

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, August 26, 2019, at 6:06 p.m. at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Bill Gerichter, Edvocate Associates (left at 6:45 p.m.)

Absent: Mr. Cristopher Kaufman

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contract matter. Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Ms. Brogan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Kaufman

II. Contract Matter

[REDACTED]

III. Other

The Board discussed a recent transportation concern.

IV. Reconvene Public Meeting and Adjournment

At 6:55 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. Smith Wilson, seconded by Mr. Morgan and unanimously approved, the public meeting reconvened and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, September 23, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the second-floor large conference room at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan; Mr. Cristopher Kaufman

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Jeff Merlino; Board Attorney

Absent: None

Others Present: REA President Michael Yannone and REA Representatives Sean Lynaugh and Timothy Monahan (left at 6:45 p.m.)

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Level IV Grievance and Candidates for the Vacant Board Position. Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

II. Level IV Grievance Matter

[REDACTED]

III. Candidates for the Vacant Board Position

A discussion took place about the process to appoint a Board member. The Board deliberated over the candidates for the open Board position.

IV. Adjournment

At 7:08 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. Smith Wilson, seconded by Ms. Brogan and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, October 2, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., in the second-floor large conference room at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan; Mr. Cristopher Kaufman

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Dr. Thomas Gorman, RHS Principal; Mr. Keith Cook, Athletic Director; Mr. Jeff Merlino; Board Attorney

Absent: None

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel. Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

II. Personnel

[REDACTED]

III. Adjournment

At 6:30 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. Smith Wilson, seconded by Ms. Brogan and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, October 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the third-floor conference room at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan; Mr. Cristopher Kaufman

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Absent: Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Student Matter and Legal Issue. Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

II. Student Matter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

III. Legal Issue

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IV. Adjournment

At 7:25 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. Smith Wilson, seconded by Mr. Morgan and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, November 4, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., in the third-floor conference room at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan; Mr. Cristopher Kaufman; Mr. Muhammad Mahmoud

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Dr. Michelle Fenwick, Director of Special Programs (arrived at 7:00 p.m.); Mr. Jeff Merlino, Board Attorney; and Mr. David Rubin, Special Education Counsel (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

Absent: None

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation. Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Ms. Brogan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Mahmoud, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

II. Litigation - Personnel

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

III. Litigation – Settlement Agreement

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IV. Adjournment

At 7:15 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. Smith Wilson, seconded by Ms. Brogan and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., in the second-floor conference room at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan; Mr. Cristopher Kaufman; Mr. Muhammad Mahmoud

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Others Present: Dr. Katie Kashmanian, Principal – GWMS; Mr. Jeff Nyhuis, Assistant Principal – RHS; Ms. Lucy Papamichael, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Fishbein; Mr. Michael Reinke, School Safety Security Officer; Mr. Jeff Merlino, Board Attorney, and the parent of Student [REDACTED] (all others present arrived at 6:41 p.m.)

Absent: None

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Contract Matter and Residency Hearing Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Ms. Brogan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Mahmoud, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

II. Contract Matter

A discussion took place concerning LAN Associates. Dr. Fishbein provided a brief overview of our history with architects. LAN was the architect in Ridgewood prior to Dr. Fishbein's arrival. They did the 2009 referendum for the district. There was a mistake by LAN that they admitted to. There was an electrical issue, they corrected it, and LAN paid us for time and materials. After that happened, the Board decided to look for a new architect.

The Board hired EI Associates after interviewing several firms. During their first project with the district, they made a mistake with the sizing of the windows. On their second project, EI left out an important part of the project – the switchgear. After this, the district re-engaged with LAN Associates to be their Architect of Record.

It was suggested that the Board consider EI as a first opinion and LAN as a second opinion. If any Board members have questions after reviewing the reports of both firms, they should send their questions to Dr. Fishbein by the end of this week.

Ms. Brogan sees EI's report as a roadmap and LAN's as an updated and more comprehensive report and pointed out back in 2015, the Board felt there were inconsistencies in EI's report.

Mr. Morgan stated LAN had to pay out of errors and omissions for their mistake made in the 2009 referendum. EI did make mistakes but they were not change orders but changes to the bids.

LAN was hired to do bathroom projects at BFMS and GWMS. There were change orders, one of which was a mistake. Mr. Morgan does not have a lot of confidence in LAN.

Mr. Mahmoud recommended a third architect to look at a couple of the schools to get an estimate of costs.

If we engage another firm to look at one or two buildings we would need time to do that.

Ms. Smith Wilson stated we should focus on HVAC and windows from both EI and LAN's reports and propose questions for LAN at the next meeting. She suggested sending a list of questions to Dr. Fishbein for the architect.

The Board would like to start the December 2nd meeting at 6:30 p.m. and invite LAN to discuss the projects.

III. Residency Hearing – 6:41 p.m.

Dr. Fishbein asked questions of the parent of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] regarding her residency. The parent claimed that [REDACTED]. The district believes the parent and her children live in [REDACTED]. Mr. Reinke, the district's residency officer, has done surveillance and has never seen the parent or children come out of [REDACTED] in Ridgewood.

Mr. Reinke did witness the parent and her family coming and going to the [REDACTED] home on many occasions. He spoke to the postmaster and the parent's mail is being sent to the [REDACTED] address. Mr. Reinke interviewed an individual at [REDACTED] who happened to be the [REDACTED] of the parent's boyfriend and supposed landlord. The [REDACTED] initially claimed that one male lived in the apartment and then said two people lived there after Mr. Reinke identified himself. When asked where Student [REDACTED] and Student [REDACTED] lived, she stated with their father.

Mr. Reinke believes the parent and her children live in [REDACTED] at her boyfriend's house.

At 7:10 p.m., the parent of Student [REDACTED] and Student [REDACTED] left the meeting.

The Board would like the district to proceed with the next step to remove the family from the district.

IV. Adjournment

At 7:18 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. Smith Wilson, seconded by Ms. Brogan and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., in the second-floor conference room at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan (arrived at 6:15 p.m.); Mr. Cristopher Kaufman; Mr. Muhammad Mahmoud

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Others Present: Mr. Jeff Merlino, Board Attorney; Dr. Thomas Gorman, RHS Principal; Dr. Michelle Fenwick, Director of Special Programs; Mr. Basil Pizzuto, RHS Assistant Principal; and the parent of Student [REDACTED]

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of holding an HIB Hearing and discussing Litigation. Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Mahmoud, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ms. Brogan

II. HIB Hearing

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

III. Litigation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IV. Adjournment

At 6:30 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Ms. Smith Wilson and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., in the third-floor conference room at the Education Center.

Present: Ms. Jennie Smith Wilson, President; Mr. James Morgan, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan; Mr. Muhammad Mahmoud

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Others Present: Dr. Michelle Fenwick, Director of Special Programs; Mr. William Gerichter, Edvocate (left at 6:30 p.m.)

Absent: Mr. Cristopher Kaufman

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Ms. Smith Wilson moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Contract Matter and Litigation. Ms. Smith Wilson stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Ms. Brogan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Mahmoud, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Smith Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Kaufman

II. Contract Matter

A discussion took place regarding the proposals received for Custodial, Maintenance, Grounds and Management Services that are on tonight's agenda to be rejected. Proposals can be rejected for budgetary reasons and you then have to send out another RFP. Proposals can be rejected again for budgetary reasons, and then the third time the RFP is sent out, the price can be negotiated if you still cannot afford the contract due to budgetary reasons.

III. Litigation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IV. Adjournment

At 6:25 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. Brogan, seconded by Mr. Morgan and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Kelly
Board Secretary