



# RIDGEWOOD

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **A STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE COMPLAINT FILED JANUARY 18, 2019 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, BERGEN COUNTY LAW DIVISION**

In July 2018, the Ridgewood Village Council adopted a resolution moving the annual school board elections from November to April. On April 16, 2019 Ridgewood voters will have the opportunity to vote on the annual school budget. The Board of Education is seeking clarification on the effect this change has on board member terms.

Board members are elected for three-year terms. Currently, all sitting board members were elected in November elections, those terms expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the third year of their term. With the change to April elections it unclear when current board member terms expire.

The Superintendent of Ridgewood Public Schools, on behalf of the Ridgewood Board of Education has filed a Verified Complaint against the County of Bergen and the New Jersey Commissioner of Education seeking clarification of the terms of all sitting board members. The Superintendent has filed the complaint because there are two differing points of view on board member terms. The opinion by the courts is that the term of a member of the Board of Education cannot be shortened. A response from a Bergen County official opined that those terms can be shortened. Our goal in filing this complaint with the court is to have a response that will allow us to proceed according to law.

It is expected that a decision will be made well in advance of the February 25, 2019 filing deadline for the April 2019 elections.

Any questions regarding this action should be addressed to the Superintendent and Board of Education.