

RAMAPO INDIAN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Oakland, New Jersey 07436

**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

March 13, 2023

Ramapo High School Auditorium, 7:00 P.M.

*Action to authorize Executive Session*

Anticipated Public Session, 8:00 P.M.

**AGENDA**

Roll Call

Upon roll call at 7:00 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; Mr. Thomas Lambe, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, were also present.

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 7:00 P.M. Ms. Sullivan announced that adequate notice of the meeting has been posted and published as required by law.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan, unanimously carried, to open the Closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing HIBs and Personnel. 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 7:58 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 8:31 P.M. Mr. Lambe 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. He also announced that in accordance with the provisions of this act, the 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. 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. Lambe 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.

### Roll Call- Regular Public Meeting

Upon roll call at 8:31 P.M., the Board members responded as follows: Mmes. Ansh, Emmolo, King, Koulikourdis, Mariani, and Sullivan. Messrs. Bogdansky, DeLaite, and Dr. Lorenz. Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Thomas Lambe, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, and Student Board Representatives, Kinjal Patel and Sofia Wowkum, were also present.

Ms. Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Sullivan thanked the committee chairs and Ms. Ansh for her Vice Presidency and for chairing committees.

Ms. Sullivan also thanked Mr. Lambe and his staff for helping to prepare the budget, also recognizing the facilities department.

### Student Board Representatives

*Sofia Wowkun- Ramapo High School-* Ms. Wowkun, RHS Student Board Representative reported on the following: 1.) Sports: Spring Sports are beginning as teams try out and prepare for the upcoming season; Basketball final standing: Boys basketball team ended their season with the group 3 state champions (finishing with a record of 30-3); Ms. Wowkun also wished congratulations to Basketball Coaches Nick Vier and Coach Sandy Gordon. They were honored at the North South All Star Games at Rutgers University (this past Sunday) as the "John Wooden legacy-coach of the year" winners. 2.) Student Life/Extracurricular: Clubs-March 30, 31, and April 1st at 7pm Ramapo's theater program Gold Masque will be performing the musical comedy "Urinetown". The Freshman class is hosting a chipotle fundraiser on Wednesday, March 15 from 4-8 in Ramsey. If you order and show them the flier on Schoology, the freshman class will receive a donation. The Ramapo music department hosted a successful showcase this past Friday. Ms. Wowkun thanked everyone who came to support. The computer science club is hosting a terminal programming meeting tomorrow after school. After school today, the Ramapo Philosophy club met to discuss the logic of necessity and possibility. A sophomore at Ramapo High School, was a candidate for the position of Recording Secretary. They successfully campaigned and was elected on the State Officer Action Team 63 for New Jersey DECA. Ms. Wowkun wishes congratulations to the student. Flow Follies hosted a show last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Ms. Wowkun thanked all for their generous support and the scholarships this group is able to provide our students. Ms. Wowkun congratulated the winner of the Unsung Heroes of Bergen County Award, who will be recognized March 30, 2023 at Ridgefield Memorial High School. The music department leaves this Wednesday for their trip to California. Ms. Wowkun wished them good luck. 3.) Guidance- RHS Guidance hosted a Career and Technical Education Fair on Tuesday, March 7th. Fifteen different schools and agencies were represented for students of all grade levels to pick up information. Scheduling meetings have been held with students to plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Eleven

RHS Juniors interviewed and were selected for RYLA as leadership conference sponsored by the Midland Park Wyckoff Rotary Club. The conference is to be held in June. Other leadership opportunities include applications for the Junior Commission on the Status of Women and the American Legion for NJ Boys State. The Bergen County Directors of Guidance College Fair is Wednesday evening. Over 200 colleges and career institutes will be represented. Please see the e-blast sent by Mrs. Perry for registration information. RHS Guidance hosted a POSitivity Event for RHS Staff on Saturday, March 11th. Staff members from different departments participated in a free, VIP class at Orangetheory in Wyckoff. 4.) Student Government-Student Government is starting to plan Pochella and the spring pep rally.

*Kinjal Patel- Indian Hills High School* - Ms. Patel, IHHS Student Board Representative reported on the following: 1.) Sports: The Girls Bowling Team brought home the first State Sectional title in school history! The Girls won the North 1 Group 1 State Sectional Final at Bowler City in Hackensack. Ms. Patels recognized this year's recipient of the 2023 National Women and Girls in Sports Award for Indian Hills High School. Boys Fencing Head Coach, Ed Cleaver, won the Bergen County Boys Fencing Coach of the Year award. Boys Basketball made a very nice postseason run. They hosted (2) home games, which hasn't been done in over a decade, and made it to the State Sectional Semifinal, where they lost to Ramsey. They ended the season with 19 wins, which was a huge difference after only winning 4 games last season. Indian Hills Wrestling had a number of wrestlers who qualified for the District Wrestling Tournament. Indoor Track recently competed at the Nike Indoor Nationals at the Armory in NYC. The Boys Sprint Medley finished 3rd overall. The Boys 4x800m team finished 6th overall. The Girls 4x800m team finished in the Top 25. 2.) Guidance: There will be an information and application workshop for those looking to attend Bergen Community College. They will go over an overview of admissions, programming. Application how to's, and there will be a BCC representative. There are also 15 individual local scholarship applications added to naviance this week for seniors please check schoology or guidance for details and deadlines. 3.) Inscape: Inscape has received many awards. They received a first place award from the American Scholastic Association and a superior ranking from the national council of teachers of English for the recognizing excellence in art and literary magazines contest. 4.) Extracurricular/Clubs: Interact club- Interact members have been making St. Patrick's Day Cards for the elderly at Oakland Care Center and Ridgecrest Senior Housing. The cards will be delivered later this week. Both Ramapo and Indian Hills Interact Clubs assisted with the annual FLOW Follies Senior Citizen luncheon on March 5th. Senior citizens from the FLOW Community enjoyed food made by Interact volunteers. Interact is currently preparing for this weekend's collaborative meal-packing event with the Oakland-Franklin Lakes Rotary. The event will be held from 8-2:00pm. Participants are encouraged to bring food bag donations to be distributed to local food pantries. Anyone that is interested in participating in this event should contact Mrs. Funk; DECA: Two weeks ago DECA competed in New Jersey's state competition in Atlantic City, three days of roleplay fun. They are now preparing for nationals, congratulations to our 16 students that are going to Orlando in

the spring to compete. We are also hosting a krispy kreme fundraiser and are selling a dozen for 15 dollars, all orders must be submitted by March 24th.

Ms. Sullivan thanked the students for their reports and noted that the students may leave if they wished.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Dionisio wished congratulations on the following:

- Indian Hills Academic Decathlon team for their performance and hard work this season, Indian Hills placed 4th at this year's State Finals.
- The Girls Bowling Team for winning the State Sectional Title. This was the 1st time in school history the Braves are State Sectional Champs.
- Indian Hills Boys Fencing Coach, Ed Cleaver, was named the Bergen County Coaches Association 2023 Boys Fencing Coach of the Year! Congratulations Coach Cleaver.
- The Ramapo High School Boys Basketball Team for capturing the 2023 NJSIAA Group 3 State Championship! This is the first Group Title for the program as they finished with an astounding 30-3 record.
- Ramapo Indian Hills DECA medaled in the final rounds of their competitive events at the 2023 NJ DECA State Career Development Conference. Special thank you to Angela Funk, Owen Ross, Michelle Patrickio, Meghan Weiss and Edith LaChac for chaperoning and volunteering as competitive event judges for this conference. Our students' success would not be possible without their support.

Dr. Dionisio recognized Mrs. Whaley retirement at the end of this school.

Dr. Dionisio noted that the Board and he have discussed the consideration of the observance of Eid al-Fitr in the school calendar. Eid al-Fitr celebrates the culmination of Ramadan, a month-long tradition of fasting from sunrise to sunset. Dr. Dionisio has had the opportunity to meet with members of our Muslim community to discuss the importance of the observance of Eid in the calendar, and what it would mean for our Muslim students, their families, and our entire community. The parents he has met with have shared that by acknowledging this important holiday in our community, children in our community, including Muslim children, appreciate the celebration of all religious holidays acknowledged by our district. As a result of our discussions with our Board of Education, and the importance of this important holiday observance for our community, we have included Eid on the 2023-24 calendar for approval this evening.

Dr. Dionisio thanked everyone who participated in these discussions and for your support.

Dr. Dionisio noted that upon discussion with Ms. Sullivan, he is requesting the tabling of resolutions P4 & P11 that will require more time.

In conclusion of his report, Dr. Dionisio noted Mr. Lambe will provide a preliminary budget presentation for the Board as a follow up to the Finance & Facility Committee meetings. He thanked Mr. Lambe for his dedication and efforts over the past several months in preparation of our annual school budget. As a district, we must ensure that the decisions we reach are sustainable and fiscally responsible, while also supporting the needs of all students and staff so we may address our goals. He also thanked Mrs. Parrella and the entire Business Office for their work on the budget, as it is labor intensive requiring analysis of the current conditions and preparing multiple scenarios for discussions. He also thanked the Finance & Facilities Committee for all of their time and efforts on the annual budget.

### **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lambe provided a preliminary Budget Presentation via powerpoint.

Ms. Sullivan commented on not being fully funded in state aid and noted that it was not the District's fault to which Mr. Lambe responded that most schools are not fully funded and Ms. Sullivan was correct.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Athletics, Arts, Extracurriculars & Communications* - Ms. Mariani reported that the committee met on 2/29/23 and 3/9/23. They discussed the Eid al-Fitr holiday and agreed to add it to the calendar. Ms. Mariani noted that the committee supported the decision to join IHHS with Rmasey for ice hockey. She also reported that the committee was in support of the dance team, mountain bike team. The committee also noted the yoga class. Other discussion occurred regarding the following: later school times, purchasing another external defibrillator, and music and arts accomplishments

*Education & Personnel* - Mr. Bogdansky reported that the committee met to discuss the following: the district calendar, supplemental instruction job description, Special Education Medicaid Initiative Action Plan, special education offering supports the ICR9In class resource, curriculum compliance- choreography and drama curriculum updated, CEP (Comprehensive Equity Plan) needs to be updated every three years, the statement of assurance will be submitted to the County, professional development to align with strategic plan, teacher of the year nominations, block scheduling, late school start. Mr. Bogdansky notes that the committee is addressing concerns and researching options. He also reported that the strategic plan is near completion and thanked Dr. Dionisio and the steering committee for their work.

*Finance & Facilities* - Ms. Emmolo reported that the committee met on 2/16/23 and they discussed the 2023-24 budget. The committee was fiscally responsible while meeting the needs of students and staff. Ms. Emmolo thanked Mr. Lambe and his team for all their hard work. The committee will meet again on 3/16/23.

*Negotiations* - Ms. Emmolo reported that the committee met on 2/15/23 in preparation for their meeting with the RIHEA. Ms. Emmolo noted that they look forward to their first meeting in the next few weeks. The committee will meet again on 3/15/23.

*Policy* - Ms. Ansh reported that the committee met on 3/9/23. Ms. Ansh noted that policy numbers were corrected to align with Strauss Esmay. Ms. Ansh also reported that the committee asked administration to review updated policies to ensure they are on the website. The committee will meet again on 4/04/23.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by ANSH, unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comments, 9:22 PM.

Various members of the public, Wyckoff, commented on the competitive dance team and asked for support of the team.

A member of the public thanked the Board for recognizing the Eid al-Fitr holiday. They also commented on diversity and inclusivity as part of the school experience.

A member of the public, use of a snow day.

A member of the public, Wyckoff commented on the dance team. They also thanked Mr. Mancino and the Board. They also commented on the community involvement and support. They also commented on the coach and 100% support.

A member of the public, Wyckoff commented on the competitive dance team and the positive impact that physical activity has on self esteem and mental health. They also commented on adolescent mental health.

A member of the public, Wyckoff, thanked the board for their support on the dance team. They also commented on how dance is very much a competitive sport.

A member of the public, Franklin Lakes, commented on the dance team and thanked the Board. They also commented on the definition of sport and the recognition of dance as a sport.

A member of the public, Oakland commented in support of the dance team. They also thanked the new Board for allowing them to speak freely in this public comment.

A member of the public, Oakland, commented on the calendar and the February break. They also commented on transportation for students to and from school. They also commented on the strategic plan and the results. They questioned the number of freshmen going to IHHS next year. They also commented on block scheduling and later start time for school. They also commented on the effectiveness of keeping both schools open.

A member of the public, Oakland commented on P22 mountain biking. They also commented on a vocational class for students to learn how to fix bikes. They also

commented on if the district can put American sign language as a class. They also commented on P10. They also commented on fortifying special education teachers. They also commented on the layout of the Board. They thanked Mr. Lambe for his presentation.

A member of the public commented on April dates for the break.

A member of the public, Franklin Lakes, commented on The Pledge of Allegiance. They also thanked the Board for recognizing the holiday.

A member of the public, Wyckoff asked for an assembly on the new HIB changes to the law to allow for student understanding.

Moved by BOGDANSKY and seconded by DELAITE, and unanimously carried, to close the Public comment session and to re-enter the Regular Public Meeting, 9:48 PM.

Dr. Dionisio addressed questions regarding the calendar and the February break and the alignment with the flow district schools. Dr. Dionisio addressed the comment regarding spring break and noted that regardless of the calendar, there are 180 days in the calendar. He commented on the wellness breaks and noted that they will continue to have more conversations.

### **OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION**

Ms. King commented on the following items: PO2- 0155.02 strikethroughs, to which Ms. Ansh responded that the policy was revised within the committee and discussed so that committee meetings can be held virtually. Dr. Dionisio added that the policy did not support the practice that the Board has been doing and this allows for flexibility, it also allows for members to participate if they wanted to. Ms. King questioned if the attorney would review these strikethroughs, to which Dr. Dionisio responded yes. P21 and P22- Mountain Biking Club should it not be called a "Team" Dr. Dionisio responded to this, noting that the staff requested it be called a club and at some point it will be part of negotiations. Ms. King expressed concerns regarding the dance team and bike club resolution. Dr. Dionisio noted and reviewed the process.

Ms. Mariani welcomed new faces in the audience. Ms. Mariani thanked Mr. Llambe for his presentation, and also thanked Dr. Dionisio for his guidance. Ms. Mariani commented on the dance team and the amount of hard work and dedication.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Move to approve Closed and Regular Public Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2023.

Moved by LORENZ, and Seconded by King  
RC) \* = YES:

Bogdansky \*, No to Public DeLaite \* Emmolo \*, No to Public King \*  
 Koulikourdis \* Lorenz \* Mariani \*, No to Public Ansh \*, No  
 to Public Sullivan \*, No to Public

**PERSONNEL**

P1. Move to amend, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of a Special School Advisors, subject to all federal, state, county, and local regulations, governing said employment, effective for the 2022-23 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:

From Indian Hills High School to Ramapo High School

	<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a.	Steven Palmieri	From Intramural to (Winter) Intramural	4	\$1,606

P2. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Michael Levy, to serve as a One-to-One Instructional Aide for after school sponsored clubs, at the hourly rate of \$24.15, for an additional six (6) hours, effective for the 2022-23 school year.

P3. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, that the following persons be approved as athletic coaches, subject to all federal, state, county and local regulations, governing said employment; effective for the 2022-23 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.*

Ramapo High School

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a.	Taylor Grbelja	Assistant Girls’ Volleyball	Standard	4	\$5,871
b.	Brian Gibbs	Assistant Flag Football	Standard	Flat Rate	\$2,000
c.	Scott Loia	Head Coach Boys’ Tennis	Standard	4	\$6,904



d. John Mazola	Assistant Boys' Tennis	Standard	1	\$3,572
e. Brian Bunger	Assistant Boys' Golf	Standard	2	\$2,285
f. Joseph Piparo	Athletic Aide Spring	Standard	Flat Rate	\$4,144
g. Nicholas Chabuel	Asst. Spring Strength & Conditioning	Standard	4	\$2,314
h. Erin Gill	Assistant Girls' Lacrosse	Standard	4	\$5,871

**Indian Hills High School**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
i. Enrique Ortega	Assistant Track	Standard	1	\$4,320
j. Owen Ross	Assistant Flag Football	Standard	Flat Rate	\$2,000

P5. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Volunteer Coach, effective for the 2022-23 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 et seq., and N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq., as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
a. Taylor Grbelja	Boys' Volleyball/RHS
b. Nicholas Benvenuto	Baseball/RHS
c. Peter Silletti	Softball/IHHS
d. Merrick Gourhan	Softball/IHHS

P6. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Volunteer Coach, effective for the 2023-24 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 et seq., and N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq., as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
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a. Cory Terzis                      Football/RHS

P7. Move to amend, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, that the following persons be approved as athletic coaches, subject to all federal, state, county and local regulations, governing said employment; effective for the 2022-23 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.

**Ramapo High School**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a. Samantha Samuel	Head Cheerleading	Substitute	3	From \$0 to \$4,119
b. Kathleen Cericola	Assistant Cheerleading (JV)	Substitute	4	From \$0 to \$1,830
c. Joseph Fisher	Assistant Cheerleading (JV)	Substitute	1	From \$0 to \$1,334

P8. Move to amend, as recommended by the 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 2022-23 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:

**Ramapo High School**

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a. Lauren Smalley	Asst. Student Council	4	From \$2,284 to \$1,256.20*
b. Danielle Ferra	Asst. Student Council	2	From \$2,070 to \$931.50**

\*Prorated from 9/6/22-02/10/23

\*\*Prorated from 2/13/23-06/23/23

P10. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, Sue Hoyt from a long term substitute teacher , Special Education Science, at the rate of \$322.54/diem effective April 3, 2023 - June 22, 2023 or until the position is filled; and move to approve applicant’s 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, and N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq.*, as applicable:

P12. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of District, On-call/Temporary Administrative Assistants, at an hourly rate of \$22.15, no benefit coverage, with a schedule limited to less than 30 hours per week as assigned by the District administration effective for the 2022-23 School Year as follows:

- a. Susan Bergel
- b. Cyndy Von Essen

P13. Move to approve as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the Supplemental Teacher job description.

P14. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, District Volunteer Clubs and Volunteer Advisors effective for the 2022-23 School Year as follows:

Ramapo High School

Club

Advisor

a.) Ramapo Young Birders Club \*

Daniel Poalillo

\* New Club

P15. Move that, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the following persons 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 2022-23 School Year; and move to approve applicant’s 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 applicable. Further move to

approve the assignment of the appropriate Unique Position Code as required by State Statute, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Basis of Employment</u>	<u>Employment Date</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
a. Iva Rinaudo	.8 ELL Instructional Aide/District	Step 4	10 months	03/27/23-06/30/23	\$25,696.80*

\* New Position

P16. Move to amend, as recommended by the 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 Lauren Smalley, IHHS, Social Studies, effective from February 13, 2023 - March 30, 2023 to February 16, 2023 - March 31, 2023; and further move to approve an unpaid Family Leave of Absence pursuant to The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), effective From March 31, 2023 - June 30, 2023 to April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023, and further move to approve an unpaid Child Rearing Leave of Absence (CRLOA) effective September 1, 2023 - December 20, 2023.

P17. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the sixth period teaching assignment, at the contractual stipend of \$9,530, prorated, for the following staff members, effective March 14, 2023 - June 30, 2023.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Period/Staff Member being covered</u>	<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>School</u>
a. World Civilization	4/Unfilled Position	Cynthia Vander Molen	RHS

\* Coverage for an unfilled position (Richard Sawyer)

P18. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools;

**WHEREAS**, the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and the Ramapo Indian Hills Education Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Association") are parties to a Collective Negotiations Agreement governing the terms and conditions of employment for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the "CNA"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have met and discussed the unexpected absences of qualified teaching staff for vacated classes and/or classes in which a permanent teacher has not been assigned (hereinafter collectively referred to as “vacated classes”), from on or about March 14, 2023 through and including June 30, 2023, as a result of the Board’s challenges and difficulties associated with the hiring of qualified replacement teachers, despite the Board’s best efforts to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, Article XV.O. of the CNA provides that only tenured teaching staff may volunteer to teach a 6<sup>th</sup> teaching period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board’s ability to provide uninterrupted and consistent instruction to students with a certificated instructor is significantly increased if non-tenured teaching staff are able to volunteer to teach a 6<sup>th</sup> teaching period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association has agreed to permit non-tenured teaching staff to volunteer for assignments to a 6<sup>th</sup> teaching period for vacated classes, from on or about March 14, 2023 through and including June 30, 2023, in accordance with the procedures set forth under Article XV.O. of the CNA.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Board approves the Sidebar Agreement with the Association, by and through which non-tenured teaching staff may volunteer for assignments to a 6<sup>th</sup> teaching period for vacated classes, from on or about March 14, 2023 through and including June 30, 2023, subject to the terms and conditions of the Sidebar Agreement.

P19. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, with regret, the resignation of Jeffrey Boltzer, IHHS, Building Foreman, effective February 16, 2023.

P20. Move to accept, with regret, the retirement effective June 30, 2023 as follows:

*WHEREAS, Kathleen Whaley has dedicated herself to the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District for 21 years as an English Teacher; 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 Kathleen Whaley 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 Kathleen Whaley in recognition of her exemplary service to our school district.*

P21. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools;

WHEREAS, the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes the athletic and artistic value and positive impact that competitive dance has on high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Board values the importance of school-based competitive group activities for its students, such as a competitive dance team, as well as the positive social impact that such activities have on high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and appreciates the request by its students for the formation of a school-based competitive dance team.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Board approves the establishment of a competitive dance team for its students, contingent upon the negotiation of and entry into an agreement with the Ramapo Indian Hills Education Association, concerning the staffing of the competitive dance team and the stipend(s) for its advisor(s)/coach(es).

P22. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools;

WHEREAS, the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes the value of mountain biking and the positive impact that mountain biking has on its students; and

WHEREAS, the Board understands the importance of school-based individual and group fitness-related activities for its students, such as mountain biking, which provides the opportunity for its students to enjoy the outdoors, while they engage in an organized, school-based athletic activity with their peers; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and appreciates the request by its students for the formation of a school-based mountain biking club.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Board approves the establishment of a mountain biking club for its students, contingent upon the negotiation of and entry into an agreement with the Ramapo Indian Hills Education Association, concerning the staffing of the club and the stipend(s) for its advisor(s)/coach(es).

## **EDUCATION**

E1. Move that, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, home instruction for District students, at the approved hourly rate, be approved as follows:

<i>Student No.</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Grade</i>
426536	IHHS	9

425737	IHHS	10
426065	RHS	9
425213	RHS	10
425586	RHS	10
424106	RHS	11
423171	RHS	12

- E2. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying student remediation including disciplinary consequences, educational intervention, and counseling supports imposed during the 2022-23 School Year as a result of HIB Investigation for the following HIB investigations:

IHHS 005

IHHS 006

RHS 011

- E3. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, District student field trips and transportation costs for the 2022-23 School Year as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Rutgers Stadium	Boys' Lacrosse	03/11/23	0
To Ramapo from Newark International Airport	Softball	03/28/23	0
Federal Reserve Bank, NYSE	Economics	04/18/23	0
Life Town, Livingston	Transitions	04/18/23	\$490.00
Ramapo College	Digital Photography	04/21/23	0
Rutgers Stadium	Girls' Lacrosse	04/23/23	0
MetLife Stadium	Business	04/24/23	0

Live from Surgery-Kidney Transplant LSC In-school field trip	Anatomy and Physiology and AP Biology	04/25/23	0
City Green Eco Center, Clifton	Wellness	05/31/23	0
Six Flags Great Adventure	Physics	06/05/23	0
In-School Virtual Lab	UP Computer Science	03/14/2023	0

E4. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, 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>
LaSalle, Providence, RI & Medfield, MA	Boys' Soccer	09/02/23- 09/03/23	0

E5. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the implementation of the FY 2024 Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Corrective Action Plan.

E6. Move to approve as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the revised Curriculum for the 2022-2023 School Year as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
English	Choreography CP
English	Drama CP

E7. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the Curriculum Evaluation Hours for the 2022-23 School Year as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Hours per Staff Member</u>
Applied Tech	Structure Learning Experience	1 Participant 2 Presenters	12 6



- E8. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the following staff to serve as proctors for Saturday ACT and SAT testing for the 2022-2023 school year, at the rate of \$59.75 per hour as 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.

John Mazola

- E9. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the 2023-24 Student Calendar.

### **OPERATIONS**

- OP1. Move to amend, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, resolution OP7 approved at the January 30, 2023 Board of Education public meeting as follows:

WHEREAS, The Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education (the "Board") has determined a need to undertake the following Projects: Tennis Courts Renovations at Indian Hills High School Tennis Courts Renovations at Ramapo High School (the "Projects") and;

WHEREAS, the District is desirous of moving forward with a Proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services for this Project, and;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to retain DiCara Rubino Architects ("Architect") to provide Architectural and Engineering Services in connection with the Projects, and authorizes the Architect to submit a project application and schematic plans to the State and to the Municipal Planning Board<sup>1</sup> for this Project. This project is designated "Other Capital" and the Board is not seeking state funding, and;

WHEREAS, the school administration and such other officers and agents of the Board have received a proposal for the Projects from the Architect in the amount of \$153,200 for Architectural and Engineering Services; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the proposal from DiCara Rubino Architects best meets the needs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the agreement with DiCara Rubino Architects may be awarded without public bidding as a contract for professional services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1), and;

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes applications to the NJ DOE Office of School Facilities for approval of the Projects and LRFP amendments, if necessary, for the Tennis Court Renovations at Indian Hills High School and Ramapo High School; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends to finance the cost of up to \$1,703,200 for this Project through the use of capital reserve as part of the District's Long-Range Facilities Plan ("LRFP"), and;

WHEREAS, the school administration and such other officers and agents of the Board as are necessary, including the Board attorney and architect, are hereby authorized to perform such other acts, to execute such other documents and to do such other things as are necessary to implement the determinations of the Board set forth in this Resolution, including the submission of information to the New Jersey Department of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education that the Board President and Board Secretary/Business Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to enter into an Agreement with DiCara Rubino Architect and to execute any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a brief notice of this action shall be printed once in the Board's official newspaper stating its nature, service, and amount, and that the resolution and contract shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Board Office in the following form:

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

NOTICE OF AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education took action at its January 30, 2023, Regular Public Meeting to appoint DiCara Rubino Architects with offices at 30 Galesi Drive, Wayne, New Jersey, to provide Architectural and Engineering Services for the following project: Tennis Courts Renovations at Indian Hills and Ramapo High Schools. This agreement in the amount of \$153,200 is being entered into and approved as a professional service. This resolution and contract information are on file and available for public inspection at the Board of Education Office located at 131 Yawpo Avenue, Oakland, New Jersey.

OP2. Move to amend, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, resolution OP11 approved at the January 30, 2023 Board of Education public meeting as follows:

The reallocation of \$1,101,100 in funds, previously withdrawn from Capital Reserve as part of the 2022-2023 Capital Outlay Budget for roofing projects, to be transferred to other Capital Projects, in the amount of:

- \$783,200 for Tennis Court Renovations at both schools
- \$131,900 for Change Order No. 001 for Contract #107, Boiler Replacement Project at Ramapo High School.
- \$186,000 for Walk-in Box (Refrigerators and Freezers) Replacement at Indian Hills High School and Ramapo High School.

OP3. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, an agreement between the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education and Mark Zitomer, Schenck Price Smith and King LLP, as special legal counsel in the amount of \$170 per hour for partner and \$135 per hour for paralegal in connection with the review of a coop ice hockey agreement.

## **FINANCE**

F1. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the resolution as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the tentative FY 2023-24 School District Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$64,722,962	\$55,497,659
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 974,397	N/A
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,589,925	\$ 1,589,925
TOTAL	\$67,287,284	\$57,087,584

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the FY 2023-24 Budget includes \$510,085 of a health waiver and \$188,337 of banked cap, for a total adjustment amount of \$698,422 for the purpose of funding costs for benefits, salaries and educational costs that exceed a 2% increase.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves to forgo the use of \$309,549 of banked cap that will expire if not used in the 2023-24 budget.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the withdrawal of \$824,500 from Maintenance Reserve and to be used as revenue to offset budgeted required maintenance appropriations included in the FY 2023-24 budget.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the withdrawal of \$3,000,000 from Capital Reserve to offset budgeted capital projects included in the FY 2023-24 budget.

- F2. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, District Policy 9250 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for FY 2023-24;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2023-24 School Year at the sum of \$60,000.

BE IT RESOLVED that the school business administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

- F3. Move that, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the additional bills paid in February 2023 and drawn on the current account in the total amount of \$20,537.06 for materials received and/or services rendered, having been audited by the Business Administrator, be ratified by the Board. (Amount was not available for the February 13, 2023 Regular Public Meeting.)
- F4. Move that, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the February 15 and February 28, 2023 payrolls in the amount of \$3,510,110.46, having been audited by the Business Administrator, be ratified by the Board. (Amount was not available for the February 13, 2023 Regular Public Meeting.)
- F5. Move that, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, bills in the District Cafeteria Fund in the total amount of \$293,881.21 having been audited and approved by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary be approved by the Board as follows:

Aramark Services Inc.	\$156,219.27	December Operations
RIH Cafeteria Fund	\$1,355.25	December Student Lunches
Aramark Services, Inc.	\$135,045.69	January Operations

RIH Cafeteria Fund      \$1,261.00

January Student Lunches

- F6. Move to rescind, as recommended by the 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 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 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>
IH22-57	Ronald Heusser	"Beyond the Silk Road: Inner Eurasia in World History"	02/17/23	\$85.76
IH23-79	Ronald Heusser	Beyond the Silk Road: Inner Eurasia in World History	02/17/23	\$85.76
IH23-80	Ronald Heusser	"Images of American History"	03/31/23	\$85.76

- F7. Move to approve, as recommended by the 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>
R23-74	Deborah Schwartz	SUPA ENGLISH Spring Workshop	05/05/23	\$15.00
R23-76	Kathleen Whaley	SUPA - WRT 114 Creative Non-Fiction	05/10/23	\$20.00
R23-77	Terena Elias	CE-Online Course-Yearly Fee	03/01/23	\$50.00
R23-78	Erin Wiese	FAA Part 107 Made Easy	03/26/23	\$162.00
R23-79	Mariette Ng	ISTE Conference	06/25/23	\$1,784.00
IH23-81	Karen Davidson	WRT 114 Workshop:SUPA	05/10/23	\$35.00
IH23-82	Michelle Patrickio	Bergen County Stigma Free Symposium	05/03/23	\$11.35
IH23-83	Karen Davidson	NJCTE: New Jersey Council for Teachers of English	04/29/23	\$165.00

IH23-84	Gale Fanale	International Career Development Conference 2023	04/21/23	\$3,054.50
IH23-85	Karen Davidson	NJTESOL: Strengthening Collaboration	05/23/23	\$470.00
D23-42	Frank Primiani	NJ School Buildings and Grounds Association Expo	03/20/23	\$600.00

**POLICY**

PO1. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the renumbering of the following policies to be in align with the Strauss Esmay numbering system:

<u>From</u>	<u>Policy Title</u>	<u>Policy No.</u>
0164.1	Remote Attendance By Board Members for In-Person Board Meetings	0155.01

PO2. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, 0155.02 Use of Teleconferencing in Committee Meetings as a first reading inclusive of the renumbering of the following policies to be in align with the Strauss Esmay numbering system.

0155.1	Use of Teleconferencing in Committee Meetings	0155.02
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PO3. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the second and final reading of new District Policies as follows:

<u>Policy Title</u>	<u>Policy No.</u>
Conduct of Board Meetings	0164

Motion made by BOGDANSKY, seconded by DELAITE, unanimously carried for the consent agenda

**P1-P3, P5-P10, P12-P22, E1-E9, OP2-OP3, F1-F7, PO1-PO3**

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by MARIANI  
RC) \*=Yes:

RC): Bogdanskyy\*

DeLaite \*, NO PO3

Emmolo\*

King \*, NO PO3

Koulikourdis\*, NO PO3

Lorenz\*, NO PO3

Mariani \*

Ansh\*

Sullivan \*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by LORENZ, unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comments, 10:07 PM.

A member of the public, Oakland, questioned when the financial presentation would be posted. They also commented on P10.

A member of the public, Franklin Lakes, commented on the minutes and asked for board member comments and suggestions about the minutes be made in public.

A member of the public, Wyckoff, commented on an email and information regarding the Busch Law Group.

A member of the public, Franklin Lakes, commented on the board member qualifications and education. They also commented on the majority and minority in voting.

Moved by KING and seconded by BOGDANSKY, and unanimously carried, to close the Public comment session and to re-enter the Regular Public Meeting, 12:22 PM.

Ms. Sullivan commented about the balance of the two schools and is constantly looking at this. Ms. Sullivan also commented on the Board integrity and secure information, and noted that the Board tries to keep everything confidential. Ms. Sullivan noted that they take confidentiality seriously. Ms. Sullivan noted that the Budget presentation will be posted tomorrow.

Dr. Dionisio that he cannot speak to personnel, and noted that the staff is certified and qualified. He also noted the ICR (In class resource model) for grade nine and commented on the Special Education module TOSD (Teacher of Students with Disabilities) certification program.



## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Ms. King congratulated Ms. Whaley on her retirement. She also congratulated the Muslim community on the recognition of their holiday on the school calendar.

Mr. Bogdansky thanked Dr. Dioniso and Mr. Lambe for taking time to review the budget with him.

## **ANTICIPATED FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Monday, March 27, 2023 Regular Public Meeting, Indian Hills High School Auditorium.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by ANSH, unanimously carried to adjourn at 10:20 PM.

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Judith Sullivan  
Board President

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Thomas Lambe  
Business Administrator / Board Secretary