



# RIDGEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes  
November 20, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of the Ridgewood Board of Education held on November 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm, at the Education Center.

## I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 7:02 p.m. Ms. Kwak called the meeting to order with a roll call.

### **Present:**

Ms. HyunJu Kwak, Vice President  
Ms. Sheila Brogan  
Mr. Saurabh Dani  
Mr. Muhammad Mahmoud

### **Absent:**

Mr. Michael Lembo, President

### **Also Present:**

Dr. Mark Schwarz, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Julie Kot, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Mr. Richard Freedman, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction  
Ms. Jaime Murphy, Director of Human Resources

**Visitors:** Approximately 10 community members were present in-person and/or virtually.

## II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Kwak led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

## III. OPENING STATEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER

Ms. Kwak announced that pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), advance notice of this meeting had been given to The Ridgewood News, 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. Student Representative Report

- Archie Gudi, Scarlet Kabak, Arohi Koirala, Mia McNeil, Isaac Reynolds, Leah Song, Filipe Loureiro, Isaac Reynolds, Mehlika Senel, Lucy Solway, Benjamin Franklin Middle School
- Students from Benjamin Franklin Middle School presented BFBN - "This is what it means to be BF".

(View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023 at 00:14:28.](#))

**B. 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 11/20/2023 at 00:27:17.](#))

**V. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- Laurie Weber, thanked the administration for the quick response regarding allowing the audience in the boardroom and correcting the meeting minutes on the website. She inquired about the creation of Board Committees and voiced her concern about the use of non-profit groups sending out Board candidate campaign emails.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023](#) to view the full public comments starting at 00:32:54.)

**VI. PRESENTATIONS****A. ~~College Admissions~~**

➤ ~~Jeff Nyhuis, Principal Ridgewood High School~~

➤ ~~David Bailey, Assistant Principal Ridgewood High School~~

- *The presentation was postponed and will be made at a future Board Meeting.*

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Dr. Schwarz thanked everyone who ran for the Board Elections.
- The audit process is moving forward and a preliminary audit report is expected in December.
- The administration is auditing and examining a variety of district operating procedures and ensuring we have good quality controls.
- The Superintendent Coffee included a review of the NJSLA scores.
- Dr. Schwarz served as a panelist for the Garden State Coalition of Schools and discussed good practices surrounding NJSLA scores.
- Dr. Schwarz attended a meeting with the Village and Army Corps of Engineers regarding future mitigation of field flooding.
- Dr. Schwarz thanked the League of Women Voters for inviting him to attend their meeting this week.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023](#) to view the full Superintendent report starting at 00:37:51.)

**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. Kwak

**SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

**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: School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance**

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the School Safety and Safety Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance.

The Board has received background information.

**MOTION** by: Ms. Kwak

**SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

**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 on **Attachment B**.

**MOTION** by: Ms. Kwak

**SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

**D. HUMAN RESOURCES**

**i. 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.

**i-a. 2023-2024 School Year - Appointments**

Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date	NJDOE Certificate	Salary	Account #
<b>Teacher</b>						
Pira, Carolyn	Special Education MD	Ridge	01/22/24-06/30/24	Standard Teacher of Students with Disabilities Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6	\$83,517 Cl. MA, St. 9	11-212-100-101-00-04-019-000

**i-b. Paraprofessionals for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Name	Assignment	Location	Hours per day	Days per week	Salary	Effective Date	Account #
Bame, Monika	Spec Ed LLD	GWMS	5.75	5	\$21,215	11/14/23-06/30/24 revision	11-204-100-106-00-09-009-001
Christie, Demetria	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA)	Ridge	5.75	5	\$24,455	11/14/23-06/30/24 revision	11-212-100-106-00-04-004-001
Fronefield, Joshua	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA)	Ridge	5.75	5	\$24,455	11/21/23-06/30/24	11-212-100-106-00-04-004-001

**i-c. Infant/Toddler Development Center**

Name	Assignment	Hours per day	Days per week	Hourly Rate	Effective Date	Account #
Eliopoulos, Amalia*	Teacher Assistant - Step 1	8	5	\$16.00	11/21/23-06/30/24	62-990-100-106-00-62-060-001
Zivec, Jayna	Aide (High School)	3	5	\$14.13	11/21/23-06/30/24	62-990-100-106-00-62-060-001

**i-d. Additional: Home Instructor, on an as-needed basis, for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Name	Assignment	Location	Hourly Rate	Account #
Dawson, Ryan	Business/Math	RHS	\$59.36	11-140-100-101-00-10-010-001

**i-e. Volunteer - Travell Elementary School - Classroom Assistance**

- Angelosante, Carolyn

**i-f. Additional: 2023 Winter Coaching Assignments****Assistant Wrestling**

- Franklin, Robert, Step 1, Ratio 0.055, Total Stipend \$5,289.

Account #11-402-100-101-00-10-034-001

**i-g. 2023 Winter Volunteer Coaches**

Boys Basketball	
Aday, Douglas	DelBuono, Joseph
Beyer, James	Kirtane, Anirudh
Crew Club	
Luna, Cassandra	Tedeschi, Lauren
Girls Basketball	
Gallagher, Kailey	Roth, Al
Wrestling	
Delucca, Shane	Gibbs, Brian
Germany, John	Uzoaru, Raymond
Winter Track	
Wohner, John	Opremcak, Steve
Ice Hockey	
Aynilian, Thomas	Carlough, Glenn
Basile, Joseph	Sbarro, Michael

**i-h. Substitutes for the 2023-2024 School Year**

**Teacher**

Taylor, Bridget  
**\$160 Daily Rate**

**Nurse**

Ziobro, Christine  
**\$200 Daily Rate**

\*Related to staff member

**ii. 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						
Bunzey, Craig	1.0 FTE Physical	\$119,107 (\$117,207)	1.20 FTE Physical	\$142,548 (\$140,648 + \$300 CP + \$1,600)	11/13/23-02/02/24	11-140-100-101-06-10-019-000

	Education RHS	+ \$300 CP + \$1,600 longevity) Cl. MA+45, St. 18	Education RHS	longevity) Cl. MA+45, St. 18 (non pensionable)	<b>revision</b>	
Lauro, Livia	1.0 FTE Physical Education RHS	\$103,267 Cl. MA, St. 17	1.20 FTE Physical Education RHS	\$123,920 Cl. MA, St. 17 (non pensionable)	11/13/23-02/02/24 <b>revision</b>	11-140-100-101-06-10-019-000
Mende, Allison	1.0 FTE Physical Education RHS	\$79,217 (\$78,917 + \$300 CP) Cl. MA, St. 7	1.20 FTE Physical Education RHS	\$95,000 (\$94,700 + \$300 CP) Cl. MA, St. 7 (non pensionable)	11/13/23-02/02/24 <b>revision</b>	11-140-100-101-06-10-019-000
Rehain, Kelsey	1.0 FTE Physical Education RHS	\$65,317 Cl. BA, St. 2	1.20 FTE Physical Education RHS	\$78,380 Cl. BA, St. 2 (non pensionable)	11/13/23-02/02/24 <b>revision</b>	11-140-100-101-06-10-019-000
<b>Secretary</b>						
Simpson, Victoria	Assistant Payroll Accountant Ed Center	\$67,001 (\$64,424 + \$2,577 longevity) Cl. AA12, St. 12	Lead Secretary to Business Office Ed Center	No Change in Salary	11/06/23-06/30/24	11-000-251-105-00-40-019-000
<b>Paraprofessional</b>						
Viole, Teresa	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) Non-Certified RHS	\$24,455	Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) Certified RHS	\$28,257	11/07/23-06/30/24	11-000-217-106-00-10-024-001

**iii. 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
<b>Teacher</b>			
Bray, Natalie	Family and Consumer Science	RHS	01/15/24
Donovan, Jennifer	Special Education	RHS	01/08/24
Murtha, Timothy	Business Education	RHS	01/12/24
Wottring, Elyssa	LOA PE/Health	RHS	11/08/23
<b>Paraprofessional</b>			
Bompali, Pramodha	Applied Behavior Analyst	Ridge	11/27/23

**iv. Leave of Absence**

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

Name	Assignment	Location	Type of Leave	New/ Revision	Paid	Unpaid w/ Benefits	Unpaid w/out Benefits	Return to Work
Lauritano, Scott	Paraprofessional	Glen	Family	New	11/06/23-02/02/24	N/A	N/A	02/05/24

**v. 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.

**v-a. Administrative Support Overtime for the 2023-2024 School Year**

- **Kowalczyk, Patricia**, at an hourly rate of \$39.88, as needed.
- **Moyer, Pamela**, at an hourly rate of \$34.42, as needed.

Account #11-000-219-105-00-24-024-001

**v-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 #
<b>George Washington Middle School</b>							
King, Janelle Monahan, Timothy Romano, Odalys	Italy Orchestra	11/4/23- 11/12/2023	8	N/A	\$200	\$1,600	11-401-100-101-00-10-010-001
Wong, Emily <b>Substitute Nurse</b>	Italy Orchestra	11/4/23- 11/12/2023	8 nights	N/A	\$200	\$1,600	11-401-100-101-00-10-010-001
			9 days	N/A	\$200	\$1,800	
<b>Ridgewood High School</b>							
Ballas, Alexander <b>additional</b>	ALPS 2023-2024 School Year Field Trips:			N/A	\$200		11-401-100-101-00-10-010-001
	Harriman Backpacking	11/09/23- 11/11/23	2			\$400	
	Dippikill Downhill	01/05/24- 01/07/24	2			\$400	
	X-Country Skiing	02/02/24- 02/04/24	2			\$400	
	Whitewater Rafting	05/17/24- 05/19/24	2			\$400	

	Adirondacks Training Seminar	06/20/24-06/24/24	4			\$800	
--	------------------------------	-------------------	---	--	--	-------	--

**v-c. Clock Operator - Winter Sports at RHS**

Name	Each Per Game	Account #
Currier, Robert Lauro, Livia Lug, Raymond Mandel, Aaron McNamee, Richard Moscarella, Kenneth Murtha, Timothy Quirk, Brian Reilly, Christopher Schick, Casey Watson, Andrea	\$50	11-402-100-104-00-10-034-001

**v-d. Crowd Control- Winter Sports at RHS**

Name	Each Hourly Rate	Each # of Hours	Account #
Appel, Charles Bunzey, Craig Kay, Peter Knott, Ronald Lauro, Livia McDermott, Michael Quirk, Brian Reilly, Nancy Watson, Andrea	\$40.17	50	11-402-100-104-00-10-034-001

**v-e. Additional: Coverage for Special Education Vacancies**

Name	Assignment Location	Salary	Per Diem Increase Per Day	Effective Date	Account #
<b>Teachers</b>					
Chua, Kelly	LDT-C Hawes	\$88,727 Cl. MA+45, St. 8	\$88.73	09/11/23-12/22/23 <b>revision</b>	11-000-219-104-00-06-019-000
Fink, Susan	Social Worker Hawes	\$113,887 Cl. MA+30, St.18	\$113.89	09/11/23-12/22/23 <b>revision</b>	11-000-219-104-00-02-019-000
Gorman, Brandi	Spec Ed LLD Hawes	\$92,117 Cl. MA, St. 14	\$92.12	09/11/23-12/22/23 <b>revision</b>	11-204-100-101-00-02-019-000
Maneri, Jessica	School Psychologist	\$82,727 Cl. MA+45, St. 5	\$82.73	09/11/23-12/22/23 <b>revision</b>	11-000-219-104-00-02-019-000 11-000-219-104-00-06-019-000

**v-f. Lunch Time Supervision for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Name	# Days	Hourly Rate each	Account #
------	--------	------------------	-----------



	per Week each		
<b>Hawes Elementary School</b>			
Burgos, Lauren	5	\$25.90	11-120-100-101-00-02-002-001
Trubac, Thomas	5	\$25.90	11-120-100-101-00-02-002-001
<b>Orchard Elementary School</b>			
Chicas, Christina <b>revision</b>	5	\$25.90	11-120-100-101-00-03-003-001
Moran, Kathleen	5	\$25.90 <b>revision</b>	11-120-100-101-00-03-003-001
<b>Somerville Elementary School</b>			
Zahn, Ashley	5	\$25.90 <b>revision</b>	11-120-100-101-00-05-005-001
<b>Ridgewood High School</b>			
Ardese, Lynn	5	\$25.90 <b>revision</b>	11-120-100-101-00-10-010-001
Nuzzo, Laura	5	\$25.90 <b>revision</b>	11-120-100-101-00-10-010-001
Wehmeyer, Nicole	5	\$25.90 <b>revision</b>	11-120-100-101-00-10-010-001

**v-g. Reviewing Student Medication Orders for Overnight Night Field Trip to Italy**

- **Wong, Emily**, not to exceed 1 hour, at an hourly rate of \$26.67.

Account #11-000-213-104-00-10-010-001

**v-h. One-to-One Support for Special Education Student Attending After School Club**

Name	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	Total	Account #
Haworth, Anna	3	\$19.83	\$59.49	11-213-100-106-00-05-024-001

**v-i. Safety Care Training - September 5, 2023, October 3, 2023, October 9, 2023, and October 11, 2023**

Name	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	Total	Account #
Amaral, Carla	3	\$27.81	\$83.43	11-000-217-106-00-24-024-001

**v-j. Translator**

- **Cuellar, Angelica**, not to exceed 1 hour, at an hourly rate of \$55.69.

Account #11-140-100-101-00-10-010-001

**MOTION** by: Ms. Brogan

**SECOND** by: Ms. Kwak

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

**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.

<b>Donations</b>			
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Account Number</b>
Fidelity Charitable (Marc and Kylie Kline)	\$5,000	To be used to purchase playground equipment for the Glen School.	20-009-100-732-00-01-001-001
Somerville Children's Theatre	\$5,000 (gift in kind)	A gift in kind of a spotlight to be used for all assemblies, performances and children's theater.	N/A
Karen Mendez	\$164.95 (gift in kind)	A gift in kind of a pizza oven to be used by the Ridgewood High School Maroon Mart.	N/A
Schwab Charitable (Stephen & Georgina Jones)	\$2,500	To be used to enhance the Carole G. Jones Science education center at Ridgewood High School.	20-007-100-610-00-10-010-005

**ii. 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 **September 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.

**iii. Approval: Budget Appropriation Transfers**

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

The Board has received background information.

**iv. 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 **September 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.

**v. Approval of an Additional Transportation Contract for the 2023-2024 School Year**

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

Route #	Contractor	Total Contract Amount	Annual Cost
9063	parent	\$2,280	Based on actual # of days driven one way

**vi. Approval of Agreement SE#1/2023-2024**

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Agreement SE#1/2023-2024 between the parents of student #904635 and the Ridgewood Board of Education

The Board has received background information.

**vii. Approve Disposal of Assets**

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of

Schools, approves the disposal of the following items:

Currently located at Travell Elementary School

- 5 rectangular tables
- 1 bookcase
- 2 wooden chairs
- 1 round table
- 2 small filing cabinets
- 29 student chairs
- 29 student desks
- 1 folding chair
- 1 teacher's desk

Currently located at Orchard Elementary School

- 1 rectangular table

Currently located at Hawes Elementary School

- 1 balance beam

**viii. Approval of Agreement Extension with Summit Management Solutions, LLC**

The Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the agreement extension with Summit Management Solutions, LLC for Business Office Consulting services through April 30, 2024, in the amount of \$140 per hour as needed, not to exceed \$50,000.

The Board has received background information

**ix. Authorization for Payment of Bills Between Board Meetings**

RESOLVED, that the Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the School Business Administrator to audit, approve and direct pre-payment of claims prior to presentation to the Board for Debt Service, Payroll, fixed charges and any other claim or demand which would be in the best interest of the Board to pay promptly. Any such approval shall be presented to the Board for ratification at their next regular meeting as per N.J.S.A.18A:19-4.1. Such authority is granted from November 16, 2023 through and including January 8, 2024.

**x. Authorization for RFP/Competitive Contracting for Tutoring Services**

RESOLVED, that the Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby authorizes the use of the RFP/Competitive Contracting process in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-4.1 et seq., to procure High Impact Tutoring Services. The technical specifications and evaluation criteria will be prepared by the Assistant Superintendent and Coordinator of Grants and Standardized Testing. The RFP/Competitive Contracting process will be administered by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary/Qualified Purchasing Agent.

**xi. Authorization for Request for Proposals of Architectural Services**

RESOLVED, that the Ridgewood Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby authorizes a Request for Proposals to procure Board Architect of Records Services. The technical specifications, evaluation criteria, and the RFP process will

be administered by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary/Qualified Purchasing Agent.

**MOTION** by: Ms. Kwak

**SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

- Ms. Kwak read the donations into the record and thanked the responsible parties.
- Ms. Kwak highlighted the authorization to go to an RFP to procure high impact tutoring services, this was as a result of a grant that was awarded to the district.

**IX. RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that student bearing identification number 908425 (the “Student”) be found ineligible to receive a free public education in the Ridgewood Public Schools (the “District”); and

**WHEREAS**, the District has determined that the Student does not reside within the Village of Ridgewood and is not otherwise entitled to a free public education provided by the Ridgewood Public Schools Board of Education (the “Board”); and

**WHEREAS**, on October 16, 2023 the Board conducted a formal hearing at the District pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(b)(2) at which the Parent presented evidence to the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2023 the Board held a formal vote regarding the Student’s eligibility for a free public education in the District;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby finds the Student does not reside within the Village of Ridgewood;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby finds that the Student is ineligible to receive a free public education as of January 2, 2023 in the Ridgewood Public Schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:22, based on residency requirements.

**MOTION** by: Ms. Kwak

**SECOND** by: Mr. Dani

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

**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
Nov 20	Columbia Bank On-Line	111965-112088	686,316.02
Nov 20	Columbia Bank On-Line	112089-112090	3,746.74
Nov 13	Electronic Transfers	H46506	1,265,104.01
Nov 20	Columbia Bank On-Line Unemployment	821129	37,853.39
Nov 20	Food Service	620449	278,619.09
Nov 13	Void Check	111836	(125.00)
TOTAL			2,271,514.25

**MOTION** by: Ms. Kwak

**SECOND** by: Mr. Dani

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

**XI. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ms. Brogan announced that she attended the Maroon and White performance last week and provided a copy of an article to the Board Trustees about the pros and cons of exit exams for students.
- Mr. Dani announced there were a good number of candidates who participated in the elections and congratulated Ms. Micale.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023](#) to view the Board Member announcements starting at 00:49:06.)

**XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Ms. Brogan reported the Policy Committee meeting updates:
  - Dr. Schwarz introduced Trello, a software that allows the easy tracking of policies.
  - Reviewed updates from Strauss Esmay, some policies were marked to be abolished.
  - 5 policies were moved forward for discussion.
  - 3 policies will be further review by the administrative team:
    - P5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
    - P3324 - Right to Privacy
    - P8500 - Food Services
- Ms. Brogan and Mr. Dani reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting updates:

- There is positive feedback on the World Language program at the Elementary Schools.
  - Ridgewood High School is looking at offering a unified, elective path program for special needs students.
  - AP African American Studies will be added either next year or the following year, based upon enrollment and further guidance from State guidelines.
  - Receiving requests for a new course called Real Estate Dynamics.
  - The American Sign Language course is in its second year and is very popular.
  - New Courses at the High School were reviewed.
  - IXL Agreement is being reviewed for the Middle School Science program.
  - 2025-26 school year an AP Seminar for English will be offered through the RAP program.
  - A reintroduction of 8th grade math will occur.
- Ms. Kwak reported the Finance Committee meeting updates:
    - Per N.J.S.A 18A:18A-4.1, the resolution was added to the agenda for the Business Administrator to approve bills between Board meetings.
    - Audit is on track for the fiscal year June 2023. A presentation will take place in January/February when it is completed.
    - The Business office is reviewing all revenue operations including an RFP for Pomptonian and the Community School.
  - Ms. Kwak reported the Fields Committee meeting updates:
    - Discussion occurred regarding Master Library and the need for the sports organizations to enter their schedules for field use.
  - Mr. Dani reported the Facilities Committee meeting updates:
    - All schools, except the Glen School have received the Sustainable New Jersey bronze status.
    - The High School roof is delayed by two weeks.
    - Two of the PSE&G Rooftop units arrived damaged, the other units will be installed after the permits are secured.
    - Aramark contract will be enforced to ensure the fields are maintained, they also brought new pricing and contracts if we want to make big changes for maintenance.
    - Snow removal plan was discussed during the committee meeting.
    - Pending HVAC projects were discussed.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023](#) to view the full Committee Report discussion starting at 00:52:19.)

### XIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Ms. Kwak commented that this would be the time of the meeting that a discussion on the importance of the Board preserving and promoting the public trust would occur, but since the person who would answer the comments is not present tonight this will be postponed.

(Visit [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023](#) to view the discussion items starting at 01:18:30.)

**XIV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- October 16, 2023 Regular Public Meeting
- October 16, 2023 Executive Session Meeting
- November 6, 2023 Regular Public Meeting
- November 6, 2023 Executive Session Meeting

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

Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Ms. Kwak (*recused from October 16 Executive Session Minutes*),  
 Mr. Mahmoud - **ALL AYES**  
 ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

**XV. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**XVI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- Laurie Weber, questioned how the Personnel Committee was formed, when it was formed and if it currently exists.
- Peter Maltin, questioned if funds that were over the FDIC limitation at a mid-sized bank were moved to a money market or had not been reviewed. He had difficulty finding the Superintendent Coffee zoom link.

(View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023](#) starting at 01:19:52.)

- Mr. Dani responded to the FDIC insurance question. He advised that Ms. Davenport had met with Columbia Bank and they confirmed that our deposits there are protected under GUDPA. Ms. Kot has now moved the money to a high interest bank account that is yielding 4% interest.
- Ms. Brogan replied to the Personnel Committee comment. Earlier in the fall there was a request by the Administration to develop a Personnel Committee. Ms. Brogan had responded to the email that she was interested to be a part of the committee; one meeting occurred that had negotiations as an agenda item but the committee did not discuss that topic. A notification that the Personnel Committee would no longer exist was later sent.
- Dr. Schwarz responded to the comments:
  - There have been changes in regards to Committees. He was interested in having a Personnel Committee, similar to his old district. There was some action to put the committee together, but unfortunately he missed the first committee meetings. Since there was tension surrounding the Personnel Committee and the fact that there were many other committees, he retracted his request to have a Personnel Committee.
- Ms. Kwak permitted Laurie Weber to speak again. Ms. Weber stated that according to Policy 1055, the formation of a committee should be made in public. Did Dr. Schwarz have an idea to form the committee? Who sent out the email and how was the committee formed?



- Ms. Brogan responded that the email came from the President of the Board at the request of the Superintendent to create the Committee since Ridgewood did not have one.

(View the Board comments of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 11/20/2023](#) starting at 01:23:30.)

**XVII. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

N/A

**XVIII. RECONVENED PUBLIC MEETING**

N/A

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by: Ms. Kwak

**SECOND** by: Ms. Brogan

**VOICE VOTE:**

Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Mahmoud, Ms. Kwak - *ALL AYES*

ABSENT: Mr. Lembo

- **The Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie Kot  
Business Administrator

**Professional Development****BOE Date 11/20/2023**

<b>Staff member</b>	<b>Name of Conference Location &amp; Dates</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost for Approval</b>	<b># of Sub Days required</b>
Cassandra Amos (See date change, cost change, and sub change - was previously approved on 8/28/23)	Student Learning Standards, Grade 4, Year 1 Conquer Mathematics Pompton Plains, NJ 9/19/23, <del>10/18/23, 11/17/23, 12/12/23, 1/25/23,</del> <del>2/27/23</del>	Professional Development	Reduced from \$1,080 to \$180.00	Reduced from 6 days to 1 day
Melissa Finucane	NJIDA Fall Conference New Jersey International Dyslexia Association Somerset, NJ 12/1/23	Professional Development	\$215.93	1
Elizabeth Janowski	Mossflower Reading and Writing Project Conference Heinemann Edison, NJ 12/5/23	Professional Development	\$0.00	1
William Cahill	The Six Principals TESOL International Virtual 12/11/23, 12/13/23, 12/14/23 and 12/15/23	Professional Development	\$250.00	0
Jaclyn Grippaldi	Executive Function Skills: Elementary-age Strategies AEP connections Virtual 12/13/23	Professional Development	\$109.00	1
Zsuzsanna Nagy	SIOP and TESOL Strategies for the Multilingual Learner English Learner Institute Virtual 12/14/23 and 12/15/23	Professional Development	\$250.00	0

The total cost for these conferences is \$824.93 (excluding the cost of Cassandra Amos' PD as it was included in the 8/28/23 total). Upon Board approval of all of these conferences, the total expenditure for travel and conferences for 2023-24 will be \$54,656 leaving a balance of \$145,344.

The total cost of substitutes for these conferences is \$480. Upon board approval of these conferences, the total expenditure for substitutes for conferences for the 2023-24 school year will be \$17,440.

## FIELD TRIPS FOR APPROVAL

November 20, 2023

## ONE DAY TRIPS

Date	School	Location	Approx # and Group of Students	# of Chaperones	# Substitutes and dates for each	Anticipated Cost of Subs @ \$160 per day for teachers and \$200 per day for nurse	Anticipated Cost to District	Annual Event	Meets Requirements
11/27/23	RHS	Fertility Institute of NY and NJ, Oradell, NJ	18 Career Pathways in Medicine Program II (CPM) Students	1	0	\$0	\$0	Yes	Yes
11/30/23	RHS	Special Olympics NJ North Youth Leadership Summit, Mount Olive High School, Flanders, NJ	3 Unified Sports Leadership Members	1	1 - Sub Teacher	\$160 (Sub Teacher)	\$160 (Sub Teacher)	Yes	Yes
12/9/23	Somerville	Winter Wonderland at Bergen County Zoo, Paramus, NJ	40 4th and 5th Grade Glee Club Members	4	0	\$0	\$0	No	Yes
4/19/24	Travell	Tenafly Nature Center, Tenafly, NJ	61 4th Grade Students	18	1 - Sub Nurse	\$200 (Sub Nurse)	\$1,200 = \$1,000 (Bus and Driver) and \$200 (Sub Nurse)	No	Yes
5/3/24 (rain date 5/8/24)	Travell	Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ	54 1st Grade Students	18	1 - Sub Nurse	\$200 (Sub Nurse)	\$1,300 = \$1,100 (Bus and Driver) and \$200 (Sub Nurse)	Yes	Yes
6/12/24	Travell	Meadowlands Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, NJ	51 2nd Grade Students	15	1 - Sub Nurse	\$200 (Sub Nurse)	\$1,400 = \$1,200 (Bus and Driver) and \$200 (Sub Nurse)	No	Yes

## OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Date	School	Location	Approx # and Group of Students	# of Unpaid Chaperones	# Paid Chaperones And # of Overnights for each	Anticipated Cost for Teacher/Nurse Chaperones @ \$200 per Overnight	# Substitutes and dates for each	Anticipated Cost of Subs @ \$160 per day for teachers and \$200 per day for nurse	Est. Total Cost to District	Annual Event	Meets Requirements
1/18/24 - 1/22/24	RHS	NCA High School Nationals, Dallas, TX	20 Varsity Cheerleaders	3	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$2,116.50 (Travel and Expenses for 2 Chaperones)	Yes	Yes
3/13/24 - 3/16/24	RHS	National High School Model UN Conference, New York, NY	25 Model UN Members	1	1 (3 nights)	\$600	0	\$0	\$1,400 = \$600 (Chaperone) and \$800 (Bus and Driver)	No	Yes