

RAMAPO INDIAN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Oakland, New Jersey 07436

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2023

Indian Hills High School, Auditorium, 7:00 P.M.

Action to authorize Executive Session

Public Session, 8:20 P.M.

Roll Call- Regular Public Meeting

Upon roll call at 8:20 P.M., the Board members responded as follows: Mmes. Ansh, Emmolo, King, Koulikourdis, Mariani, and Sullivan. Messrs. Bogdansky, DeLaite and Lorenz. Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Dora E. Zeno, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary were also present.

Ms. Zeno announced that the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. She also announced that in accordance with the provisions of this act, the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and guidance from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services. She read a public statement advising the public to be aware that employees of the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. Ms. Zeno further stated that the Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public and, in order to protect the privacy rights of employees in the District, the Board shall not respond to statements made by the public or about District employees.

Ms. Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sophia DelBuono, Ramapo High School- Ms. Del Buono introduced herself as the Ramapo Board of Education Representative. Ms. Del Buono noted that she is on the cross country and softball team. She is also a part of Student Government and Relay for Life. Ms. Del Buono reported on the following:

- Sports- Football, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Girls' Volleyball, Cross Country, Girls' Tennis, and Gymnastics
- Student Life/Extracurricular
 - Clubs- Ramapo High School's GOLD MASQUE Drama Club, The Ramapo Movie Club, The Interact Club, and SADD
 - Student Life- Apparel, Senior Shirts, Picture Day, Freshmen and Sophomore class meetings, Back to School Night, and the Fitness Center
- Guidance
 - The Mindspeak essay competition

- The schedule change window for adding and dropping courses
- The Community Service Fair
- Student Government
 - Meeting date and times with building administration and the first joint meeting with Indian Hills and all Administration.

In conclusion Ms. Del Buono recognized those that celebrate Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Prophites Birthday.

Cassandra Heinsohn, Indian Hills High School- Ms. Heinsohn introduced herself as the Board of Education representative for Indian Hills. Ms. Heinsohn noted that she is looking forward to sharing the Indian Hills events and highlights during her last year of high school.

Ms. Heinsohn reported on the following:

- Sports- Football, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Girls' Volleyball. Girls' Tennis, Gymnastics, Boys' Soccer, ang Girls' Soccer
- Student Life/Extracurriculars
 - Freshman Orientation
 - Clubs- DECA, ACDEC, Varsity Club, Love Letters, Asian Appreciation Club, Indian Hills Theater Club, and Interact
- Guidance
 - The school counselors will meet freshmen students this week, and are also reconnecting with upperclassmen students
 - Senior meetings for the post-secondary/college planning process.
 - AP Registration
 - Schedule Add/Drop is occurring through September 23rd for electives and September 30th for level changes.
- Student Government
 - Student Council
 - Freshman delegate meeting
 - Regular elections
 - Fundraisers

Micaela Chamberlin, Alternate Ramapo High School- Ms. Chamberlain was also in attendance as the Alternate Student Government Representative. Ms. Chamberlain will be sworn in at the October 16, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

Ms. Sullivan welcomed everyone back to school. Ms. Sullivan thanked the staff for the efforts to make the school year opening a smooth and successful one.

She commented on agenda Items P1 (a) & (b) and asked if the Board would like her to make a motion to untable those motions to be discussed during Board discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Dionisio made a statement regarding the 22nd anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. He thanked those for their participation in the moment of reflection and remembrance, and asked that together, we stand strong as a community and as a nation.

Dr. Dionisio welcomed everyone to the first Board of Education meeting of the new school year. He also welcomed the Student Board Representatives and noted their dedication to our school district.

Dr. Dionisio highlighted the following:

- The excellent outcome of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Department of Education review.
- New Staff Orientation
- Leadership Retreat
- Professional Development Days and Convocation
- Construction Projects
- Athletics and Clubs
- Gratitude to the faculty and staff, which was instrumental in the successful opening of school.
- Extended a thank you to the parents for their unwavering support in our educational mission.

INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

None

Ms. King asked about legal bills regarding an assessment from last year to this year's bills

Dr. Lorenz wanted to make a motion, Ms. Sullivan did not recognize Dr. Lorenz

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletics, Arts, Extracurriculars & Communications - Ms. Mariani reported the committee would meet on September 26, 2023.

Education & Personnel - Mr. Bogdansky reported the committee would meet on September 13, 2023.

Finance & Facilities - Ms. Emmolo reported the committee would meet September 12, 2023. Ms. Emmolo reported that Facilities completed the tours and thanked the administration.

Negotiations - Ms. Emmolo reported that the committee met with the RIHSA last week and would meet again next month.

Policy Ms. Ansh reported that there was not a meeting.

Dr. Lorenz made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Koulikourdis:

***Be It Resolved** that Judy Sullivan should be removed as President of the Ramapo Indian Hills Board of Education for the following non-exhaustive list which includes but is not limited to: public admonishment and evaluation of Superintendent and Administration; use of Board letterhead for public statement without receiving Board approval and without questions being posed to initiate a response, silencing Board members during discussion in violation of Robert’s Rules; and excessively seeking legal advice without Board discussion resulting in an impending \$500,000 yearly bill for legal fees.

**In regard to the above resolution, Board discussion ensued which encompassed reference to Policy, process, whether this was a viable motion, the events that may have led to this motion and potential repercussions. The Board President reached the Board Attorney, David Disler, and via speakerphone he offered guidance on what is and is not permissible.*

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bogdansky		X		
Mr. DeLaite	X			
Ms. Emmolo		X		
Ms. King	X			
Ms. Koulikourdis	X			
Dr. Lorenz	X			
Ms. Mariani		X		
Ms. Ansh, Vice President		X		
Ms. Sullivan, President		X		

Motion does not carry

PUBLIC COMMENT

Moved by ANSH, Seconded by MARIANI, unanimously carried, to open the meeting to public comments, 10:41 PM.

- A member of the public, Franklin Lakes commented on the following: English, Students, the football game, lights and noted the time and effort that is dedicated by Board members.
- Multiple members of the public commented on the chaotic demeanor during Board Meetings; shifting sands by individual Board Members; need to focus on instructional matters and not personal vendettas and use all of our collective time in a productive manner.

Motion made by BOGDANSKY, seconded by MARIANI and unanimously carried to close public comments and resume the Regular Public Meeting, 10:52 PM.

OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

- The Board President asked if the board wanted to untable the motions P1 (a) & (b) related to the Superintendent vacancy process, but there was insufficient support to do so. Additional discussion occurred as to what is the proper protocol to act on items which have been previously tabled.
- Appeal to the public to consider the financial and labor implications of OPRA requests.
- A statement made at a prior meeting regarding a Board member interviewing Superintendents was corrected. He had sought advice from other Superintendents regarding the process.
- The time frame to hire a search firm to conduct the superintendent search.
- The following meeting dates to discuss the Superintendent vacancy and conduct Interim Superintendent candidate interviews were noted:
 - September 14, 2023 via zoom @6:00 pm - Closed Session
 - September 18, 2023 @6:00 pm - Closed Session
 - October 3, 2023 @6:00 pm - Closed Session
 - October 11, 2023 @6:00 pm - Closed Session
 - October 16, 2023 Regular Public Meeting to appoint an Interim Superintendent

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by ANSH, seconded by BOGDANSKY, unanimously carried to table the following Meeting **Minutes**:

- July 24, 2023 - Regular
- August 1, 2023 - Regular

PERSONNEL

Motion by BOGDANSKY, seconded by DELAITE, to strike P1(a) and P1(b)

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bogdansky	X			
Mr. DeLaite	X			
Ms. Emmolo		X		
Ms. King	X			
Ms. Koulikourdis	X			
Dr. Lorenz	X			
Ms. Mariani		X		
Ms. Ansh, Vice President		X		
Ms. Sullivan, President		X		

The motion carries.

Motion by BOGDANSKY, seconded by LORENZ, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions P2 through P6 , as described below:

P2. Move to approve, the following:

A. INSTRUCTIONAL

	Name	Nature of Action	Title	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Location	Guide/Step	Salary	Replacing	Effective Date
a.	Cari Laughman	Appoint	US 1, period 9 ICR	6th Period Assignment	RHS	N/A	\$9,530	Position until new hire	09/06/23-on or about 11/15/23
b.	Dana Scillieri	Appoint	Substitute	N/A	District	N/A	\$140/Diem	N/A	2023-24
c.	Josif Benfeld	Appoint	Substitute	N/A	District	N/A	\$140/Diem	N/A	2023-24
d.	Steven DeGenaro	Amend	.8 Social Studies	Leave Replacement	IHHS	MA/2	From \$243.97 /diem to \$247.86	#5790	09/01/23-12/22/23
e.	Emily Brackenbury	Amend	English	Leave Replacement	IHHS	BA/1	From \$293.48 to \$298.35	#6676	09/01/23-12/22/23
f.	Joanne Braun	Amend	Biology	Temp. Leave Replacement	IHHS	MA+30 /1	\$327.41 / Diem	#6060	From 09/11/23-11/16/23 to 09/08/23-11/16/23
g.	Nicole Fischetto	Appoint	Algebra 1, period 2 ICR	6th Period Assignment	IHHS	N/A	\$9,530	#6356	09/06/23-on or about 11/02/23
h.	Mara Hermelee	Appoint	School Psychologist Case Manager	N/A	IHHS	MA+30/1	\$327.41		On or about 09/12/23-on or about 09/29/23
i.	James Miller	Transfer			From RHS to				2023-2024

					IHHS				
j.	Pierina Delgado	Change in Assignment	From full-time Instructional aide to .50 Instruction Aide	N/A	IHHS	Step 2	\$15,710.50		09/01/23-06/30/24
k.	Rosemarie Sturm	Change in assignment	From .542 Supplemental to .4065 Supplemental, Social Studies & .4 Special Education		IHHS	BA/ 20	\$35,858.18 & \$35,284.80		09/01/23-11/01/23
l.	Julie Montero	Change in Assignment	From .542 Supplemental to .4065 Supplemental, English & .2 Special Education		IHHS	BA/16	\$30,705.75 & \$15,107.4		09/01/23-06/30/24
m.	Heather Seebach	Change in Assignment	From F/T Instructional Aide to .10 Teacher MA & .90 Instructional Aide		RHS	.10 MA/8 & .90 Instructional Aide	\$6,483 & \$29,808.90		09/01/23-on or about 11/15/23
n.	Jordana Tarlowe	Change in Assignment	.6 Teacher & .4 Instructional Aide		IHHS	.6 BA/Step 2 & .4 Instructional Aide/Step 4	\$34,402.20 & \$13,248.40		09/01/23-12/22/23
o.	Scott Dempster	Change in Assignment	From Full time Instructional Aide to .6 Instructional Aide & .4 Teacher		RHS	Step 4 & MA+30/ Step 2	\$19,872.60 & \$25,231.60		09/07/23 to on or about 11/15/2023
p.	Luke Miller	Appoint	Teacher	Special	RHS	MA+30/	\$93,612		On or about

				Education Social Studies		Step 17			11/13/23-06/30/24
q.	Daniel Vander Molen	Appoint	US 2, Period 1	6th Period Assignment	RHS	N/A	\$9,530	Coverage until new hire begins	09/07/23-on or about 11/15/23

B. NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

	Name	Nature of Action	Title	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Location	Guide/Step	Salary	Replacing	Effective Date
a.	Jonathan Spoelstra	Appoint	Assistant Mountain Biking Coach	N/A	District	Standard	\$3,000	New Team	2023-24
b.	Danielle Perneti	Appoint	Head Coach Girls' Lacrosse	N/A	IHHS	Substitute	\$8,437	M.Carti	2023-24
c.	James Zaccone	Appoint	Assistant Coach Cross Country	N/A	IHHS	Standard	\$4,867	Open	2023-24
d.	Joseph Piparo	Appoint	Athletic Aide/Fall	N/A	RHS	Standard	\$4,144	Open	Fall 2023

P3. Move to approve the **salary adjustment** for achieving a **higher degree** level for District staff as follows:

	Name	Degree/Step	Salary	Effective Date
a.	Nicole Fischetto	MA to MA+15/7	\$66,072	September 1, 2023

- P4. To approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of District staff to serve as a mentor for the 2022-23 School Year in accordance with the Agreement between the RIHEA and the Board of Education, stipend to be pro-rated up to \$450 for the full term of the mentorship, as follows:

<u>Staff Member/Department/School</u>	<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Nicole Mitchell/Business/RHS	Gale Fanale	09/01/23- 12/31/23
Aidan Cole/Business/RHS	Danielle Migliacci	09/01/23- 12/31/23
Jordana Tarlowe/Special Services/IHHS	Maryann Kopp	09/01/23- 11/30/23
Emily Brackenbury/English/IHHS	Dan Ferat	09/01/23- 12/22/23
Melissa Liebau/ Family & Consumer Science/ RHS	Lauren Gibson	09/01/23- 06/30/24

- P5. Move to approve, the following staff to serve as **proctors for Saturday ACT and SAT** testing for the 2023-24 school year, at the rate of \$59.75/hour per contract, Appendix B. The District will pay the difference between the honorarium paid by either ACT or SAT and the amount due according to \$59.75 per hour, not to exceed \$59.75 per hour.

	Staff Member
a.	Emily Biunno
b.	Trevor Hedges
c.	Edward Salaski
d.	Erica Vitale

- P6. To amend the appointment of **Services for Students with Disabilities Testing Coordinator** effective for the 2023-2024 School Year, at the approved contracted rate as per the terms and conditions of the sidebar agreement between the Ramapo Indian Hills Board of Education and the Ramapo Indian Hills Education Association.

a.	Samantha Janiszak	Indian Hills High School	Effective 11/03/23- 06/30/24
b.	Kevin Weydig	Ramapo High School	Effective 08/01/23- 06/30/24
c.	Kevin Weydig	Indian Hills High School	Effective 08/01/23- 11/02/23

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bogdansky	X			
Mr. DeLaite	X			
Ms. Emmolo	X			
Ms. King	X		P2(c)	
Ms. Koulikourdis	X			
Dr. Lorenz	X			
Ms. Mariani	X			
Ms. Ansh, Vice President	X			
Ms. Sullivan, President	X			

EDUCATION

Motion by BOGDANSKY, seconded by LORENZ, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions E1 through E3 , as described below:

- E1. Move to approve District **student field trips and transportation costs** for the 2023-24 School Year as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Storm King	Art	10/26/23	\$0.00
Ramsey HS	Varsity Debate Club	10/26/23	\$412.84
Paramus	Varsity Debate Club	12/14/23	\$412.84
Glen Rock HS	Varsity Debate Club	01/11/24	\$412.84
Pascack Valley	Varsity Debate Club	11/29/23	\$412.84
Northern Highlands	Varsity Debate Club	02/28/24	\$412.84
Pascack Hills	Varsity Debate Club	03/12/23	\$412.84
Pennings Orchard	Transition Class	10/05/23	\$619.28

E2. Move to approve the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, a dispute has arisen regarding the special education program for Student No. 423578 ; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent, have recommended resolution of this matter pursuant to the terms set forth in a Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that resolving this matter pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement is in the best interest of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional School District Board of Education that it hereby approves the Settlement Agreement in this matter.

E3. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, home instruction for District students, at the contracted hourly rate, be approved as follows:

<u>Student No.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
425586	RHS	11

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bogdansky	X			
Mr. DeLaite	X			
Ms. Emmolo	X			
Ms. King	X			
Ms. Koulikourdis	X			
Dr. Lorenz	X			
Ms. Mariani	X			
Ms. Ansh, Vice President	X			
Ms. Sullivan, President	X			

FINANCE

Motion by BOGDANSKY, seconded by LORENZ, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions F1 through F3 , as described below:

F1. Move to ratify the **disbursements** from the **ESIP Escrow Account** for professional services, as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DCO Energy, LLC.	ESIP Management Services	\$625,909.13

F2. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the reimbursement to the Current Account from the District Cafeteria Fund for repairs and maintenance expenditures in the amount of \$15,066.

F3. Move to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, District employees have submitted requests for reimbursement for **work-related travel** that is directly related to and within the scope of the employee’s current work responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously authorized such work-related travel, and the District’s school business administrator or designee has reviewed the documentation submitted by the employee and found same to be in compliance with the Board’s policy provisions and approval requirements; and

WHEREAS, the travel request listed below specifies for each item of reimbursement the specific promotion of delivery of instruction or furtherance of the efficient operation of the school district, and the amount of each listed reimbursement does not exceed State travel reimbursement guidelines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the provisions of Board Policy and *N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq.*, that the Board of Education hereby approves work-related travel reimbursement to its employees as set forth below:

<u>Req. No.</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
IH24-02	Karen Davidson	Brooklyn Book Festival	10/01/23	\$40.00
IH24-03	Dan Ferat	Brooklyn Book Festival	10/01/23	\$37.00
IH24-04	Dianna Peller	Brooklyn Book Festival	10/01/23	\$67.60
IH24-05	Karen Davidson	Understanding the Revised Regulations for Supporting Multilingual Learners	10/02/23	\$100.00
R24-07	Laura Astorina	Making Comprehension-based Activities Work:	12/07/23	\$49.00

		Using Images, Videos, & Calendars		
IH24-06	Michelle Patrickio	Let’s Talk About Suicide	10/16/23	\$42.11
D24-08	Doreen Mariani	NJSBA Workshop	10/23-26/23	\$1,074.60

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bogdansky	X			
Mr. DeLaite	X			
Ms. Emmolo	X			
Ms. King	X			
Ms. Koulikourdis	X			
Dr. Lorenz	X			
Ms. Mariani	X			
Ms. Ansh, Vice President	X			
Ms. Sullivan, President	X			

PUBLIC COMMENT

Moved by ANSH, Seconded by MARIANI, unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comments, 11:45 PM.

- A member of the public, Franklin Lakes commented on ESIP savings and legal bills.
- A member of the public, Wyckoff, commented on superintendent salaries, noting RIH ranked in the top 25% in NJ.

Administration responded that ESIP savings cannot yet be quantified as it is too early in the process. It would take more than one utility cycle to be able to accurately measure any savings.

BOARD COMMENTS

- A statement regarding board leadership.
- Reference to the communications firm proposal and no connection to the optics of the Board. It was simply to improve the liaison with the community.
- A statement regarding 9/11

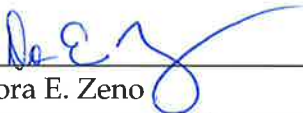
ANTICIPATED FUTURE MEETING DATES

- September 14, 2023, via zoom
- September 18, 2023, Board of Education Conference Room, 6:00 PM
- Thursday, September 28, 2023 Regular Public Meeting, Ramapo High School Cafeteria.
- October 3, 2023, Closed Session, Board of Education Conference Room, 6:00 PM
- October 11, 2023, Closed Session, Board of Education Conference Room, 6:00 PM
- Monday, October 16, 2023, Regular Public Meeting, and appoint Interim Superintendent, Indian Hills High School Cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by **BOGDANSKY**, Seconded by **MARIANI**, unanimously carried to adjourn at 11:46 PM

RECORDED BY:



Dora E. Zeno
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary