

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:03 p.m.

**Present:** Mr. Michael Lembo, President, Ms. Hyunju Kwak, Vice President, Mr. Saurabh Dani, Mr. Christopher Kaufman

**Also Present:** Dr. Thomas Gorman, Superintendent, Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Scott Bisig, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Ms. Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources;

**Absent:** Ms. Brogan arrived at 5:07 p.m.

**I. Motion to go Into Executive Session**

Mr. Lembo moved that the Board go into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m., for the purpose of conducting Personal concerns, Legal Cases & Negotiations. Mr. Lembo stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Mr. Dani, Ms. Kwak, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Lembo

Absent: Ms. Brogan (Arrived at 5:07 p.m.)

NAYS: None

**II. Board Discussed Two Special Education Cases that are ongoing**

██████ has moved from their residence in January 2021. The family does acknowledge that all information was received from the district. The family is unsure if they will be returning next year for school within the district. The Board of Education will send out the tuition per pupil cost for the family accordingly for the past seven months. Send notices through all proper mail derivable avenues.

**III. Board Discussed Negotiations With REA**

The district attorney reviewed the REA contract that will be for three (3) years. The pending three-year county well below the county average for three-year span once it's ratified. The contract pay raise is 3.06% for each of the three (3) years inclusive of increment. This is the first contract is completed before it expired in last eighteen (18) years. The ratification should be concluded by the end of May 2021. Ms. Kwak wanted further explanation on the decreased increments through the new guides.

**IV. Board Discussed the ITDC Program**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**V. Ongoing Attorney Cases & Orchard School Remediation**

Mr. Merlino spoke to the board about his legal case fee that has not been paid, and the Orchard School remediation project in which an agreement has been met that has saved the district nearly \$4,400.00 in the final cost reductions to split the payment between Tricon & Soil Managers accordingly. Pending official Board approval of payment; the Board agrees to make payment as soon as possible due to the time constraints with the lien on the property by Soil Managers. Both contractors will be issued separate payment amounts to ensure the close out the contract. The following payments will be made: (1) Soil Managers \$19,219.75, (2) Tricon in the amount \$14,461.31 with a combined total of \$33,681.06. This will be post ratified by the Board of Education at the public on May 10, 2021.

Mr. Merlino reviewed the outstanding bills that were part of the deductibles within the insurance company coverages. The insurance company made the change based on the case break out claim moving forward, this decision was based on the insurance companies review that the cases were separate.

**VI. Adjournment**

At 6:59 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Lembo, seconded by Mr. Kaufman and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Scott J. Bisig, M.Ed.*

Scott T. Bisig, M.Ed.  
Board Secretary