

**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, March 26, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

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

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

The following members were absent: None

RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL S1459

Resolution opposing Senate Bill S1459 that permits the establishment of a county-wide purchasing system and allows the county to mandate participation by all school districts within the county.

Whereas, Senate Bill S1459 establishes a county-wide purchasing system and allows Bergen County to mandate that the Ridgewood Board of Education participate in the purchasing system as it pertains to outsourced custodial and food service programs; and

Whereas, the Ridgewood Board of Education has been at the forefront of privatization in that its custodial, maintenance, landscaping, playing field maintenance, snow plowing and snow removal, food services, and transportation services have been privatized for close to two decades; and

Whereas, the Ridgewood Board of Education fully supports the notion of cooperative purchasing agreements as they pertain to time and material services, office and school supplies, utilities, insurance, telephone, and technology equipment as evidenced by Ridgewood's participation in cooperative purchasing agreements through Ed-Data, Middlesex County Ed Services Commission, NJ State Contracting, WISCA, NESBIG, ACES, NJ Edge, ACT, and others; and

Whereas, the Ridgewood Board of Education believes it to be imperative that control of customizable and critical services such as food and custodial services must be individualized to meet the expectations of the Ridgewood community and that generic bidding on a county-wide basis will not provide for the expectations of the Ridgewood community and could cause the district to be compelled to continue unsatisfactory performance by the lowest bidders; and

Whereas, the Bergen County Purchasing Authority, as the contracting party, would have the final say in what is acceptable to the Ridgewood community; and

Whereas, the Ridgewood Board of Education believes that its actions over almost two decades provide the school district with cost effective and manageable services and that county-wide bidding can, at best, provide only marginal financial gains at the cost of management control; therefore

IT IS RESOLVED, by the Ridgewood Board of Education that passage of Senate Bill S1459 is not in the best interest of the Ridgewood School District and the Ridgewood community and asks that Senator O'Toole, Assemblyman Rumana and Assemblyman Russo support Ridgewood by defeating this bill; and

IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the Board Secretary and the Superintendent are directed to forward this resolution to Governor Christie, Senator Sarlo, Senator O'Toole, Assemblyman Rumana, Assemblyman Russo, Mayor Keith Killion, NJASA, NJASBO, NJSBA, BCASA, BCASBO, the Bergen County Executive, and the Garden State Coalition of Schools with a letter seeking support in defeating this bill.

Ms. Brogan moved approval of the Resolution Opposing Senate Bill S1459.

Ms. Lenhard seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

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

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