RAMAPO INDIAN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Oakland, New Jersey 07436

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

October 30, 2023
Ramapo High School, Cafeteria, 7:02 P.M.

Action to authorize Executive Session
Public Session, 8:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

_ ☑ Mr. Bogdansky	_ Ms. King	_🗹 Ms. Mariani
_☑ Mr. DeLaite	_ V Ms. Koulikourdis	_☑ Ms. Ansh, Vice President
_ ☑ Ms. Emmolo	_☑ Dr. Lorenz	_V Ms. Sullivan, President

Also present: Dr. Rui Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Dora E. Zeno, Interim Business Administrator/BoardSecretary

2. Closed Session

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District this 16th day of October, 2023 at 7:02 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 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. Ansh



Closed session was concluded at 8:00 PM, at which time the Board recessed and subsequently reconvened into public session at 8:08 PM

3. Board President's Announcement

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 8:00 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. Sullivan 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	_ Ms. King	_🗹 Ms. Mariani
_☑ Mr. DeLaite	_ V Ms. Koulikourdis	_☑ Ms. Ansh, Vice President
_ ☑ Ms. Emmolo	_☑ Dr. Lorenz	_V Ms. Sullivan, President

5. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. Board President's Report

Ms. Sullivan highlighted the following developments:

- Wished Dr. Dionsio success and good luck with his new District.
- Thanked the faculty, students, staff and board for working with and supporting the superintendent.
- Superintendent Search update The Interim Superintendent is scheduled to start November 13, 2023.
- Attended the NJSBA Conference for several days in Atlantic City last week with other Board members. The experience was valuable, particularly when interacting with other board members and government officials.
- Two board meetings remain through December 2023.
- Thanked board chairs for all of their hard work this year.

Student Board Representatives

Sophia DelBuono-Ramapo High School - updated the Board on the following school activities: athletic season standings, co-curricular activities, fundraisers, clubs, yearbook photo timelines

Cassandra Heinsohn-Indian Hills High School - Induction ceremonies, NJSIAA athletic events and team season standings, student council activities, college prep related activities

7. Superintendent's Report -

Dr. Dionisio remarked upon:

- Immensely rewarding experience during his two-year tenure in the districts
- Thanked students, staff, parents and community for unwavering commitment to education
- Highlighted facilities improvements

8. Interim Business Administrator's Report

Ms. Zeno referred to agenda item F9, the 2024-2025 tentative budget calendar, reminding the Board that all dates are subject to change.

9. Board Committee Reports

Athletics, Arts, Extracurriculars & Communications - Doreen Mariani - None - next Committee meeting November 2nd

Education & Personnel - Tom Bogdansky - None - next Committee meeting November 6 **Finance & Facilities** - Marianna Emmolo highlighted the following matters being considered by the Committee:

- Prioritizing facilities improvements to be funded from Capital Reserve Funds which may include wellness centers, family & consumer science classroom renovations, snack stand, athletic & training room renovations
- Balances in various funds including capital, maintenance and surplus balances
- Potential Demographic Study
- Potential financial impact on proposed block scheduling
- Long Range Facilities Plan impending updates
- Next Meeting Nov 7, 2023

Negotiations - Marianna Emmolo - No update

Policy - Kim Ansh - None - next Committee meeting November 14

10. Public Comment 8:37 - 9:09 PM

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by MARIANI, unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comments

The following subjects were raised by members of the public:

- Alleged deterioration of district's reputation
- Speculation as to why administrators were accepting positions in other districts
- Interaction between/among Board members
- Question related to the current school year's student class scheduling challenges and what is plan to avoid in the next school year
- References to upcoming election and candidates' campaign materials and his/her capacity to serve in that role

- References to alleged banned books
- Why was district assignment changed from a psychologist to a social worker

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by ANSH, unanimously carried to close public comments.

11. Open Board Discussion

- Ms. King asked that all links to the Finance & Facilities be updated so that all could access the documents
- Ms. Sullivan referred to the August 1, 2023 meeting minutes and asked the Board to consider deleting some words. A motion to that effect was voted upon during the action portion of the meeting.
- Ms. Sullivan inquired as to the nature of an item included in the bills list.
- Ms. Emmolo wished to dispel rumors of book banning by the Board.
- Ms. Emmolo referred to the disparity and enrollment fluctuation pattern over several years between each high school.
- Several members referred to attendance at the annual NJ School Boards Association conference and the merits of interacting with other districts and the value of training sessions.
- Ms. Emmolo read a proposed agenda item, stating the district needs to move forward in its search for a permanent superintendent. She enumerated several reasons to do so and could result in the vacancy not being filled until potentially next September.

"Motion to authorize the retention of an executive search service firm, Hazard Young Attea Associates, to perform a permanent superintendent search for the Board."

Moved by EMMOLO Seconded MARIANNI

	Yes	No
Mr. Bogdansky		Х
Mr. DeLaite		Х
Ms. Emmolo	X	
Ms. King		X
Ms. Koulikourdis		Х
Dr. Lorenz		Х
Ms. Mariani	X	
Ms. Ansh, Vice President	X	
Ms. Sullivan, President	X	

The above motion did not carry, and thus it was followed by the following motion:

"Motion to authorize the issuance of a request for proposals for firms to perform a permanent superintendent search for the Board."

Moved by EMMOLO Seconded MARIANNI

Yes	No
	Х
	Х
Х	
	Х
	Х
	Х
Х	
Х	
Х	
	X X X

The above motion did not carry.

• A comment was made regarding the public's alleged interaction focused on individual Board members.

12. Action Items

Motion to amend the August 1, 2023 meeting minutes to delete the phrase "...in her opinion..." from the minutes.

Moved by SULLIVAN Seconded ANSH

	Yes	No
Mr. Bogdansky		X
Mr. DeLaite		Х
Ms. Emmolo	Х	
Ms. King		Х
Ms. Koulikourdis		X
Dr. Lorenz		Х
Ms. Mariani	Х	
Ms. Ansh, Vice President	Х	
Ms. Sullivan, President	Х	

The above motion did not carry.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion to vote on the entire agenda as a Consent vote:

Moved by BOGDANSKY, seconded by MARIANNI

9 ayes, 0 nays - (see actual cumulative vote following Policy Section)

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

- August 1, 2023 Regular
- August 28, 2023 Closed & Regular
- September 11, 2023- Closed & Regular
- September 14, 2023- Closed and Special
- September 18, 2023 Closed & Special

13. Personnel

Motion by	, seconded by	, to accept the recommendation of the
Superintendent to	approve and adopt mot	tions P1 through P6, as described below:

P1. Move to approve the following:

A. ADMINISTRATION

P2. Move to approve the following:

B. INSTRUCTIONAL

	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Locatio n	Guide / Step	Salary	Replacing/ Discussion	Effective Date
a.	John Schmeding	Appoint	Substitute	N/A	District	N/A	\$140/Diem		2023-24
b.	Alexander Puerto	Appoint	Substitute	N/A	District	N/A	\$140/Diem		2023-24
c.	Priya Basak	Appoint	Social Worker, CST	MA	IHHS	MA/ 20	\$99,754	Ellen Tarlowe	01/03/2024
d.	Danielle Ferrara	Appoint	Holiday Festival- Asst. Advisor	N/A	IHHS	Flat	\$1,606		2023-24
e.	James Cramer	Appoint	Science Club Advisor	N/A	RHS	Flat	\$1,409		2023-24
f.	Peter Kanefke	Appoint	Chemistry II Advisor	N/A	RHS	Flat	\$2,332		2023-24

	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Locatio n	Guide / Step	Salary	Replacing/ Discussion	Effective Date
g.	Olivia de Diego	Appoint	World Language National Honor Society Co-Advisor	N/A	IHHS	Flat	\$803		2023-24
h.	Alexandra Brown	Appoint	World Language National Honor Society Co-Advisor	N/A	IHHS	Flat	\$803		2023-24
i.	Wagdi Abdalla	Appoint	Instructional Aide	N/A	IHHS	4	\$33,121		2023-24
j.	Michael Wysokowski	Appoint	.85 Security Aide	N/A	District	4	\$25,729.50		01/02/24- 06/30/24
k.	Amelia Rodgers	Appoint	Leave Replacement School Counselor	MA	IHHS	MA/1	\$306.41/ Diem		11/27/22- 03/01/24 with two transition days during the month of 11/2023
1.	Joseph Del Buono	Change in Assignme nt	From Subject Supervisor to District Supervisor of Social Studies, Music & University Program (UP)		District		No Change		11/13/23 - 06/30/24
m.	Alyssa Durfee	Change in Assignme nt	From .6 Social Studies to .8 Social Studies	MA	IHHS	MA/ 18	\$72,371.20	Additional assignment for 2023-24 school year	11/13/23- 06/30/24

P3. Move to approve the following:

C. NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Location	Guide/ Step	Salary	Replacing	Effective Date
a.	Michael Dailey	Appoint	Head Coach Ice Hockey	Standard	IHHS	4	\$6,350		Winter 2023-24
b.	Connor DiTomaso	Appoint	Asst. Coach Ice Hockey	Standard	IHHS	4	\$4,415		Winter 2023-24
c.	Steven Lovell	Appoint	Volunteer Ice Hockey Coach	N/A	IHHS	N/A	N/A		Winter 2023-24
d.	Bryan Press	Appoint	Head Coach Indoor Track	Standard	IHHS	4	\$6,904		Winter 2023-24
e.	Megan Barreto	Appoint	Asst. Coach Indoor Track	Standard	IHHS	4	\$4,867		Winter 2023-24
f.	Brian Swayne	Appoint	Asst. Coach Indoor Track	Standard	IHHS	4	\$4,867		Winter 2023-24
g.	Roger Cummings	Rescind Appoint ment	Volunteer Coach Girls' Fencing	N/A	RHS	N/A	N/A		Winter 2023-24
h.	Grace McCarthy	Rescind Appoint ment	Volunteer Coach Girls' Fencing	N/A	RHS	N/A	N/A		Winter 2023-24
i.	William DiMauro	Amend	Head Coach Wrestling	Standard	RHS	4	From \$4,867 to \$8,437		Winter 2023-24
f.	Molly Davison	Amend	From Competitive Dance Team Choreograph er to Competitive Dance Team Co-Choreogr apher	Substitute/ Flat	District	District	From \$5,000 to \$2,500		2023-24

	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Location	Guide/ Step	Salary	Replacing	Effective Date
g.	Robert Albano	Appoint	Asst. Coach Indoor Track	Standard	IHHS	4	\$4,867		Winter 2023-24
h.	Nicole Sullivan	Appoint	Competitive Dance Team Co-Choreogr apher	Substitute/Fl at	District	District	\$2,500		2023-24
i.	Todd Colombo	Appoint	Asst. Coach Swimming	Standard	IHHS		\$4,515		Winter 2023-24

P4. Move to approve the following rates of pay for officials as designated by NJSIAA for the 2023-24 school year:

<u>Official</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Volleyball Line Judges	\$60.00

P5. Move to amend the following rates of pay for officials as designated by NJSIAA for the 2023-24 school year:

<u>Official</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Softball Varsity	From \$85.00 to \$95.00

P6. Move to accept **retirement**, with regret, effective June 30, 2024, as follows:

WHEREAS, Pamela Pappas has dedicated herself to the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District for 26 and a half years as an Ramapo High School Mathematics Teacher and School Treasurer, 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 Pamela Pappas 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 Pamela Pappas in recognition of her exemplary service to our school district.

14. Education

Motion by ______, seconded by ______, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions E1 through E3 as described below:

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>	Date(s)	<u>Cost</u>
National Constitution Center	AP US Gov/21st Century Issues	12/08/23	\$1,750
Lincoln, EMS, Coolidge School	Marching Band	11/16/23	\$1,238.56

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

Student No.	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
425239	IHHS	11

E3. Move to approve the the Tuition Agreement between the Ramsey Board of Education and the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District to receive Student No. 425582 at an annual tuition payment of \$26,174, effective for the 2023-24 School Year.

15. Operations

Motion by	, seconded by	, to accept the recommendation of	the
Superintendent to app	rove and adopt motions	OP1 through OP3, as described below:	

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:

Indian Hills High School	
Oakland Recreation	Basketball; Gymnasium; December 1, 2023 - March 14, 2024; Tuesdays 6:30 - 9 P.M & Saturdays 9 - 10:30 A.M.
Oakland Recreation	Wrestling Practices; Gymnasium; November 2023-March 2024; Monday - Friday; 6 - 9:30 P.M.

Ramapo High School		
Wyckoff Recreation	Wrestling Practices; Gymnasium; November 27, 2023 - February 28, 2024; Mondays & Wednesdays; 6 - 9 P.M.	
Wyckoff Recreation	Football Game; Athletic Field & Booth Press Box & Equipment Garage; November 12, 2023; 11 A.M 6 P.M.	
Ramapo HS Boys Lacrosse Boosters	Boys Lacrosse Youth Clinic; Athletic Fields/Lacrosse Nets; November 12, 19 & 26, 2023; 9 A.M 12 P.M.	

OP2. Move to amend 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:

Indian Hills High School		
Infinite Motion	Dance Recital Dress Rehearsals; Auditorium and Cafeteria; May 3, 4, and 5, 2024 Dance Recital Performance; Auditorium and Cafeteria; May 17, 18, and 19, 2024.	

OP3. Move to approve **Change Orders** Nos. 002 and 003 from Dakota Excavating Contractor, Inc., Saddle River, New Jersey for the Tennis Courts' Renovations as follows:

<u>Change Order</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
002	Adding a fence hatch to aid in leaf removal at Indian Hills High School	-\$2,600.00 (Allowance* No. 1)
003	Repair damage on surface of the courts at Ramapo High School	-\$3,600.00 (Allowance* No 1)

*The original Allowance amount was \$100,000. The revised Allowance is \$87,500. The Original Contract Sum of \$1,389,900. remains unchanged.

16. Finance

Motion by	, seconded by	, to accept the recommendation of the
Superintendent to approv	ve and adopt motions F1	through F10, as described below:

- F1. Move that the **Financial Report** of the Interim Business Administrator and the Report of the Cash Reconciliation for the months of **September 2023**, including a cash report for that period, be approved by the Board and ordered filed.
- F2. Move that the Committed **Purchase Order Report** for the month of September 2023, having been audited by the Interim Business Administrator be approved by the Board.
- F3. Move that the **additional bills** drawn on the current account for the month of **September 2023**, in the total amount of \$5,203.10 for materials received and/or services rendered, having been audited by the Interim Business Administrator and previously paid, be ratified by the Board.
- F4. Move to authorize **approval of bills** drawn on the current account through **October 25**, **2023**, in the total amount of \$4,481,362.07 including the October 15, 2023 Payroll, for materials received and/or services rendered having been audited by the Interim Business Administrator.
- F5. Move to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, **transfers** and to authorize the Interim Business Administrator/ Board Secretary to make additional transfers that would be ratified at the next Board Meeting as necessary to comply with State requirements in accordance with Policy 6422 as per the attached *Expense Account Adjustment Analysis* for the month of September 2023.
- F6. Move to approve that pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6:23*A*-16.10(*c*)4, we certify that as of September 30, 2023 after review of the **Secretary's monthly financial report** (Appropriations Section) and upon consultation with the appropriate District officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of *N.J.A.C.* 6*A*:23*A*-16.10(*b*) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- F7. Move to approve the resolution as follows:

Receipt of Certification from Board Secretary

Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6:23*A*-16.10(*c*)4, I, Dora E. Zeno, certify that as of September 30, 2023, **no budgetary line item** account has obligations or payments (contractual orders) which in total **exceeds** the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18*A*:22-8 and *N.J.S.A.* 18*A*:22-8.1.

F8. Move that **bills** in the District **Cafeteria Fund** in the total amount of having been audited and approved by the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary be approved by the Board as follows:

12 of 15

Food Services	September 2023 Operations	\$195,501.96
Food Services	September Student Lunches	\$ 1,157.00

- F9. Move to approve the 2024-25 Budget Development Calendar.
- F10. 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:

<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
R24-15	Casey Hollm	Art of Education Winter Conference	02/02/24	\$ 149.00
R24-16	Thomas Witterschein	Princeton History Conference	12/01/23	\$ 149.14
IH24-18	Karen Davidson	2024 ASCD Annual Conference	03/22-25/24	\$2,160.50
IH 24-20	Keely Leggour	2024 ASCD Annual Conference	03/22-25/24	\$2,160.50
IH24-21	Angela Manzi	2024 ASCD Annual Conference	03/22-25/24	\$2,160.50
IH24-22	Erika McGavin	2024 ASCD Annual Conference	03/22-25/24	\$2,160.50
IH24-24	Amanda Zielenkievicz	2024 ASCD Annual Conference	03/22-25/24	\$2,160.50
IH24-19	Mark Friedman	19th Annual New Jersey State Jazz Conference	11/17/23	\$ 99.00
IH24-223	Michael Paravati	NJ Al Literacy Summit	12/11/23	\$ 21.43

17. Policy

Motion by	, seconded by _	, to accept the recommendation of the
Superintendent to appro	ove and adopt mo	otion PO1 as described below:

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

Policy Title	<u>Policy Number</u>
Recording Board Meetings	0168

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

	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Bogdansky	Х		
Mr. DeLaite	Х		
Ms. Emmolo*	X*		
Ms. King**	X**		
Ms. Koulikourdis	Х		
Dr. Lorenz	Х		
Ms. Mariani*	X*		
Ms. Ansh, Vice President*	Χ*		
Ms. Sullivan, President*	X*		

^{*}Ms. Ansh, Ms. Emmolo, Ms. Mariani and Ms. Sullivan dissented on the August 1, 2023 minutes

18. Public Comment 10:20 - 10:47 PM

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by MARIANI, unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comments

Members of the public remarked on the following subjects:

- Stated Board members' behavior needs to improve
- Supported moving forward to seek proposals from search firms to minimize time to fill Superintendent position permanently
- Provided an opinion as to the merits of why a legal matter was dismissed
- Sought additional clarification regarding student scheduling during the past summer and potential solutions going forward
- Stated the Consent Agenda voting process was not being handled properly
- Should be consistent regarding additional agenda items
- Voting record related to current year's budget

^{**}Ms. King abstained from Personnel item P2C a & c

- Enrollment impact and strategic plan
- Regret at Dr. Drionisio's departure and the chain of events that led to him seeking other employment
- Welcome to Interim Superintendent, Dr. Baker
- BOE members should refrain from campaigning during BOE meetings
- BOE focus should be on student education
- Suggest a monthly report be issued on the status of the ESIP initiative

Moved by BOGDANSKY, Seconded by MARIANI, unanimously carried to close public comments

19. Board Comments

- Board members thanked Dr. Dionisio for
 - His excellent service to the district
 - Were apologetic if he felt disrespected
 - o Emphasized he will be missed
- The search firm process
- Support to reconsider hiring a communications specialist

20. Anticipated Future Meeting Dates

- Thursday, November 30, 2023, Regular Public Meeting, Ramapo High School Cafeteria
- Monday, December 18, 2023, Regular Public Meeting, Indian Hills High School Cafeteria

21. Adjournment - 11:03 PM

Motion to adjourn the Monday, October 30, 2023 Regular Public Meeting.

Moved by **BOGDANSKY** Seconded: **MARIANI** to adjourn at 11:03 P.M

_☑ Mr. Bogdansky	_ ☑ Ms. King	_🗸 Ms. Mariani
_☑ Mr. DeLaite	_☑ Ms. Koulikourdis	_☑ Ms. Ansh, Vice President
_☑ Ms. Emmolo	_☑ Dr. Lorenz	_🗹 Ms. Sullivan, President

Respectfully submitted,

Dora E. Zeno

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary