

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF RIDGEWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 234  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Ridgewood Community High School District 234, was held at Ridgewood High School, 7500 West Montrose Avenue, Norridge, Illinois on Monday, December 16, 2024. President Draniczarek called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

**QUORUM DECLARED PRESENT**

Board Secretary Nealon declared a quorum of the Board of Education of District 234 was present at 7:03 PM.

Present: Members Paul Draniczarek, Mike Straughn, Jamie Nealon, Frank DiPiero,  
Lisa Malicki, Chris O'Leary and Fiona Tanny.

Absent: None

Also present were Superintendent Jennifer Kelsall; Assistant Superintendent Tom Parrillo; Principal Eric Lasky and Cindi Stazzone, Recording Secretary.

**AGENDA REQUESTS**

Motion was made by Member Straughn and seconded by Member O'Leary to approve the Consent Agenda and the Regular Agenda for the December 16, 2024, meeting of the Ridgewood High School District 234 Board of Education as amended.

On voice vote, President Draniczarek declared the motion carried.

**II. USUAL RECURRING AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Approved Minutes of:**

(1) Approved Regular Board of Education Meeting on November 18, 2024 per Appendix II-A-1

(2) Approved Building and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting of November 20, 2024 per Appendix II-A-2

**\*B. Approved Current Bills, Payrolls & Financial Documents**

(1) Approved Accounts Payable of December 16, 2024 per Appendix II-B-1.

(2) Approved Revolving (Imprest) Fund Expenditures and Reimbursements per Appendix II-B-2.

(3) Ratified Payrolls of November 15 & 29, 2024 per Appendix II-B-3.

(4) Authorized Signing of Payroll Vouchers for January 15 & 31, 2025 per Appendix II-B-4.

**III. MATTERS RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INSTRUCTION, STUDENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES**

**\*A. Approved Requests for Outside Fundraising**

The Board approved the Requests for Outside Fundraising per Appendix III-A.

**\*B. Approved Request for Out of State Travel for Boys and Girls Track and Field**

The Board approved the request for Out of State Travel for Boys and Girls Track and Field per Appendix III-B.

**IV. MATTERS RELATING TO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

**\*A. Approved Personnel Report**

The Board approved the Personnel Report per Appendix IV-A.

**\*B. Approved Amended Educational Support Staff Seniority List**

Article 11.3 of the Educational Support Staff contract states that the Board shall prepare, maintain and post the seniority list of full-time bargaining employees prior to January 15<sup>th</sup> of each school year. The Superintendent posted a tentative listing by classification and the Board approved said list per Appendix IV-B.

**\*C. Approved 2025 Summer School Program Proposal**

The Board approved the 2025 Summer School Program Proposal, per Appendix IV-C.

**\*D. Approved Request for Leave of Absence for Staff Member**

The Board approved the request for Leave of Absence for Staff Member, Colleen Poull per Appendix IV-D.

**V. MATTERS RELATING TO BUSINESS, FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES**

**\*A. Accepted Analysis of the Financial Condition of the District**

The Board accepted the analysis of the financial condition of the district, per Appendix V-A.

**\*B. Accepted Monthly Investment Analysis**

The Board accepted the monthly investment analysis of the district, per Appendix V-B.

**oC. Approved Adoption of Tax Levy Certificate for Estimated Taxes to be Levied for 2024 Collectable in 2025**

The Illinois Truth in Taxation Law requires the school district levy be adopted at the first regularly scheduled meeting in December. The proposed levy was presented to the Board as a tentative levy in October. Upon approval, the required documents will be filed with the County by the last Tuesday in December. The Tax Levy and Resolution were provided per Appendix V-C.

Motion by Member Nealon, second by Member Tanny, to adopt the Tax Levy and Resolution per Appendix V-C. Approved as presented on a roll call vote.

Mr. Draniczarek	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Straughn	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Nealon	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. DiPiero	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Malicki	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. O’Leary	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Tanny	X_____Aye	_____Nay

The President declared the motion duly carried on this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2024.

**o1. Approved Resolution to Levy Certain Special Taxes**

The Board approved the Resolution to Levy Certain Special Taxes. The Resolution is provided in Appendix V-C-1.

Motion by Member O’Leary, second by Member Straughn, to adopt the Resolution to Levy Certain Special Taxes. Approved as presented on a roll call vote.

Mr. Straughn	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Nealon	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. DiPiero	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Malicki	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. O’Leary	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Tanny	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	X_____Aye	_____Nay

The President declared the motion duly carried on this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2024.

**o2. Approved Resolution to Certify and File the Tax Levy**

The Board approved the Resolution to Certify and File the Tax Levy. The Resolution is provided in Appendix V-C-2.

Motion by Member O’Leary, second by Member Malicki, to adopt the Resolution to Certify and File the Tax Levy. Approved as presented on a roll call vote.

Ms. Nealon	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. DiPiero	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Malicki	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. O’Leary	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Tanny	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Straughn	X_____Aye	_____Nay

The President declared the motion duly carried on this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2024.

**3. Certification by Secretary**

The Board Secretary is required to certify that the foregoing resolutions are correct and complete as adopted by the Board of Education. The certification was provided in Appendix V-C-3.

**4. Cook County Truth in Taxation Law Certificate of Compliance**

The Certificate of Compliance was provided in Appendix V-C-4.

**5. Certificate of Compliance with Truth in Taxation Law**

The Certificate of Compliance was provided in Appendix V-C-5.

**o D. Approved Resolution to Authorize Preparation of 2025-26 Budget and the Proposed Budget Calendar**

By law, it is necessary to establish a fiscal year, appoint someone to prepare a tentative budget, and set dates when the tentative budget may be reviewed by members of the public. The Board appointed Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations/Treasurer to prepare the 2025-26 budget for Ridgewood High School according to the budget calendar. The Resolution was attached in Appendix V-D.

Motion by Member Nealon, second by Member Tanny, to approve the Resolution to Authorize Preparation of 2025-26 Budget and Proposed Budget Calendar per Appendix V-D. Approved as presented on a roll call vote.

Mr. DiPiero	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Ms. Malicki	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Mr. O’Leary	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Ms. Tanny	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Mr. Straughn	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Ms. Nealon	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay

The President declared the motion duly carried on this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2024.

**o E. Approved Resolution Authorizing the Publication of Legal Notice of Budget Hearing and Availability of Budget for Public Inspection**

The Board approved the Resolution to Authorize the Publication of Legal Notice of the Budget Hearing and Availability of the Tentative Budget for Public Inspection will be published in the local paper in compliance with state law. The Resolution was attached in Appendix V-E.

Motion by Member Straughn, second by Member O’Leary, to Approve Resolution Authorizing the Publication of Legal Notice of Budget Hearing and Availability of Budget for Public Inspection per Appendix V-E. Approved as presented on a roll call vote.

Ms. Malicki	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. O’Leary	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Tanny	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Straughn	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Nealon	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. DiPiero	X_____Aye	_____Nay

The President declared the motion duly carried on this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2024.

**\*F. Approved Student and Building Fees for 2025-2026**

The Board approved the Student and Building Fees for the 2025-26 school year, per Appendix V-F.

**o G. Approved Fund Balance Resolution**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Standard 54 requires that the Board classify fund balances, noting the order in which accumulated funds will be expended. The Resolution was provided in Appendix V-G.

Motion by Member Straughn, second by Member O’Leary, to Approve Fund Balance Resolution per Appendix V-G. Approved as presented on a roll call vote.

Mr. O’Leary	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Tanny	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. Straughn	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Nealon	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Mr. DiPiero	X_____Aye	_____Nay
Ms. Malicki	X_____Aye	_____Nay

The President declared the motion duly carried on this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2024.

**\*H. Accepted Annual Statement of Affairs**

The Board accepted the Annual Statement of Affairs per Appendix V-H.

**\*I. Received Financial Report in Compliance with Public Act 103-0394**

The Board received the Financial Report in Compliance with Public Act 103-0394 per Appendix V-I.

**\*J. Approved Certificate of Disclosure of Cash Reserve Balances per Section 17-1.3 of the Illinois School Code**

The Board approved the Certificate of Disclosure of Cash Reserve Balances per Section 17-1.3 of the Illinois School Code per Appendix V-J.

**VI. MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND GOVERNANCE OF DISTRICT 234**

**A. Received Correspondence, Announcements, Articles, Reports and Proposed Agendas for Board Meetings**

For your information:

1. Superintendent's Report
  - a. Cook County Paid Leave
  - b. Vision 2030
2. Proposed Agenda for January 27, 2025 Board of Education Meeting per Enclosure VI-A-2.

**\*B. Approved the Second Reading and Adoption of the 2025-2026 School Calendar**

The Board approved the second reading and adoption of the 2025-26 school calendar, per Appendix VI-B.

**\*C. Approved Vision 2030 Resolution**

The Board approved Vision 2030 Resolution per Appendix VI-C.

**D. Reviewed Publication of Board Meeting Dates for 2025-26 School Year**

The Board reviewed the Board meeting dates for 2025-26 School Year as presented, per Enclosure VI-D.

**VII. RECEIVED CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 16, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 27, 2025**

<b>Monday, December 23</b>	<b>Winter Break</b>
<b>–Friday, January 3</b>	
<b>Monday, January 6</b>	<b>Teacher Work Day – No School</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 7</b>	<b>Institute Day – No School</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 8</b>	<b>Classes Resume</b>
<b>Saturday, January 11</b>	<b>Ridgewood Foundation Bingo 6 PM</b>
<b>Monday, January 20</b>	<b>MLK Day, No School</b>
<b>Monday, January 27</b>	<b>Regular Meeting, 7 PM, Community Room</b>

**VIII. RECOGNIZED VISITORS AND INVITE COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

Two students attended the meeting and thanked the Board for allowing them to be at the meeting. It was their first time attending a board meeting and they found it very interesting.

**IX. CONVENED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Purpose: Personnel - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body of legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Member Straughn moved, seconded by Member DiPiero, Be it resolved the Board of Education of District 234 hereby convenes to the Executive Session at 7:52 p.m.

<b>Voice Vote:</b>	<b>Aye: 7</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Present: 7</b>	<b>Absent: 0</b>
--------------------	---------------	---------------	-------------------	------------------

The President declared the Motion:

<b>Carried X</b>	<b>Defeated</b>
------------------	-----------------

**X. ADJOURNED EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION (if necessary)**

Member Straughn moved, seconded by Member Malicki, Be it resolved the Board of Education of District 234 hereby adjourns the Executive Session and Reconvenes to Open Session at 8:08 p.m.

<b>Voice Vote:</b>	<b>Aye: 7</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Present: 7</b>	<b>Absent: 0</b>
--------------------	---------------	---------------	-------------------	------------------

The President declared the Motion:

<b>Carried X</b>	<b>Defeated</b>
------------------	-----------------

**XI. TOOK FORMAL ACTION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2024**

Motion by Member Straughn, second motion by Member O’Leary, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
II-A-1	3	Appendix II-A-1	Approved minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 18, 2024;
II-A-2	3	Appendix II-A-2	Approved Building & Grounds Subcommittee Meeting of November 20, 2024;
II-B-1	3	Appendix II-B-1	Approved Accounts Payable of December 16, 2024;
II-B-2	3	Appendix II-B-2	Approved Revolving (Imprest) Fund Expenditures and Reimbursements;
II-B-3	3	Appendix II-B-3	Ratified Payrolls of November 15 and 29, 2024;
II-B-4	3	Appendix II-B-4	Authorized Signing of Payroll Vouchers for January 15 and 31, 2025;
III-A	4	Appendix III-A	Approved Requests for Outside Fundraising;

III-B	4	Appendix III-B	Approved Request for Out of State Travel for Boys and Girls Track Team;
IV-A	5	Appendix IV-A	Approved the Personnel Report;
IV-B	5	Appendix IV-B	Approved the Educational Support Staff Seniority List;
IV-C	5	Appendix IV-C	Approved 2025 Summer School Program Proposal;
IV-D	5	Appendix IV-D	Approved Request for Leave of Absence for Staff Member;
V-A	6	Appendix V-A	Accepted Analysis of the Financial Condition of the District;
V-B	6	Appendix V-B	Accepted Monthly Investment Analysis;
V-C-3	7	Appendix V-C-3	Approved Certification by Secretary;
V-C-4	8	Appendix V-C-4	Approved Cook County Truth in Taxation Certificate of Compliance;
V-C-5	8	Appendix V-C-5	Approved Certificate of Compliance with Truth in Taxation Law;
V-F	9	Appendix V-F	Approved Student and Building Fees for 2025-26 School Year;
V-H	9	Appendix V-H	Accepted Annual Statement of Affairs;
V-I	9	Appendix V-I	Received Financial Report in Compliance with Public Act 103-0394;
V-J	9	Appendix V-J	Approved Certificate of Disclosure of Cash Reserve Balances per Section 17-1.3 of the Illinois School Code;
VI-B	10	Appendix VI-B	Approved Second Reading and Adoption of 2025-26 School Calendar;
VI-C	10	Appendix VI-C	Approved Vision 2023 Resolution.

**Approved as amended by Roll Call Vote:**

Name	Aye	Nay	Present	Absent
Draniczarek	X			
Straughn	X			
Nealon	X			
DiPiero	X			
Malicki	X			
O'Leary	X			
Tanny	X			
Board President declared the Motion:			<b>Carried X</b>	<b>Defeated</b>



**XII. CONDUCTED BOARD FORUM**

A Board member discussed the recent Ridgewood Basketball at St. Patricks High School. There was discussion about recent graduates from Ridgewood and their college experiences.

**XIII. ADJOURNED**

Motion by Member Straughn, second motion by Member Tanny, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

<b>Voice Vote:</b>	<b>Aye: 7</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Present: 7</b>	<b>Absent: 0</b>
--------------------	---------------	---------------	-------------------	------------------

The President declared the Motion:

<b>Carried X</b>	<b>Defeated</b>
------------------	-----------------

On voice vote, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cindi Stazzone, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Draniczarek, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Nealon, Secretary