

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

ACTION/WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 8, 2021

Electronic Public Meeting

Roll Call – Executive Session

Upon roll call at 7 P.M., the Board members responded as follows: Mmes. King, Koulikourdis, Laforgia, and Sullivan. Messrs. Butto, Carolan, Fortunato, Kinney, and Setteducato. Mr. Anthony Riscica, Interim Superintendent of Schools; and Mr. Thomas Lambe, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; were also present.

The meeting was called to order by the Board president at 7 P.M. Mrs. Laforgia 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. Kinney 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 7:50 P.M.

Roll Call – Regular Public Meeting

Upon roll call at 8 P.M., the Board members responded as follows: Mmes. King, Koulikourdis, Laforgia, and Sullivan. Messrs. Butto, Carolan, Fortunato, Kinney, and Setteducato. Mr. Anthony Riscica, Interim Superintendent of Schools; and Mr. Thomas Lambe, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; were also present.

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 8 P.M. Mrs. Laforgia 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. 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. Mrs. Laforgia 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

Mrs. Laforgia invited Ms. Patel, IHHS, Student Board Representative, and Ms. Kologrivov, RHS, Student Board Representative, to present their reports as follows: Ms. Kologrivov stated: 1) National School Counseling Week was held during the week of February 1 - 5; 2) the RHS Open House was held on February 10; 3) the Guidance Department will be hosting Gap Year Opportunities on February 25; 4) Wellness Wednesdays are scheduled again for students; and 5) tryouts for cast and crew for the upcoming Spring Musical are scheduled for students. Ms. Patel stated: 1) National School Counseling Week was held during the week of February 1 - 5; 2) the Guidance Department hosted trade school information meetings for students; 3) Clubs continue to meet; 4) Interact hosted a food bank collection; 5) the IHHS Academic Decathlon Team placed first in the Regional Competition; 6) the DECA State Competition is scheduled this week; 7) a Relay for Life Meeting is scheduled this week; and 8) tryouts for cast and crew for the upcoming Spring Musical are scheduled for students.

Mrs. Laforgia stated that four search firm consultants will be interviewed by the Board.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Riscica congratulated Mr. Walty, RHS, School Counselor, for being honored by The College Board Counselor Recognition Program.

Mr. Riscica reported on current District initiatives as follows:

- Students are actively engaged in the Single Cohort Schedule; and
- The COVID-19 Dashboard is now active on the District's website.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lambe reported on District capital projects/initiatives as follows: 1) the approval of the 2021-22 Budget is scheduled in March; and 2) the Budget Public Hearing is scheduled on April 26.

Mr. Lambe will continue to update the Board as to the status of these projects/initiatives.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Moved by BUTTO Seconded KINNEY to open the meeting to public discussion.

Members of the public thanked District administration and the Board for the Single Cohort Schedule for students.

Members of the public addressed the Board regarding their concerns about the District's contact tracing procedures. Mr. Riscica stated that the members of the Policy Committee continue to review Policy 1648.

- B. Moved by KING Seconded BUTTO to close public discussion of agenda items and to re-enter the Action/Work Session.

ACTION ITEMS - ✓ = Yes

The following motions were approved by roll call vote: **P1 – F1**

Moved by: FORTUNATO Seconded: KINNEY

PERSONNEL

- P1. To amend, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the request for a paid Maternity Leave of Absence (Presumptive Period of Disability), utilizing unused sick leave as allowed by law, for Megan Casey, RHS, English, effective on or about September 29 - November 20, 2020; and move to approve an unpaid Family Leave of Absence pursuant to The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), effective on or about November 23, 2020 - February 26, 2021; and further move to approve an unpaid Childrearing Leave of Absence, effective on or about February 27 - June 30, 2021.
- P2. To amend, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Daniel D'Amico, RHS, English, Long-term, Temporary Replacement Teacher/Maternity Leave Replacement for Megan Casey, a non-tenured position, not accruing tenure in the position, MA, Step 1, \$55,978, effective for the period September 24, 2020 - June 25, 2021, to fill the position for the length of time and with the compensation noted, subject to all federal, state, county, and local regulations, governing said employment; and move to approve applicant's attestation that he has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et seq.*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et seq.*, and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq.*, as applicable.
- P3. To amend, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Matthew Salisbury, RHS, Music, Long-term Temporary Replacement/Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher for Emily Reitter, a non-tenured position, not accruing tenure in the position, MA, Step 1, \$294.62/diem, plus two transition days, effective for the period February 22 - June 25, 2021, and subject to all federal, state, county and local regulations, governing said employment; and further move to approve applicant's attestation that he has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et seq.*, or *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et seq.*
- P4. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the salary

adjustments for achieving a higher degree level for District staff as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jaclyn Brennecke	BA to BA+15	\$60,272 to \$62,611	February 1, 2021
Traci Maturo	BA+15 to MA	\$57,527 to \$59,057	February 1, 2021
Giuseppina Monterey	MA to MA+15	\$70,943 to \$72,348	February 1, 2021
Owen Ross	BA+15 to MA	\$56,782 to \$57,588	February 1, 2021

- P5. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a sixth period teaching assignment for Michael Nangle, RHS, Social Studies, Period 2, at the contractual stipend of \$9,530, prorated, effective for the period February 5 - June 30, 2021.
- P6. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a fifth period teaching assignment for Richard Sawyer, RHS, Social Studies, Period 5, at the contractual stipend of \$5,165, prorated, effective for the period February 5 - June 30, 2021.
- P7. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of athletic coaches, subject to all federal, state, county and local regulations, governing said employment; effective for the 2020-21 School Year; and move to approve applicants' attestation that he / she has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et seq.*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et seq.*, and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq.* as follows:

Ramapo High School

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Kelly Brogan	Asst. Girls' Volleyball	Provisional	1	\$4,320
Michael Esposito	Asst. Boys' Basketball	Substitute	4	5,871

- P8. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of a Special School Advisor, subject to all federal, state, county, and local regulations, governing said employment, effective for the 2020-21 School Year; and move to approve applicant's attestation that he has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et seq.*, or *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et seq.*, as follows:

Indian Hills High School

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Kevin Lynch	Drama Asst.	N/A	\$2,116

- P9. To accept, with regret, the resignation of Jenny Shannon, RHS, English, effective April 5, 2021.

EDUCATION

- E1. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the 2021-22 Student Calendar.
- E2. That, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, home instruction for District students, at the approved hourly rate, be approved as follows:

<u>Student No.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
424286	RHS	9

421136	RHS	12
421640	RHS	12

- E3. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the participation of the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative Program (SEMI) for the purpose to recover a portion of the cost for certain health related services considered medically necessary in a student's IEP, as required by the State of New Jersey.

FINANCE

- F1. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, a District employee has submitted a request for reimbursement for work-related travel that is directly related to and within the scope of the employees' 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 specify 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>
R20-12	Guttuso	NJAHPERD Virtual Annual Conference	February 22 - 23, 2021	\$164

P1 – F1

RC): Carolan ✓, Fortunato ✓, King ✓, Kinney ✓, Koulikourdis ✓, Setteducato ✓, Sullivan ✓, Butto ✓, Laforgia ✓

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Butto reported that the members of the Finance Committee met on January 28 to discuss agenda items as follows: 1) the District's Audit; 2) RFQs for professional services; and 3) 2021-22 Budget.

Mr. Carolan reported that the members of the Education Committee met on January 28 to discuss agenda items as follows: 1) Bridge Year Program communications; 2) Chinese III courses; 3) Assessment Schedule and Seal of Biliteracy Program; and 4) Special Education Audit.

Mr. Fortunato reported that the members of the Negotiations Committee met on February 3 and will meet again on February 16.

Mr. Kinney stated that a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled on February 9.

Mrs. Koulikourdis stated that a Communications Committee Meeting is scheduled on February 10.

Mr. Setteducato reported the members of the Personnel/Goals/Evaluation Committee met to discuss the search firm consultants and the Board Goals.

Ms. Sullivan reported that the members of the Policy Committee met on January 29 to continue its review of Policy 1648.

Mrs. King reported that the members of the Facilities Committee met on January 26 to discuss agenda items as follows: 1) the District's Return to Learning Plan; 2) roof repairs; 3) bathroom renovations; and 4) HVAC.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members stated that the Single Cohort Schedule for students is a positive change for students.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- A. Moved by BUTTO Seconded KINNEY to open the meeting to public discussion.

A member of the public addressed the Board regarding the interview schedule for the search consultant firms. Mrs. Laforgia thanked her for her comments.

A member of the public addressed the Board regarding planning activities in the Spring for the Senior Class.

- B. Moved by KINNEY Seconded SETTEDUCATO to re-enter the Action/Work Session.

ANTICIPATED FUTURE MEETING DATES

Mrs. Laforgia announced the anticipated future meeting dates as follows:

Monday, February 22, 2021, Regular Public Meeting, Electronic Meeting, 8 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by KINNEY Seconded: FORTUNATO to adjourn at 9:24 P.M.