

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

**WORK SESSION/REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

December 14, 2020  
Electronic Public Meeting

Roll Call – Executive Session

Upon roll call at 7 P.M., the Board members responded as follows: Mmes. Laforgia, LeVon, Sullivan, and Zammitti Shaw. Messrs. Becker, Butto, Carolan, Fortunato, and Kinney. Mr. Anthony Riscica, Interim Superintendent of Schools; was also present.

The meeting was called to order by the Board president at 7 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. Becker and seconded by Mr. Butto 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 7:45 P.M.

Roll Call – Regular Public Meeting

Upon roll call at 8:01 P.M. Board members responded as follows: Mmes. Laforgia, LeVon, Sullivan, and Zammitti Shaw. Messrs. Becker, Butto, Carolan, Fortunato, and Kinney. Mr. Anthony Riscica, Interim Superintendent of Schools; and was also present.

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 8:01 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 welcomed Mr. Riscica to the District and thanked Mr. Marano for serving as the Acting Superintendent.

Mr. Kinney invited Ms. Patel, IHHS, Student Board Representative, and Ms. Kologrivov, RHS, Student Board Representative, to present their reports as follows: Ms. Patel stated: 1) the Guidance Department hosted a Class of 2023 Night on December 2; 2) Wellness Wednesdays continue to be scheduled for students; 3) the Guidance Department is working with Bergen Community College for a dual enrollment program; 3) Interact is hosting Holiday Owl Grams and a Winter Virtual 5K Run event; 4) a Coffee House will be scheduled in January; 5) Holiday Spirit Week is scheduled during the Week of December 21; and 6) Student Council is hosting a toy drive for charity. Ms. Kologrivov stated: 1) Clubs continue to schedule meetings; 2) the APTS has decorated the building for the holidays; 3) a virtual presentation of the Holiday Festival was created; 4) Sophomore Night was scheduled on December 2; and 5) Student Government is working on a holiday surprise for the student body.

**INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Riscica thanked Ms. Patel and Ms. Kologrivov for their reports. He reported that he has toured Indian Hills High School and plans to tour Ramapo High School this week.

He also reported that Ramapo High School will begin virtual instruction for 14 days due to confirmed COVID cases.

Mr. Riscica invited Mr. Sutherland to present the proposed revisions to the District's 2021-22 *Program of Studies*. Mr. Sutherland discussed the proposed revisions and a brief question and answer session followed the presentation.

Mr. Sutherland also reviewed the parent and student survey results from the November 2020 survey. Mr. Sutherland thanked the parents and students for their participation.

Mr. Riscica thanked Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Marano for developing the District Survey.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Moved by SULLIVAN Seconded LAFORGIA to open the meeting to public discussion.

Members of the public addressed the Board regarding their concerns about closing the schools and the results of the survey that was distributed in November.

A member of the public thanked the Board for their response to the FLOW Forward request for a meeting. Mr. Kinney stated that a meeting with a Board Committee can be scheduled some time in January.

- B. Moved by SULLIVAN Seconded BECKER to close public discussion of agenda items and to re-enter the Work Session/Regular Public Meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS - ✓ = Yes**

The following motions were approved by roll call:

Moved by: BECKER Seconded: LAFORGIA

To approve Closed and Special Public Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020.

To approve Closed and Action/Work Session Minutes of November 9, 2020.

To approve Closed and Regular Public Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020.

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

The following motions were approved by roll call: **P1 – F7**

Moved by: BECKER Seconded: ZAMMITTI SHAW

## **PERSONNEL**

- P1. To award, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a tenure contract for Rebeca Gordy, RHS, Science, fourth-year, non-tenured, approaching tenure, BA+15, Step 7, \$59,432, effective for the period April 1 - June 30, 2021.
- P2. To award, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a tenure contract for Giuseppina Monterey, RHS, Special Education, fourth-year, non-tenured, approaching tenure, MA, Step 13, \$70,943, effective for the period May 30 - June 30, 2021.
- P3. That, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the following person be appointed 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 further that the president and secretary, as proper officers of the Board of Education, be authorized and directed to issue the proper contract 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.*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et seq.*, and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq.*, as applicable. Further move to approve the assignment of the appropriate Unique Position Code as required by State Statute.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Basis of Employment</u>	<u>Employment Date</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
Robert Lynn	Custodian/ District	Step 8	12 months	1/04/21 - 6/30/21	\$70,569 <sup>1/2/3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pro rated

<sup>2</sup>Replacement for Anthony Neggers

<sup>3</sup>90-Day Probationary Period

- P4. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the sixth period teaching assignment for Christine Kelly, IHHS, Special Education, Period 3, at the contractual stipend of \$9,530, prorated, effective for the period December 7, 2020 - January 7, 2021.
- P5. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the sixth period teaching assignment for Owen Ross, IHHS, Special Education, Period 5, at the contractual stipend of \$9,530, prorated, effective for the period December 7, 2020 - January 7, 2021.
- P6. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the sixth period teaching assignment for Michael Michels, IHHS, Science, Period 9, at the contractual stipend of \$9,530, prorated, effective for the period December 7, 2020 - January 7, 2021.
- P7. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the change in assignment for Anna Frodella, RHS, from Instructional Aide, Step 4, \$30,151, to .542 Math Supplemental, BA, Step 1, \$29,510, 1/2 fifth period teaching assignment, \$2,582.50, and .39 Instructional Aide, Step 4, \$11,758.89, prorated, effective for the period December 15, 2020 - June 30, 2021.
- P8. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the sixth period teaching assignment for Jill Matcovich, RHS, Special Education, Period 8, at the contractual stipend of \$9,530, prorated, effective for the period December 15, 2020 - June 30, 2021.
- P9. To amend, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent, the appointment of Emily Reitter, IHHS, Music Co-Director, Step 4, \$1,528, from September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, to September 1, 2020 - February 24, 2021.
- P10. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Special School Advisors, 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 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>Advisor</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Lauren Gibson	Literary Magazine - Art	4	\$3,056 <sup>1</sup>
Lauren Gibson	Literary Magazine - Production	4	\$2,332 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Effective for the period November 16, 2020 - June 30, 2021

P11. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of the following individual listed below as an athletic coach, 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., 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>
Joshue Resto	Asst. Indoor Track	Substitute	4	\$4,867

P12. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Kevin Weydig, RHS, SAT / ELS Testing Building Coordinator, effective for the period January - June 2021, at the approved contracted rate as per the terms and conditions of the Agreement between the Ramapo Indian Hills Board of Education and the Ramapo Indian Hills Education Association.

P13. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a Graduate Research Assessment Project at Ramapo High School planned by Jenna Calderon, RHS, Special Education Teacher and a Rowan University Student, during the 2020-21 School Year.

P14. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Jillian Hochuli, IHHS, Volunteer Girls’ Basketball Coach, effective for the 2020-21 School Year. Authorization for employment is based on prior verification of background check 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, and N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq.

P15. To rescind, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of District Special School Advisors, effective immediately, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Michael Ficocelli / IHHS	Spring Drama Asst.
Emily Reitter / RHS	Spring Drama Asst.

P16. To accept, with regret, the retirement effective June 30, 2021, as follows:

*WHEREAS, Linda Bergrin has dedicated herself to the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District for 27 years as the CST Supervisor and Learning Disability Teacher - Consultant; 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 Linda Bergrin 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 Linda Bergrin in recognition of her exemplary service to our school district.*

**EDUCATION**

E1. To approve in accordance with Chapter 46, Title 18A, New Jersey Statutes, and on the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, District Director of Student Personnel Services, and District Child Study Team that tuition and/or related services be paid for the student listed below to attend the school indicated at the tuition cost indicated for the 2020-21 School Year as follows:

<u>Student No.</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
423175	New Alliance Academy	\$ 55,872.00 <sup>1</sup>
420149	The Learning Clinic	\$147,390.75 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pro-rated for 128 days at \$436.50  
<sup>2</sup>Includes 2020-21 Extended School Year

- E2. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the 2021-22 *Program of Studies*.
- E3. 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>
421562	IHHS	12
421496	IHHS	12
423496	IHHS	10
424289	IHHS	9
424286	RHS	9

- E4. To authorize the carry over of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Grant Funds, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, for Fiscal Year 2021 as follows:

Title II, Part A	\$6,500
Title IV, Part A	\$4,212

**OPERATIONS**

- OP1. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Dr. Maurice Elias has the expertise and experience to provide medical services to the Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing Dr. Maurice Elias to provide medical services to the Board effective for the period January 1 - December 31, 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board appoints Dr. Maurice Elias to provide medical services in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement which is attached hereto and made a part thereof. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the Agreement and any and all other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution. The Board Secretary is hereby directed to publish a notice of this Award in the official newspaper of the Board.

LEGAL NOTICE  
RAMAPO INDIAN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education took action at its public meeting on December 14, 2020 to appoint Dr. Maurice Elias to provide medical services. The appointment

qualifies as a professional service for which the Board is not required to publicly advertise for bids in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5. Dr. Maurice Elias will provide medical services to the Board of Education in the amount of \$24,000. The resolution appointing Dr. Maurice Elias and the terms of the appointment are on file and available for public inspection at the District Office at 131 Yawpo Avenue, Oakland, New Jersey 07436.

OP2. To authorize, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the submission of the School Security Grant Application for the project period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$146,782.

OP3. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education ("Board") owns various Apple, Inc. ("Apple") laptop computers ("Equipment"); and

WHEREAS, the Equipment is considered the personal property of the Board, which is no longer needed for school purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board advertised for bids for the Sale of the Equipment in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-45; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2020, the Board received bids for the Equipment; and

WHEREAS, the highest bid was submitted by My Fav Electronics, Inc. d/b/a Second Life Mac ("My Fav Electronics"), with a base bid in the amount of \$340 per 11" MacBook Air and \$481 per 13" MacBook Air for total sum of \$943,135; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by My Fav Electronics is responsive in all material respects and it is the Board's desire to award the contract for the Equipment to My Fav Electronics.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board hereby awards the contract for the Project to My Fav Electronics for a total contract sum of \$943,135.00, reflected an individual price of \$340.00 per 11" MacBook Air and \$481.00 per 13" MacBook Air.
2. This award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing an executed contract, within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such contract and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

## **FINANCE**

F1. That, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the financial report of the Business Administrator and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of October 2020, including a cash report for that period, be approved and ordered filed.

F2. To ratify, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the November 30, 2020 Payroll in the amount of \$1,482,941.09, having been duly audited by the Business Administrator and the chairperson of the Finance Committee, be ratified by the Board. (Amount was not available for the November 23, 2020 Regular Public Meeting.)

F3. That, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the additional bills paid in November 2020 and drawn on the current account in the total amount of \$207,867.61 for materials received and/or services rendered, having been duly audited by the Business Administrator and the chairperson of the Finance Committee, be ratified by the Board.

- F4. To authorize, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of bills drawn on the current account in the total amount of \$1,916,725.65 for materials received and /or services rendered, having been duly audited by the Business Administrator and the chairperson of the Finance Committee.
- F5. That, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, bills in the District Cafeteria Fund in the total amount of \$22,375.92 having been duly audited and approved by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, and previously paid, be approved by the Board as follows:

ARAMARK	\$21,836.42	November Operations
RIH District Cafeteria Fund	\$539.50	November Student Lunches

- F6. To approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, District employees have submitted requests 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 requests 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>
D20-08	Vukicevic	School Transportation Supervisors Program	February 1 - March 22, 2021	\$668
D20-09	Vukicevic	School Transportation Supervisors Program	March 21 - May 5, 2021	\$575

- F7. To accept, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to Ramapo High School from The Gleybman Family.

**P1 – F7**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Carolan reported that the Strategic Planning will be postponed until January 2021. He thanked Mr. Becker and Mrs. Zammitti Shaw for their service to the District.

Ms. Sullivan reported that the members of the Extracurricular Committee met in February, March, and April to discuss agenda items as follows: 1) review scripts for

the fall and spring plays; and 2) a District-wide Handbook for clubs and activities. Additionally, the members of the Ad Hoc Search Committee met in September to conduct interviews with prospective Interim Superintendent candidates.

Mr. Fortunato reported that the members of the Facilities Committee met last week to discuss agenda items as follows: 1) duct work and 2) the replacement of a transformer at IHHS.

Mrs. Zammitti Shaw reported that the members of the Policy Committee met last week to discuss District Policy 1648. A future Policy Committee Meeting will be scheduled.

Mr. Becker reported that the members of the Education Committee met December 10 to the proposed revisions to the 2021-22 Program of Studies.

Mrs. LeVon reported that the members of the Personnel/Goals/Evaluation Committee met on December 8 to discuss agenda items as follows: 1) the 2020-21 Goals; and 2) Community Survey results.

Mr. Butto reported that a Finance Committee Meeting will be scheduled some time in January.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Members of the Board welcomed Mr. Riscica to the District.

Ms. Sullivan thanked Mrs. LeVon and Mr. Becker for their service to the District and welcomed Mrs. King and Mrs. Koulikourdis to the Board of Education.

Mr. Fortunato congratulated the students and staff for the performance of Clue. Also, he thanked Mr. Marano for serving as the Acting Superintendent, and thanked both Mrs. Zammitti Shaw and Mr. Becker for their service to the District.

Mrs. Zammitti Shaw stated that she has enjoyed serving on the Board of Education and thanked Mr. Marano for serving as the Acting Superintendent, and thanked both Mr. Becker and Mrs. LeVon for their service to the District.

Mr. Becker stated that tonight is his last meeting as a Board Trustee and that it has been a privilege to represent the Township of Wyckoff and an honor to represent this Board in the FLOW community. He thanked all past and current Board members, administrators, and teachers for their commitment to this District.

Mrs. LeVon thanked the members of the Board for the opportunity to serve as a Board Trustee.

Mr. Butto thanked Mr. Becker, Mrs. Zammitti Shaw, and Mrs. LeVon for their service to the District.

Mrs. Laforgia also thanked Mr. Becker, Mrs. Zammitti Shaw, and Mrs. LeVon for their service to the District.

Mr. Carolan wished everyone happy holidays and thanked Mr. Marano for serving as the Acting Superintendent. He also thanked Mr. Becker, Mrs. Zammitti Shaw, and Mrs. LeVon for their many contributions to the District.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

- A. Moved by SULLIVAN Seconded LAFORGIA to open the meeting to public discussion.

Members of the public welcomed Mr. Riscica to the District.

A member of the public addressed the Board regarding the District's audit. Mr. Butto stated that a Finance Committee Meeting will be scheduled to review the District's audit.



Mr. Madigan, on behalf of the Wyckoff Township Committee, thanked Mr. Becker for his service and dedication to the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education.

- B. Moved by CAROLAN Seconded SULLIVAN to re-enter the Regular Public Meeting.

### **ANTICIPATED FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Mr. Kinney announced anticipated future meeting dates as follows:

Thursday, January 7, 2021, Reorganization/ Action/Work Session, Electronic Meeting,  
7 P.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by CAROLAN Seconded: LAFORGIA to adjourn at 10:47 P.M.

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John Kinney  
Board President

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Julie Browne  
Board Secretary Pro tem