spec Ed Res/Incl BFMS	\$136,964 (\$136,664 + \$300 CP) Cl. MA+30, St. 18 (non pensionable)	02/12/24- 02/29/24	11-213-100-101-00-08-019-000
Paraprofessionals						
Hiller, Ari	STEPSS Job Coach Oak	\$30,649	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) certified Ridge	\$29,105	01/29/24- 06/30/24	11-000-217-106-00-04-024-001
Mojica, Jiana	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) non-certified Ridge	\$24,455	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) certified Ridge	\$28,257	10/11/23- 06/30/24	11-000-217-106-00-04-024-001
Singletary, Deanna	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) non-certified Ridge	\$24,455	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) certified Ridge	\$28,257	10/11/23- 06/30/24	11-000-217-106-00-04-024-001

v. Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the resignations for the purpose of retirement, listed below.

Name	Assignment	Location	Years of Service	Effective Date
Teacher				
Higgins, Dana S.	Special Education Inclusion	Ridge	32	07/01/24
Valentine, Christa	First Grade	Willard	32	07/01/24

vi. Resignation

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the resignation, as listed below.

Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date
Lunchroom Aide			
Kacmarcik, Christine	Lunchroom	Somerville	02/12/24

vii. Leave of Absences

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the leave of absences, as listed below.

Name	Assignment	Location	Type of Leave	New/ Revision	Paid	Unpaid w/ Benefits	Unpaid w/out Benefits	Return to Work
Arensmeier, Meredith	Math	BF	Medical/ Family	Revision	01/02/24-03/06/24	03/07/24-06/30/24	N/A	08/28/24
Ayes, Charlotte	Grade 8 Science	BF	Medical/ Family	New	05/28/24-06/21/24	09/01/24-11/30/24	12/1/24-04/30/25	05/01/25
Lauritano, Scott	Paraprofessional	Glen	Family	Revision	11/06/23-03/01/24	N/A	N/A	03/04/24
Nam, Suh Young	School Counselor	Hawes	Medical/ Family	New	04/08/24-05/09/24	05/10/24-10/31/24	11/01/24-01/20/25	01/21/25
Nolan, Amy	ESL	RHS	Family	New	02/06/24-03/01/24	N/A	N/A	03/04/24
Pospischil, Leanne	Spec Ed	Glen	Medical/ Family	New	04/22/24-05/17/24	05/20/24-10/18/24	N/A	10/21/24
Rosado, Jaime	Asst School Business Administrator	Ed Center	Family	New	01/29/24-02/19/24	N/A	N/A	02/20/24
Weiss-Chromeck, Courtney	LTD-C	GW	Medical/ Family	New	05/20/24-06/30/24	08/28/24-11/29/24	12/02/24-01/01/25	01/02/25

viii. Supplemental Pay Beyond Contract

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the supplemental pay beyond contract, as listed below.

viii-a. Biology Midterm Review - January 25, 2024

Name	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	Total	Account #
Luo, Miles	2	\$51.54	\$103.08	11-140-100-101-00-10-010-001

viii-b. Chaperones for the 2023-2024 School Year

Name	Trip/ Activity	Dates	# of Nights per person	# of hours/ Days per person	Hourly Daily Rate per person	Total not to exceed per person	Account #
Ridgewood High School							

Ardese, Lynn McDermott, Michael Mende, Allison Garlasco, Casey Watson, Andrea Wehmeyer, Nicole	DECA, Atlantic City, NJ	03/03/24- 03/06/24	2	N/A	\$200	\$400	
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viii-c. Elementary, Middle School and High School Clubs/Activities for the 2023-2024 School Year

Name	Club	Category	Ratio	Divided by	# of Hours per person	Hourly Rate per person	Pay Per person	Total not to exceed per person	Account #
Somerville Elementary School									
Calandra, Laura	Bingo Night	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.50	\$40.17	N/A	\$140.60	11-401-100-101-00-05-005-001
Willard Elementary School									
Hutchison, Tara	Choir Club Leader	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	\$40.17	N/A	\$803.40	11-401-100-101-00-07-007-001
Diorio, Laura Ong, Jerome	Pickleball	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	\$40.17	N/A	\$602.55	11-401-100-101-00-07-007-001
Benjamin Franklin Middle School									
Wu, Gregory	BF-YMCS Service	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ridgewood High School									
Gigante, Anthony Hiller, Ari	Squad	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	\$27.81	N/A	\$1,390.50	11-401-100-101-00-10-010-001
Kilcullen, Michael	Squad	N/A	N/A	N/A	50	\$40.17	N/A	\$2,008.50	11-401-100-101-00-10-010-001

viii-d. 2023-2024 ESSER Extended Day

Name	Hourly	Account #
Hawes not to exceed \$9,500		
Bodart, Kristen	\$72.77	20-487-100-101-00-22-022-001
Golden, Michelle	\$52.61	20-487-100-101-00-22-022-001

Saltalamacchia, Julianne	\$48.28	20-487-100-101-00-22-022-001
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viii-e. ESY SEL Program - Preparation for Summer

Name	# of per Hours	Hourly Rate	Total	Account #
McAloon, Stephanie	20	\$58.46	\$1,169.20	11-000-216-104-00-24-024-001
Galanti, Megan	20	\$79.94	\$1,598.80	11-000-216-104-00-24-024-001

viii-f. Additional Lunch Time Supervision for the 2023-2024 School Year

Name	# Days per Week each	Hourly Rate each	Account #
Hawes Elementary School			
Caruso, Deborah	5	\$30.24	11-120-100-101-00-02-002-001

viii-g. Additional Hours for Special Education Supporting RHS PREP Program

Name	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	Total	Account #
Giardino, Stacy	15	\$79.92	\$1,198.80	11-000-219-104-00-10-024-001
Murphy, Kristin	15	\$49.34	\$740.10	11-000-219-104-00-10-024-001

viii-h. Information Technology Department Student Workers

Name	# of per Hours	Hourly Rate	Total	Effective Date	Account #
Harellick, Davis	54	\$15.13	\$817.02	02/13/24-06/30/24	11-000-222-110-08-31-031-001
Jesalpura, Aashi	144	\$15.13	\$2,178.72	02/13/24-06/30/24	11-000-222-110-08-31-031-001
Kunzle, Emmet	64	\$15.13	\$968.32	02/13/24-06/30/24	11-000-222-110-08-31-031-001
McAskin, Kevin	64	\$15.13	\$968.32	02/13/24-06/30/24	11-000-222-110-08-31-031-001

viii-i. Ridgewood Community School Employees - Spring 2024 Semesters

Resolved that the list of individuals be approved to work for the Ridgewood Community School for the and Spring 2024 Semesters, as listed on [Attachment G](#) and [Attachment H](#).

viii-j. Safety Care Training - January 26, 2024 and January 31, 2024

Name	# of hours Days	# of Days	Hourly Daily Rate	Total	Account #
Christie, Irene	2	2	\$22.19	\$44.38	11-212-100-106-00-06-024-001
Hirsch, Jonathan	2	2	\$19.25	\$38.50	11-213-100-106-00-06-024-001
Kennedy, Jack	2	2	\$22.19	\$44.38	11-212-100-106-00-06-024-001

Minichini, Gina	2	2	\$50.08	\$100.16	11-000-219-104-00-08-024-001
Taylor, Tuesday	2	2	\$22.19	\$44.38	11-212-100-106-00-06-024-001

viii-k. Secretarial Support Overtime for the 2023-2024 School Year

Name	Location	Hourly Rate	Account #
Barclay, Lindsey	GWMS	\$33.57	11-000-240-105-00-09-009-001
Maurer, Lisa	GWMS	\$38.03	11-000-240-105-00-09-009-001
Thomas-Candrilli, Anna	GWMS	\$33.56	11-000-240-105-00-09-009-001

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Mr. Dani

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

E. FINANCE

i. Acceptance of Restricted Donations:

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the following restricted gifts for the **2023-2024** school year, to be used as indicated.

Donations			
Donor	Amount	Use	Account Number
Somerville Home and School Association	\$3,722.99 (gift in kind)	A gift in kind of furniture for the creation of a Zen Den for Mental Wellness at Somerville Elementary School.	N/A
Ridgewood High School Student Activity Account	\$866.90	To be used to pay for 2 overnight chaperones for the ALPS overnight Dippikill Downhill Trip.	20-033-100-101-00-10-010-001 20-033-200-220-00-010-001 (FICA)
Willard Home and School Association	\$3,572 (gift in kind)	A gift in kind of a Promethean Board for Willard Elementary School.	N/A
Somerville Hawes Dad's Night	\$75,000	To be used to enhance the library at Hawes Elementary School.	20-025-100-XXX-00-02-002-000

George Washington MS Home and School Association	\$580	To be used to purchase books to support the Birthday Book program for the 2023-2024 school year.	20-025-100-610-00-09-009-000
Somerville Home and School Association	\$39,116 (gift in kind)	A gift in kind of 11 Promethean ActivPanel Boards for Somerville Elementary School.	N/A
Jihye & Yanhyo Lee	\$150 (gift in kind)	A gift in kind of an indoor trampoline and a balance beam for the Glen School.	N/A
Somerville Home and School Association and Dad's Night	\$2,920.25 (gift in kind)	A gift in kind of painting the multi-purpose room to create a Zen Den for Mental Wellness at Somerville Elementary School.	N/A
Learning Services Home and School Association (SEPAG)	\$2,500	To be used for enriching special education programs.	20-039-100-XXX-00-24-024-001

ii. Approval: Budget Appropriation Transfers

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves transfers for **December 2023** as shown in the Journal Entry listing pursuant to Policy 6422.

The Board has received background information.

iii. Approval: Secretary's Line Item Certification

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the Report of the Secretary for the month of **December 2023**,

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10(d), the secretary has certified that, as of the date of the report(s), no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certifications and orders that they be attached to and made part of the record of this meeting, and Be it

Further Resolved, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-A10(e), the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the secretary’s monthly financial reports (appropriate section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10(a)(1), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the school year.

The Board has received background information.

iv. Approval: Acceptance of the Board Secretary and Treasurer Report

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of **December 2023**; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above-referenced reports and orders that it be attached to and made part of the official record of this meeting.

The Board has received background information

v. Approval: Disposal of Equipment

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the disposal of equipment for recycling, as listed on [Attachment I](#).

vi. Approval: Regular School Year Out-of-District Placement for the 2023-2024 School Year

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the 2023-2024 regular school year out-of-district placements as listed:

School	# of students
Passaic Valley Regional High School	1
Rockland County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)	2
The Forum School	1
Windsor Bergen Academy	1
Windsor Prep High School	1

vii. Approval: Additional Received Tuition Student from Another School District

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the received tuition students from other school districts that pay tuition for the 2023-2024 school year, as listed below:

Home District	School Attending/Program	# of students
Hillsdale Public Schools	Benjamin Franklin MS	1

viii. Approval: Additional Contracted Vendors to Provide Special Education Services for the 2023-2024 School Year

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves additional contracted therapists as listed below:

Contractor	Service	Schedule	Rates
Debbie Hollender	LDTTC Services	23-24 School Year	\$90/hour

ix. Approval: Implementation of Teachers’ Pension Exchange (TPX) in 403(b) and 457(b) Plans

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of providing comprehensive retirement benefits to the Employer’s staff, ensuring their financial security and well-being beyond their years of service.

WHEREAS, the inclusion of Teacher’s Pension Exchange (TPX) in the 403(b) and 457(b) plans offers significant advantages to staff, enabling them to enhance their retirement savings through tax-deferred contributions.

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges the need for an educational initiative to inform and guide staff about retirement planning, investment options, and the benefits of participating in the 403(b) and 457(b) plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the following measures:

1. Incorporate TPX into 403(b) and 457(b) Plans: This enables staff to optimize retirement savings through tax-advantaged contributions.
2. Retirement Education Initiative: Implement a program providing retirement planning workshops, educational materials, and one-on-one consultations to help staff make informed decisions about their retirement.
3. Enrollment Support: Provide assistance for staff navigating enrollment in the retirement plans through online platforms and on-site sessions.

x. Acceptance: SLCGP 2023 Cybersecurity Grant from the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP)

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the SLCGP 2023 Cybersecurity Grant. The NJOHSP will provide the District with an annual Local Entity Cost Share beginning January 2025 through 2028 as listed below:

Coverage Year	# Endpoints Requested	Cost per Endpoint	State Share per Endpoint	State Share Subtotal	Local Entity Cost Share per Endpoint	Local Entity Cost Share Subtotal
Year 1	1000	\$57	\$57	\$57,000	\$0	\$0

Year 2	1000	\$57	\$45.60	\$45,600	\$11.40	\$11,400
Year 3	1000	\$57	\$39.90	\$39,900	\$17.10	\$17,100
Year 4	1000	\$57	\$34.20	\$34,200	\$22.80	\$22,800
Totals	1000	\$228	\$176.70	\$176,700	\$51.30	\$51,300

xi. Approval: Additional Received Tuition Students Paid by Parents for 2023-2024

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following additional received tuition students for the 2023-2024 school year listed below. Tuition will be paid by the parents.

- 1 student attending Ridgewood High School
- 1 student attending Orchard Elementary School

⇒ **MOTION to Move Items i. through xi., except item ix.**

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Ms. Micale

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

Ms. Brogan read the donations into record and thanked the responsible parties.

Ms. Murphy explained that item *ix. Implementation of Teachers’ Pension Exchange (TPX) in 403(b) and 457(b) Plans*, is the request for approval to add this additional vendor to the list of already approved vendors, this resolution does not affect the terms and conditions of the Teachers’ pension and/or terms of employment. It is an optional benefit that is open to all staff.

⇒ **MOTION to Move Item ix.**

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Mr. Dani

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

IX. RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval: Corrective Action Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Corrective Action Plan addressing the Audit recommendation for the 2022-2023 school year.

A ACFR/AMR (1) Finding #	B Finding (Condition 1)	C Recommendation (1)	D Method of Implementation (2)	E Person Responsible for Implementation	F Implementation Date
2023-1	A detailed payroll deduction ledger was not maintained by the District.	A detailed payroll ledger by deduction type be implemented and maintained	A detailed payroll ledger by deduction type will accompany the bank	School Business Administrator Assistant School Business Administrator	No later than June 30, 2024

		by the District.	reconciliation of the Payroll Agency account.	Budget, Accounting, & Reporting Specialist Payroll Manager	
2023-2 (ACFR 2023-001)	Debt Service Fund taxes levied 2022/23 included principal and interest for the ESIP bonds which are budgeted and paid in the General Fund.	The Debt Service Fund budget includes only appropriations for principal and interest for the District's long-term debt related to the 2011 and 2016 refunding bonds.	The principal and interest for the ESIP bonds will be encumbered and paid out through a purchase order separate from the 2011 and 2016 refunding bonds.	School Business Administrator Assistant School Business Administrator Budget, Accounting, & Reporting Specialist	No later than June 30, 2024
2023-3 (ACFR 2023-002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts/purchases of athletic supplies, fencing and food service supplies and equipment were not approved in the minutes. One (1) vendor paid in excess of the bid threshold for electrical services was not bid or awarded by a contract by the state of approved cooperative purchasing agreement. State contract and cooperative purchasing supporting pricing detail was not available to support amounts included on vendor invoices for furniture, athletic supplies, fencing, food service supplies and equipment and radios. Proof of advertisements was not available for three (3) professional service contracts awarded and the bid advertisement for the RHS food lab renovation. Four (4) Political Disclosure Forms were not available for vendors paid in excess of \$17,500. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts/purchases in excess of the bid threshold be approved in the board minutes. Where required, vendors paid in excess of the bid threshold be formally bid or awarded through an approved state contract or cooperative purchasing agreement. Amounts paid through State contract and cooperative purchasing agreements be verified to State contract and cooperative purchasing documentation. Professional service contract awards be advertised and Political Disclosure Forms be obtained and available for audit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly vendor encumbrance and expenditure reports will be reviewed to ensure that the necessary approvals and procurement forms have been approved or obtained. Supporting documentation that verifies the amounts to be paid through purchase orders utilizing a State contract or cooperative will be maintained with each purchase order. The Business Office will annually develop a purchasing strategy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-9. 	School Business Administrator Assistant School Business Administrator Budget, Accounting, & Reporting Specialist	No later than June 30, 2024
2023-4	<p>Hawes, Somerville, George Washington, and Travell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank reconciliations included prior year reconciling items. <p>Athletic Account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a deficit cash balance of \$5,443 at June 30, 2023. Bank reconciliation included numerous prior year reconciling items. Pre-numbered receipts were not utilized. 	Continued efforts be made in the student body activity accounts to properly record and account for all related transactions.	Training will be given to staff that serve as the custodian of funds for study body activities and athletic accounts will be given by the Business Office.	School Business Administrator Assistant School Business Administrator Budget, Accounting, & Reporting Specialist	No later than June 30, 2024
2023-5	Fees charged to students for extracurricular services were not formally approved by the Board.	All fees charged to students for extracurricular services be formally approved by the Board.	Fees charged to students for the participation in extracurricular activities will be approved by the Board of Education prior to the start of these activities.	School Business Administrator Assistant School Business Administrator Budget, Accounting, & Reporting Specialist	No later than June 30, 2024
2023-6	Three (3) checks issued were made payable to "cash" from the student body activities.	Issuance of checks made payable to cash be reviewed and discontinued.	Training will of staff that serve as the custodian of funds for study body activities will be given by the Business Office.	School Business Administrator Assistant School Business Administrator Budget, Accounting, & Reporting Specialist	No later than June 30, 2024
2023-7	The capital asset inventory report was not updated to reflect certain asset deletions as approved in the District minutes. In addition, copiers removed from the District inventory in prior years continue to be included in the inventory report.	Capital asset inventory report be reviewed and any assets no longer in service be deleted from the capital asset inventory.	Board minutes authorizing the disposal of capital assets will be reviewed and disposals will be recorded in the capital asset inventory.	School Business Administrator Assistant School Business Administrator Budget, Accounting, & Reporting Specialist	No later than June 30, 2024

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan
ROLL CALL

SECOND by: Ms. Micale

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

B. Award of Bid for Architect of Record

RESOLVED that the Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2023, the Ridgewood Board of Education advertised for proposals for an Architect of Record; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2023, the Ridgewood Board of Education received ten (10) competitive bids from architectural firms; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2024, submitted proposals were independently evaluated by a three-person Evaluation Committee based upon published weighted criteria, including: qualifications, management, and cost; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2024 and February 1, 2024, the top three scoring architectural firms made presentations and were interviewed by a four-person Evaluation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the on February 1, 2024, the Evaluation Committee scored respondents based upon published weighted criteria, including: qualifications, management, and cost; and

WHEREAS, Gianforcaro Architects, Engineers & Planners, 555 East Main Street, Chester, New Jersey, 07930, received the highest weighted score, and the Evaluation Committee believes their services are most advantageous to the district, price and other factors considered; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ridgewood Board of Education awards the Architect of Record contract to Gianforcaro Architects, Engineers & Planners; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ridgewood Board of Education hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to enter into such agreements as maybe necessary to effectuate the above.

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Mr. Dani

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

C. Approval: Agreement with JCW, Inc. d/b/a Sportcare SFM

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the agreement with JCW, Inc., d/b/a Sportcare Synthetic Field Maintenance (SFM), under the ESCNJ Cooperative contract number 22/23-37 for synthetic turf maintenance, repair, and replacement services.

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Ms. Micale

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

X. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the payment of bills as listed below and reviewed by Ms. Kwak.

DATES	DESCRIPTION	CHECK NUMBER	AMOUNTS
Jan 18	Columbia Bank On-Line	112714	153.16
Jan 19	Columbia Bank On-Line	112716-112716	445.19
Jan 29	Columbia Bank On-Line	112717-112722	67,641.74
Feb 1	Columbia Bank On-Line	112723	6,500.00
Feb 12	Columbia Bank On-Line	112724-112859	2,385,246.23
Dec 15	Electronic Transfer	H47347	1,273,453.18
Jan 15	Electronic Transfer	H47348	1,374,471.70
Jan 29	Electronic Transfer	L47368	6,793.00
Feb 12	Food Service	620454	428,762.11
Jan 19	Void Check	111957	(151.20)
Jan 19	Void Check	112199	(293.99)
Feb 1	Void Check	111541	(4,653.97)
Feb 1	Void Check	112293	(200.00)
TOTAL			5,538,167.15

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Ms. Micale

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

XI. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Brogan announced:
 - Congratulated the AAPI Association and Ms. Kwak for hosting the Lunar New Year Celebration.
 - RHS student artbeat exhibit is open to the public from 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday at The Stable.
 - Ryan Shintani, sophomore at RHS co-authored an article for Psychology Today about the importance of teen sleep.
 - 13 students from the Applied Engineering Club are participating in the NJ Steam Challenge.
 - Federated is hosting the Wizards game on February 25.
 - RHS is hosting the annual college night on March 19.
 - The annual Asian Fest is scheduled on March 1 for students and March 2 for the community.
 - Congratulations to the producers, staff and sponsors for a successful Jamboree

show which raised more than \$244,000 for scholarships.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) to view the Board Member announcements starting at 02:55:09)

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ms. Micale provided a SEPAG liaison report:
 - Encouraged everyone in the community to view the offerings of Unified Ridgewood.
 - The next sensory friendly dinner will be held on February 27 at Puzzo's.
 - Sensory friendly events are being expanded to the Arts..
 - Science night, in anticipation of Super Science Saturday will be held on February 15.
 - A sensory friendly wizards event will take place on Friday February 23, students from the STEPS program will be hosting a concession stand. All proceeds go toward Unified Ridgewood.
 - Statewide week of inclusion starts February 26 through March 1.
- Ms. Micale provided a Curriculum Committee report:
 - Ms. Onembo and the faculty are in the process of analyzing the outcomes of the math sequencing and reviewing plans for the math curriculum.
 - Dr. Mathews reviewed a multi-year plan for bolstering the science of reading.
- Ms. Brogan provided a Facilities Committee report:
 - The committee met on February 5 and discussed the fields, some of the outcomes of the discussion were reviewed by Dr. Schwarz.
 - Arrangements and timelines with Aramark the Maintenance Management Services were reviewed.
 - Status of selecting an architect firm has been completed tonight
 - Pending facility projects will be discussed as they move forward
 - Recommended resurrecting JRC (Joint Review Committee) which meets monthly with the Aramark and landscaping companies.
 - The State has awarded the district \$132,896 for emergent capital maintenance needs incurred during this fiscal year.
- Ms. Brogan provided a Safety Committee Report:
 - The Village will be funding the sidewalks on Glen and discussing Clinton Avenue.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) to view the Board Committee Reports starting at 03:00:16).

XIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Revised/Abolished Policies as listed below:

Revised:

- [Policy 8500 Food Services](#)

Abolished:

- [Policy 8540 School Nutrition Program](#)
- [Policy 8550 Outstanding Food Service Charges](#)

- There was no discussion on the Revised/Abolished Policies.

B. Approval: 2024 Board Goals

The Ridgewood Board of Education approves and will strive to meet the 2024 Board Goals as listed below:

- Re-establish the annual school board election starting with the November 2024 election.
- Work closely with the superintendent to develop the 2024-25 school budget that meets the needs of our students and the district and is mindful of the property tax impact. In the budget development process consideration should be given to piloting an intramural sports program.
- Prioritize investigating and identifying a flood mitigation solution for our sports fields ensuring collaboration between the district and the Village.

MOTION by: Ms. Micale **SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan

NAYS: none

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) to view the Discussion Items starting at 03:13:36).

XIV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- January 8, 2024 Reorganization/Regular Public Meeting
- January 22, 2024 Executive Session Minutes
- January 22, 2024 Regular Public Meeting
- February 6, 2024 Special Public Meeting
- February 6, 2024 Executive Session Meeting

⇒ MOTION to Move January 8 Reorganization/Regular Public and January 22 Regular Public Meeting

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Ms. Micale

VOICE VOTE:

Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale, Ms. Brogan - ALL AYES

- January 22 Executive Session Minutes, February 6 Special Public Meeting, and Executive Session Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

XVI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Matthew Gianforcaro, representing Gianforcaro Architects and Engineers, thanked the board for approving the firm as the Architect of Record.
- Meghann Bierly, thanked the Administration for their presentations and the work they are doing. Reviewed the discussion regarding the NJTSS model.
- Anand Hegedy, Questioned if tonight's field presentation is available to the public. Asked if the parents can do a fundraiser to raise the money for the deductible to clean the fields instead of using Distinct funds.. Asked if the full time job as director of communications is necessary, he thinks it may need to be reconsidered to cut the budget.
- Laura McKenna, provided positive feedback on tonight's presentation and provided thoughts on the question regarding how the district may/may not be able to measure the effects of the professional development to move from the teachers college method to the Science Reading. Endorsed Natalie Wexler's method of increasing knowledge of core facts.

Dr. Schwarz responded and clarified questions made during the public comments:

- Confirmed that the district appointed an architect of record and they will be working together to study long term field solutions
- Tonight's field presentation can be found on the district YouTube Channel and is posted on the district website
- The deductible for the cleaning of the fields is the responsibility of the district and not paid as a result of fundraising efforts.
- A Communications Director will be hired by the Village and will not be employed by the Ridgewood School District. The school district has a communications officer.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 2/12/2024](#) to view the comments from the public starting at 03:17:03.)

XVII. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

N/A

XVIII. RECONVENED PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

XX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Ms. Brogan **SECOND** by: Ms. Micale

VOICE VOTE:

Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Ms. Micale - *ALL AYES*

- **The Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaime Cangialosi-Murphy
Director of Human Resources

