

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF RIDGEWOOD
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J. AS RECORDED IN THE
OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK**

The Board of Education of Ridgewood, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, convened in public session on Monday, April 22, 2013 at 7:50 p.m. in the Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

The following members of the Ridgewood Board of Education were present:

Ms. Christina Krauss; Ms. Michele Lenhard; Mr. James Morgan; Mr. Vincent Loncto, Vice-President; Ms. Sheila Brogan, Board President

The following members were absent: None

Resolution to Support New Jersey Schools on the Enrollment of Resident Children

Whereas, the Department of Education has recommended to the New Jersey State Legislature that the funding of our public schools in the State of New Jersey shall be based upon the average daily attendance of school children which is contrary to current law (The School Funding Reform Act of 2008) which provides funding on the basis of average daily enrollment, and

Whereas, the Department of Education has determined that an appropriate average daily attendance rate of 96% shall be the level of attendance for all New Jersey school districts, and districts that demonstrate an attendance rate of less than 96% shall suffer a loss of school aid for the 2013/14 school year, and

Whereas, a 96% attendance rate is equal to a child being absent from school no more than seven days in one school year, and

Whereas, it is the opinion of the Village of Ridgewood Board of Education that a 96% attendance rate is an arbitrary standard to apply to all New Jersey School Districts and is contrary to the history of funding in this State and the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, and

Whereas, New Jersey school districts must staff, equip, feed, and transport our children based upon the enrollment of students, and we do not send teachers home, or stop the buses, or turn off the lights, or sell their textbooks when a child is absent for health or other family reasons, and

Whereas, the recommendation of the Department of Education to penalize districts by reducing school aid when a district cannot demonstrate an average daily attendance in excess of 96% simply shifts the burden to support a thorough and efficient education to the local taxpayer,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Village of Ridgewood Board of Education does hereby declare that the recommendation of the Department of Education to provide school funding based upon the attendance of children for the 2013/14 school year is contrary to current law and fails to recognize that districts provide staff and resources for an adequate public education for all "enrolled" resident children in their school district, and

Be it Further Resolved that the Village of Ridgewood Board of Education hereby requests it's local legislators in particular and all legislators in general to reject the recommendation of the N.J. Department of Education to fund the public schools of the State of New Jersey based upon the attendance of resident children and to comply with our current school funding law which provides State support based upon the enrollment of resident school children.

Be it Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Chris Christie, NJ Commissioner of Education Chris Cerf, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Senator Teresa Ruiz, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Senator Kevin O'Toole, Assemblyman Scott Rumana, Assemblyman David Russo, New Jersey School Boards Association, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, New Jersey Association of School Administrators, Bergen County Association of School Business Officials, and the Garden State Coalition of Schools.

Ms. Brogan moved approval of the Resolution to Support New Jersey Schools on the Enrollment of Resident Children.

Ms. Lenhard seconded the motion and asked that the list of organizations it is sent to include GSCS.

The motion carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Ms. Krauss, Ms. Lenhard, Mr. Loncto, Mr. Morgan

NAYS: None

I certify that this is a true and correct excerpt from the Ridgewood Board of Education minutes.

Date

Jennifer Ulman
Assistant Board Secretary