# RAMAPO INDIAN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION Oakland, New Jersey

## SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES September 10, 2020 Electronic Public Meeting

#### Roll Call – Executive Session

Upon roll call at 7:01 P.M., the Board members responded as follows: Mmes. Laforgia, Sullivan, and Zammitti Shaw. Messrs. Becker, Butto, Carolan, Fortunato, and Kinney. Mr. Stephen Fogarty, Board Counsel; was also present.

The meeting was called to order by the Board president at 7:01 P.M. Mr. Kinney announced that adequate notice of the meeting has been posted and published as required by law.

A motion was made by Mr. Butto and seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried to move into Closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel, litigation, and negotiations. Information from the Closed Executive Session will be made public at the discretion of the Board, as per Board Bylaw 0166, Executive Sessions, or as otherwise authorized by law. The Closed Executive Session was adjourned at 8 P.M.

#### Roll Call – Special Public Meeting

Upon roll call at 8:02 P.M. Board members responded as follows: Mmes. Laforgia, Sullivan, and Zammitti Shaw. Messrs. Becker, Butto, Carolan, Fortunato, and Kinney. Mr. Bruce Watson, Interim Superintendent of Schools; was also present.

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 8:02 P.M. Mr. Kinney announced that due to the current State of Emergency, 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, this Meeting was posted and published as a remote meeting. He 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. Mr. Kinney 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 of or about District employees.

# **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Kinney stated that Mr. Watson has submitted his resignation as Interim Superintendent of Schools effective November 5, 2020. Additionally, Mr. Ceurvels has submitted his resignation for the purpose of retirement effective January 1, 2021.

# **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Watson invited Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Marano to discuss the District's 2-Cohort Schedule within the District's Return to Learning Plan. Board discussion followed regarding the proposed changes to the District' Return to Learning Plan.

Mr. Watson stated that the revised Return to Learning Plan will be approved at the September 14, 2020 Action/Work Session.

# PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

A. Moved by CAROLAN Seconded BECKER. to open the meeting to public discussion.

Members of the public discussed their concerns regarding the District's revised Return to Learning Plan.

B. Moved by CAROLAN Seconded SULLIVAN to close public discussion of agenda items and to re-enter the Special Public Meeting.

# ACTION ITEMS - ✓ = Yes

The following motions were approved by roll call: **P1 – P2** 

Moved by: BECKER Seconded: CAROLAN

## **PERSONNEL**

- P1. To accept the resignation of Bruce Watson, District, Interim Superintendent of Schools, effective November 5, 2020.
- P2. To accept retirement, with regret, effective January 1, 2021, as follows:

WHEREAS, Frank Ceurvels has dedicated himself to the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District for 16 years and 2 months as the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; displaying an unselfish commitment to our children; exemplifying the ideals of professionalism and the standard of excellence, and

WHEREAS, the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education, together with its citizens, wishes to acknowledge exemplary service that Frank Ceurvels has provided our children,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education does hereby extend its appreciation and gratitude to Frank Ceurvels in recognition of his exemplary service to our school district.

#### P1- P2

RC): Becker ✓, Butto ✓, Carolan ✓, Fortunato ✓, Laforgia ✓, Sullivan ✓, Zammitti Shaw ✓, Kinney ✓

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Becker reported that the members of the Education Committee met to discuss agenda items as follows: 1) the District's revised Return to Learning Plan.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Watson for his leadership and expressed their disappointment in his decision to resign.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Ceurvels for his many years of dedicated service to the District and wished him well.

Mr. Butto reported that a Finance Committee Meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Mrs. Laforgia reported that a Public Relations Committee Meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

#### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

A. Moved by CAROLAN Seconded BECKER to open the meeting to public discussion.

Members of the public addressed the Board regarding their concerns about the District's revised Return to Learning Plan.

B. Moved by CAROLAN Seconded BECKER to re-enter the Special Public Meeting.

#### ANTICIPATED FUTURE MEETING DATES

Mr. Kinney announced anticipated future meeting dates as follows:

Monday, September 14, 2020 Action/Work Session, Electronic Meeting, 8 P.M. Wednesday, September 30, 2020 Regular Public Meeting, Electronic Meeting, 8 P.M.

# ADJOURNMENT

Moved by CAROLAN Seconded: LAFORGIA to adjourn at 10:28 P.M.

Julie Browne Board Secretary Pro-tem