### RAMAPO INDIAN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Oakland, New Jersey 07436
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

February 12, 2024
Ramapo High School, Cafeteria, 7:00 P.M. *Action to authorize Executive Session*Anticipated Public Session, 8:00 P.M.

#### **MINUTES**

#### 1. Call to Order - Roll Call 6:45 PM

Mr. Bogdansky	_V_ Ms. Koulikourdis	Ms. Souders
Mr. DeLaite	Dr. Lorenz	Ms. Emmolo, Vice President
_ <b>V</b> Ms. Kiel	_🗸 _ Ms. Mariani	Ms. Ansh, President

**Also present:** Dr. Baker, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Zeno, Interim Business Administrator/BoardSecretary; as was Recording Secretary Ms. Demetriou

#### 2. Closed Session 7:06 PM

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District this 29th day of January, 2024 at 7:06 PM as follows:

The Board shall recess to closed session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A.10:4-12b. The general nature of the discussion will involve Personnel, pending litigation and student related matters.

These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies.

Moved by: Mr. Bogdansky Seconded: Ms. Mariani

Mr. Bogdansky	_V_ Ms. Koulikourdis	Ms. Souders
Mr. DeLaite	Dr. Lorenz	Ms. Emmolo, Vice President
_🔽 Ms. Kiel	_🔽 Ms. Mariani	_🔽 Ms. Ansh, President

Closed session was concluded at 7:54 PM, at which time the Board recessed and subsequently reconvened into public session at 8:12 PM

#### 3. Board President's Announcement

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 8:12 P.M. She announced that the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. She also announced that in accordance with the provisions of this act, the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and guidance from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services. She read a public statement advising the public to be aware that employees of the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. Ms. Ansh 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.

#### 4. Roll Call

Mr. Bogdansky	_V Ms. Koulikourdis	Ms. Souders
Mr. DeLaite	Dr. Lorenz	Ms. Emmolo, Vice President
_ <b>V</b> Ms. Kiel	_🔽 Ms. Mariani	_🔽 Ms. Ansh, President

### 5. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Ansh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 6. Board President's Report

#### Student Board Representatives

Cassandra Heinsohn-Indian Hills High School - updated the Board on the following school activities: athletic season standings, student life/extra-curricular activities, and student government.

Sophia DelBuono-Ramapo High School - Thanked Dr. Baker for the snow day tomorrow. Ms. DelBuono updated the Board on the following school activities: student life/extra-curricular activities, clubs, athletic season standings, guidance, and student government. Ms. DelBuono concluded by wishing a Happy Lunar New Year to those that celebrated.

Ms. Ansh thanked the students for their updates.

Ms. Ansh also commented on the following:

- Dr. Frank Mauriello-RIH's Director of Special Education, presentation on Special Education Programming for Incoming 9th Graders for the 2024-2025 school year that she attended on February 8th.
- Thanked Dr. Mauriello for his presentation and his work
- Thanked the parent booster club for the donation and installation of the press box at the Indian Hills High School
- Welcomed Ms. Quackenbush, Director of Curriculum

### 7. Interim Superintendent's Report

Dr. Baker reported on the following items:

- Welcomed the Director of Curriculum, noting her wealth of knowledge and experience
- He noted that her focus is on the following areas:
  - Staff evaluation
  - Student achievement
- Football coach at Ramapo (interviews are being conducted)
- University Program Night
  - Aviation program
- Recognized Dr. Frank Mauriello, RIH's Director of Special Education, for his presentation on Special Education Programming for Incoming 9th Graders for the 2024-2025 school year. The presentation is posted on the District website.
- Met with the following committees:
  - Finance & Facilities
  - o Education & Personnel
  - Policy
- Met with the Principals and various Administrators to discuss budgeting, curriculum, scheduling and anti-bias programs

## 8. Interim Business Administrator's Report

Ms. Zeno provided an update on the status of the budget process.

- Timeline for Budget
- March 11, 2024 Board of Education meeting will present and adopt a preliminary budget
- Ms. Zeno noted that it will be within the 2% cap

### 9. Board Committee Reports

**Athletics, Arts, Extracurriculars & Communications** - Ms. Kiel-noted that the committee did not meet yet

**Education & Personnel** - Ms. Souders highlighted the following matters discussed by the Committee:

- Welcomed Dr. Quackenbush
- University program
  - o Enrollment
  - Scheduling conflicts
  - Lack of electives

- Holocaust education
  - o Dr. Quackenbush will continue to audit the curriculum
  - o Dr. Baker is working on a presentation by holocaust museum
- NJDOE Math and ELA standards updated
- No immediate plans for late start or block scheduling
- Collaboration with universities for potential future staff
- Ms. Ansh, Ms. Kiel both attended Dr. Mauriello's presentation, which was informative and welcoming

**Finance & Facilities -** Ms. Emmolo highlighted the following matters discussed by the Committee who met on February 7, 2024:

- The committee discussed 16 agenda items but only focusing on three
  - Security- SLEO Class III Officers status of roll out process, implemented September, 2024
  - o Faculty and toilet room project- close out anticipated early March
  - Concession bathroom and storage \$2.4 million- anticipated completion spring 2025 completion
  - There is approximately nine million dollars in all capital projects for this year and the remaining Capital Reserve Fund balance is @\$11 million
  - IHHS 2024 approved projects:
    - New Thrive instructional wellness suite
    - Athletic trainer room
    - Concession Stand
    - New Family & Consumer Science rooms
  - o Ramapo
    - New Thrive instructional wellness suite
    - Athletic trainer room
    - New HVAC upgrades
    - New Family & Consumer Science rooms

Ms. Zeno shared photos of existing areas and the proposed plans for the Indian Hills High School Concession Stand

- While the concession stand is under construction, the District will utilize food trucks during sporting events
- This concession stand will be comparable to what RHS has as a facility
- Will be compatible with the Press Box Donation of the from parent group

**Negotiations** - Dr Lorenz noted that the committee has not met yet, but they had a transition meeting with Ms. Emmolo

**Policy** - Mr. Bogadansky reported that the committee met on February 8, 2024 for 1.5 hours. All policy decisions were discussed with legal counsel and Strauss Esmay. Mr. Bogdansky noted the policies on the agenda. He also reported that the committee along with Strauss Esmay and Athletic Directors, will review P 7510- Use of School property

#### 10. Public Comment 8:42 PM- 8:50 PM

The following subjects were raised by members of the community:

- Promoting a candidate for the football coach position
- Bias training
- Discouraged Board Members from using cell phones during meetings
- The 2024-2025 budget and 2% cap
- RHS APTS Meeting- recommended reviewing curriculum to emphasize Holocaust events, address anti-semitism, and celebrating Jewish success.

Dr. Baker commented on his football career and history with football coaches. He also noted that he advocates for the Jewish faith and his desire to end all hate, not limited to one group and his hopes to impact everyone.

# 11. Open Board Discussion

Mr. Bogdansky asked Ms. Zeno about the district cash balances and what interest rates were. Ms. Zeno responded and thanked him for prompting her to review this. The District's rate was 2.25% and effective 2/1/24, it will increase to 4.3% for a minimum of six months. The District also moved funds to a NJARM which has a 5.3% interest rate. These strategic moves could yield up to a half million dollars in interest for the district during this calendar year.

Dr. Lorenz asked for rationale to include a "board designee" verbiage to policy #0155. Ms. Ansh noted that board president and superintendent are ex-officio for the meetings, so this would allow someone else to sit in the meeting. Dr. Lorenz expressed his concern. Ms. Emmolo, as a former member of the Negotiations Committee, stated it would be helpful to share the existing work product during the transition of the new Negotiations Committee.

Ms. Mariani noted that all committees can have other board members sit in their place if an individual is unable to attend. This enables board members to help each other.

Ms. Souders commented on the high cost of the concession stand and noted her support for this to address the disparity between the two high schools..

Various board members commented on their support and work for this project.

Ms. Koulikourdis- commented on committee assignments

Ms. Mariani- noted that she was on three committees and some met more than once a month. She stated the board president attends all Committee meetings. She noted her support for the change in the policy language.

# 12. Action Items - Voted upon as a Consent Agenda:

Move to approve the following Meeting **Minutes**:

• January 29, 2024 Closed Session and Regular

## 13. Personnel

## P1. Move to approve the following:

## A. INSTRUCTIONAL

	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Location	Guide/ Step	Salary	Replacing / Discussio n	Effective Date
a.	Victor Wu	Rescind	Physics Teacher	BA	RHS	BA/20	\$88,212	Sammy Alkhalil	On or about 02/05/24-06/30/24
b.	Tyler Wadhams	Appoint	Mentor (E. Fougnies)		RHS				2023-2024
c.	Michael Levy	Appoint	1:1 Aide, after school track	N/A	IHHS	N/A	\$24.90/ hr	Not to exceed 40 hours	03/13/24- 05/17/24
d.	Sari Prata	Appoint	Instructional Aide	N/A	RHS	Step 1	\$160.90 /Diem	Sandra Miele	02/16/24- 06/30/24
e.	Sandra Miele	Amend Resignation effective date	Instructional Aide		RHS	Step 4	\$33,121		Effective 02/15/2024
f.	Emily Toal	Appoint	Substitute	N/A	District		\$140/ Diem		2023-24
g.	Fadia Abbasi	Appoint	Substitute	N/A	District		\$140/ Diem		2023-24

## P2. Move to approve the following:

## B. NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacemen t	Location	Guide/ Step	Salary	Replacin g	Effective Date
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a.	Spencer Fox	Appoint	Volunteer Football Coach	N/A	IHHS	N/A	N/A	Fall 2024
b.	Christine Vita	Resignat ion	NHS Advisor	N/A	RHS		Prorated \$2,680	01/31/2024
c.	Christine Vita	Appoint	Volunteer Club Advisor, Women in Business*	N/A	RHS	N/A	N/A	2023-2024
d.	Catherine Copeland	Appoint	Volunteer Club Advisor, Lifting*	N/A	RHS	N/A	N/A	2023-2024
e.	Osbaldo Rosa	Appoint	.85 Security Aide	N/A	RHS	Step 4	\$25,729.50	On or about 03/25/24
f.	Lisa Estrella	Change in rate	Ice Hockey Athletic Trainer fee	N/A	RHS	N/A	From \$125 to \$150/ game	12/01/23- 03/31/24
g.	Karen Karosy	Change in rate	Ice Hockey Athletic Trainer fee	N/A	RHS	N/A	From \$125 to \$150/ game	12/01/23- 03/31/24

<sup>\*</sup>New Club

- P3. Move to approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the placement of Sandy De Leon, a Rutgers University Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant student, to complete forty-five (45) practicum hours, District Special Education, effective from February 2024 May 2024.
- P4. Move to approve as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools the Spring Curriculum Workshop for the projected Summer Learning Academy offering of a Financial Literacy course.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Hours per Staff</u> <u>Member</u>
Business	Financial Literacy	Participants 2 Presenters 2	4 1

P5. Move to approve, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the new job description Confidential Secretary to the Building principal/Office Manager.

### 15. Education

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

<u>Location</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Liberty Science Center	New Horizons	03/13/24	\$512.85
Ramapo College	Digital Photography	03/26/24	0
Bergen Community College	Transitions	03/28/24	\$356.43
In House (Ramapo)	Power in Presence	04/23/24	0
Anaheim, CA	DECA	04/26/24-05/01/24	0
Rutgers, Piscataway	Girls' Lacrosse	04/06/24	\$512.85
Bergen Community College	Transitions (Ramapo)	05/17/24	\$412.86
Bergen Community College	Transitions (Indian Hills)	05/17/24	\$412.86

E2. Move that, home instruction for a District student at the approved hourly rate, effective for the 2023-24 School Year, be approved as follows:

<u>Student No.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
427272	RHS	9
426015	RHS	10
424426	RHS	12

- E3. Move to approve Student S.L., a student who is Homeschooled and resides in the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District, participation in the interscholastic Athletics Program at Ramapo High School, per Board Policy 2431.
- E4. Move to amend and approve the Tuition Agreement between Northern Highlands Regional High School District and the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District/Indian Hills High School Transitions Program to receive

Student No. 427770 at an annual tuition payment of \$110,546.00 effective for the 2023-24 School Year.

E5. Move to approve the Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying student remediation including disciplinary consequences, educational intervention, and counseling supports imposed during the 2023-24 School Year as a result of HIB Investigation for the following HIB investigation:

RHS 002 RHS 003 RHS 004

## 16. Operations

OP1 Move to approve the **use of** the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District **facilities** for the date(s) indicated in accordance with the rules and regulations governing said use as follows:

Ramapo High School	
Ace Baseball Camp	Athletic Field & Storage Unit; July 1, 2, 3, & 5, 2024; Rain Date July 6, 2024; 9 A.M 1 P.M  Athletic Field & Storage Unit, July 15-18, 2024; Rain
	Date July 19, 2024; 9 A.M 1 P.M.

<u>Indian Hills High School</u>			
Oakland Police	Safety Town; Gymnasium & Wellness Room & Parking Lot; July 8-11 and July 15 & 16, 2024; 8 A.M 12 P.M.		
Oakland Recreation	Basketball Camp; Gymnasium & Equipment; July 8-12, 2024; 1 - 4 P.M.  Basketball Camp; Gymnasium & Equipment; July 15-19; 1 - 4 P.M.		
Oakland Police	Junior Police Academy Graduation; Auditorium; July 26, 2024; 6 - 9 P.M.		

OP2. Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education (the "Board") has determined a need to undertake the following Project:

Two Story Concession Stand, including bathrooms, kitchen, storage space, architectural and engineering fees, contingency costs, wastewater disposal septic system, environmental and DOE review fees at the Indian Hills High School Athletic Complex, (the "Project") and;

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

WHEREAS, the Board desires to retain LAN Associates ("Architect") to provide Architectural and Engineering Services in connection with the Project, and authorizes the Architect to submit, if applicable, project applications and schematic plans and educational specifications to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools and the New Jersey Department of Education for approval of 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 received a proposal for the Project in the amount of \$258,062 to provide Architectural and Engineering Services, plus construction and other soft costs in the amount of \$2,150,519 for a total project cost of \$2,408,581; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes that the proposal from LAN Associates best meets the needs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the proposal from LAN Associates 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, schematic plans and educational specifications be submitted to the NJDOE Office of School Facilities for approval of the Projects and LRFP amendments, if necessary, for the Concession Snack Stand construction at the Indian Hills High School Athletic Complex; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board intends to finance the cost of up to \$2,408,581 for this Projects 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 LAN

Associates and to execute any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

OP3. Motion to accept the following donation:

**WHEREAS**, the Indian Hills High School Diamond Booster Association (Association) wishes to install a **press box** on the grounds of the Indian Hills High School to be built behind the backstop of the baseball field; and

WHEREAS, the Association has acquired signed and sealed architectural plans and shared them with the administration; and

WHEREAS, all costs associated with the installation, including building permit fees, construction and turn key operation of this Press Box will be entirely borne by the Association; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Oakland Building Department requires a Board Resolution authorizing the Association to file permits on the Board's behalf;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District gratefully **accepts** this donation, subject to Board Attorney review of the relevant documentation.

### 17. Finance

- F1. Move that, the January 31, 2024 payroll in the amount of \$1,489,487.39 having been audited by the Interim Business Administrator and previously paid, be ratified by the Board.
- F2. WHEREAS, the Board is authorizing facilities improvements to construct a two Story Concession Stand, including bathrooms, kitchen, storage space, architectural and engineering fees, contingency costs, wastewater disposal septic system, environmental and DOE review fees at the Indian Hills High School Athletic Complex, (the "Project"), and

**WHEREAS**, this facility improvement is included in the district's Long Range Facilities Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Accountability and Budget 6A:23A-14.1, Capital Reserve Account permits **withdrawals from Capital Reserve** Accounts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Business Office record a transfer to reduce the Capital Reserve Fund Balance in the amount of \$2,408,581.

F3. Move to accept the donation from the Ramapo Athletics Booster Club for Game Ready Machines for the Athletic Training Room in the amount of \$6,681.75.

#### F4. Move to approve the following resolution:

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

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

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

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

Req. No.	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
D24-15	Frank Primiani	New Jersey Association of Designated Persons	03/24/24	\$47.94
R24-26	Lauren Gibson	Bergen County Art Teacher Conference	03/11/24	\$14.28
R24-27	Lisa Higbie	Bergen County Art Teacher Conference	03/11/24	\$14.28
R24-28	Melissa Liebau	MOHS FCS PLC Day	03/22/24	\$91.14
R24-29	Christina Berens	FLENJ: How to Connect the 3 Cs in the world language classroom	01/11/24	\$30.00
IH24-35	Karen Davidson	New Jersey Association of Designated Persons	02/14/24	\$87.00
IH24-36	Connie Cheff	DECA State Conference	03/03/24- 03/06/24	\$893.50
IH24-37	Edith LaChac	DECA State Conference	03/04/24- 03/06/24	\$361.50

IH24-38	Michelle Patrickio	DECA State Conference	03/04/24- 03/06/24	\$598.20
IH24-39	Dianna Peller	Syracuse University Project Advance Summer Institute	07/08/24- 07/12/24	\$1,232.00
IH24-40	Yasette Rodriguez	NJTESOL/ NJBE 2024 Spring Conference: Systems of Support for Multilingual Learners	05/29/24- 05/31/24	\$496.44
IH24-41	Andrea Saladino	NJPN 24th Annual Conference	05/16/24- 05/17/24	\$414.00
D24-16	Dr. Melissa Quackenbush	Learning Forward Title II Symposium, Arlington VA	02/28/24- 03/01/24	\$1,650.00

# 18. Policy

PO1. Move to approve, the first and final reading of Abolished District Policies as follows:

Policy Title	Policy Number
School Level Planning (M)	P1522
Remote Learning Options for Families (M)	P1648.02
Restart and Recovery Plan- Full-time Remote Instruction (M)	P1648.03

PO2. Move to approve, the first reading of District Policies and Regulations as follows:

Policy/Regulation Title	<u>Policy Number</u>
Board Committees	P0155
School Threat Assessment Team (M)	P2419
School Threat Assessment Teams (M)	R2419

Motion to approve all motions contained in agenda sections as follows: Minutes, Personnel, Education, Operations, Finance, and Policy as a Consent vote:

Moved by ANSH Seconded BOGDANSKY

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bogdansky	X			
Mr. DeLaite	Х			
Ms. Kiel	Х			
Ms. Koulikourdis	Х	See below		
Dr. Lorenz	Х	See below		
Ms. Mariani	X			
Ms. Souders	Χ			
Ms. Emmolo, Vice President	Х			
Ms. Ansh, President	Χ			

Koulikourdis- NO PO1 - Policy 0155 Lorenz- NO PO1 - Policy 0155

#### 19. Public Comment 9:17 PM- 9:25 PM

The following subjects were raised by members of the community:

- The concession stand and cost and potential construction grants
- Reminded Board that Committees recommend, but do not vote during the Committee meeting
- Requested a Strategic Plan update
- Demographic study and overall enrollment decline
- Recognized the hard work and time commitment it takes to serve on the Board
- Thanked the Board for its vote for the Concession Stand, reminding all that the Ramapo Concession Stand was donated by the Community
- Referred to cleaning practices related to mouse infestation

#### 20. Board Comments

Ms. Emmolo noted that a company was hired to prepare a demographic study, which will be completed around mid-March. She also addressed an email received regarding committee meeting updates and the time it takes to give reports

Ms. Mariani commented about voting in committee. She also thanked Ms. Ansh and Ms. Emmolo for their time, care, transparency

Ms. Koulikourdis, APTS liaison, noted that she was unable to attend the meeting last week. She also commented on the superintendent search survey, requesting that a comment section be added.

Ms. Ansh noted that the board majority voted to move forward with the process and voted on a company that uses this survey nationwide

Ms. Kiel asked if a designee sits in a committee meeting for Ms. Ansh, would that person get a vote, to which Ms. Ansh responded no.

# 21. Anticipated Future Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Special Board Meeting/Executive Session, Board of Education Offices, Conference Room
- Thursday, February 29, 2024, Regular Public Meeting, Indian Hills Cafeteria

### 22. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Monday, February 12, 2024 Regular Public Meeting.

Moved by Mr. Bogdansky Seconded: Ms. Mariani to adjourn at 9:36 P.M

Mr. Bogdansky Mr. DeLaite Ms. Kiel	Ms. Koulikourdis Dr. Lorenz Ms. Mariani	Ms. Souders Ms. Emmolo, Vice President Ms. Ansh, President
Respectfully submitted,		
Dora E. Zeno		