



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE RIDGEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 18, 2023

Minutes of the Special Public Meeting of the Ridgewood Board of Education held on August 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., at the Education Center.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Lembo made a motion to allow Ms. Murphy to be the Board Secretary pro tempore for today. Mr. Mahmoud seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Lembo, Mr. Mahmoud

NAYS: none

Present:

Mr. Michael Lembo, President; Ms. Sheila Brogan (virtual), Mr. Saurabh Dani, Mr. Muhammad Mahmoud

Absent: Ms. HyunJu Kwak, Vice President

Also Present:

Mr. Mark Schwarz, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Jaime Murphy, Director of Human Resources; Richard Freedman, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Absent: Ms. Jaime Rosado, Acting Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Visitors: Approximately 5 community members were present in-person.

II. FLAG SALUTE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Lembo led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. OPENING STATEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. Lembo announced that pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, advance notice of this meeting had been given to The Ridgewood News, The Record, and the Clerk of the Village of Ridgewood. In addition, notices were posted in the office of the Board Secretary and in all school buildings.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. District and Board Goals Work Session

Mr. Schwarz reviewed the following:

- The proposed process to develop commonly valued goals for the district, which included a review, discussion and revision of the proposed timelines, reflection on the strengths and areas for improvement from the 2022-2023 goals, the 2019-2024 strategic plan, and Vision 2024.
- The proposed activities for the August 29, 2023 Work Session which included identifying the goal areas, drafting goal language, drafting measurable targets.
- The proposed activities for the September 18, 2023, Board of Education Meeting which included approving the 2023-2024 goals and targets.

View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 8/18/2023](#) at 00:31:54.

The Board discussed the proposed process, multi-year goals, and the strategic plan.

View this portion of the meeting [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 8/18/2023](#) at 00:36:54.

Mr. Schwarz summarized that he will take the information that he has gathered, reflect on it, and revise some of his recommendations, discuss at some of the committee meetings and provide updated recommendations to the Board.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

View this portion of the [Ridgewood BOE Meeting 8/18/2023](#) at 01:47:03.

Laura McKenna, 861 Bingham Road, thanked the board for having this meeting to discuss goals. She likes the idea of having evaluation and implementation as its own goal. She would like to explore looking at the broad range when discussing combined equity as a goal. For example, what are the college opportunities for lower income students, what grants are out there, what is available for the special needs community?

Jaime Davis, thanked the Board and administration and appreciates the time and effort that Mr. Schwarz, the board and the administration are taking to really look at where we are and take a long-term view of where we're going. She requested that when developing the goals pertaining to DEI to include the special education students and focusing on inclusion from a social standpoint with our students with special needs. As President of the LSHSA, she is very excited and eager to be part of those discussions.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Mr. Lembo

SECOND by: Ms. Brogan

VOICE VOTE:

Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Ms. Kwak, Mr. Lembo, Mr. Mahmoud - *ALL AYES*

- **The Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jaime Cangialosi-Murphy
Director of Human Resources