

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF RIDGEWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 234
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025**

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 15, 2025. Mike Straughn, Pro Tempore President called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 7:00 PM.

Present: Members Mike Straughn, Jamie Nealon, Frank DiPiero, Chris O'Leary and Fiona Tanny

Absent: Paul Draniczarek and Lisa Malicki

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 Tanny and seconded by Member DiPiero to approve the Consent Agenda and the Regular Agenda for the December 15, 2025, meeting of the Ridgewood High School District 234 Board of Education as presented.

On voice vote, President Pro Tempore Straughn declared the motion carried.

II. USUAL RECURRING AGENDA ITEMS

A. Approved Minutes of:

- (1) Approved Regular Board of Education Meeting on November 17, 2025 per Appendix II-A-1
- (2) Approved Executive Session of Regular Board of Education Meeting on November 17, 2025 per Appendix II-A-2
- (3) Approved Building and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting of November 19, 2025 per Appendix II-A-3
- (4) Approved Finance-Audit Subcommittee Meeting of November 24, 2025 per Appendix II-A-4
- (5) Approved Policy Subcommittee Meeting of December 10, 2025 per Appendix II-A-5.

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

- (1) Approved Accounts Payable of December 15, 2025 per Appendix II-B-1.
- (2) Approved Revolving (Imprest) Fund Expenditures and Reimbursements per Appendix II-B-2.

- (3) Ratified Payrolls of November 14 & 28, 2025 per Appendix II-B-3.
- (4) Authorized Signing of Payroll Vouchers for January 15 & 30, 2026 per Appendix II-B-4.

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

A. Team Based Challenge Update

*** B. Approved Requests for Outside Fundraising**

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

*** C. Approved 2026 Summer School Program Proposal**

The Board approved the 2026 Summer School Program Proposal per Appendix III-C.

*** D. Approved Revisions to Parent/Student Handbook**

The Board approved the Revisions to Parent/Student Handbook per Appendix III-D.

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 15th of each school year. The Superintendent posted a tentative listing by classification and the Board approved said list per Appendix IV-B.

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 2025 Collectable in 2026

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

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

The President Pro Tempore declared the motion duly carried on this 15TH day of December, 2025. Draniczarek and Malicki were absent.

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 Nealon, second by Member O'Leary, 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	_____	Aye	_____	Nay	
Mr. O'Leary	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Ms. Tanny	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	_____	Aye	_____	Nay	

The President Pro Tempore declared the motion duly carried on this 15TH day of December, 2025. Draniczarek and Malicki were absent.

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 Tanny, second by Member DiPiero, 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	_____	Aye	_____	Nay	
Mr. O'Leary	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Ms. Tanny	X	_____	Aye	_____	Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	_____	Aye	_____	Nay	

Mr. Straughn X _____ Aye _____ Nay

The President Pro Tempore declared the motion duly carried on this 15TH day of December, 2025. Draniczarek and Malicki were absent.

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 2026-27 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 2026-27 budget for Ridgewood High School according to the budget calendar. The Resolution was attached in Appendix V-D.

Motion by Member DiPiero, second by Member Tanny, to approve the Resolution to Authorize Preparation of 2026-27 Budget and Proposed Budget Calendar per Appendix V-D. Approved as presented on a roll call vote.

Mr. DiPiero X _____ Aye _____ Nay

Ms. Malicki _____ Aye _____ Nay

Mr. O'Leary X _____ Aye _____ Nay

Ms. Tanny X _____ Aye _____ Nay

Mr. Draniczarek _____ Aye _____ Nay

Mr. Straughn X _____ Aye _____ Nay

Ms. Nealon X _____ Aye _____ Nay

The President Pro Tempore declared the motion duly carried on this 15TH day of December, 2025. Draniczarek and Malicki were absent.

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 DiPiero, second by Member Tanny, 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Mr. O'Leary	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Ms. Tanny	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	<input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Mr. Straughn	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Ms. Nealon	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Mr. DiPiero	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay

The President Pro Tempore declared the motion duly carried on this 15th day of December, 2025. Draniczarek and Malicki were absent.

***F. Approved Student and Building Fees for 2026-2027**

The Board approved the Student and Building Fees for the 2026-27 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 Nealon, 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Ms. Tanny	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Mr. Draniczarek	<input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Mr. Straughn	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Ms. Nealon	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Mr. DiPiero	X <input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Ms. Malicki	<input type="checkbox"/> Aye	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay

The President Pro Tempore declared the motion duly carried on this 15th day of December, 2025. Draniczarek and Malicki were absent.

***H. Receive 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-H.

***I. 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-I.

*J. **Retroactively Approved Finance-Audit Subcommittee Meeting of November 24, 2025**

The Board retroactively approved Finance-Audit Subcommittee Meeting of November 24, 2025 per Appendix V-J.

*K. **Accepted Donation from Brian Lewis for Ridgewood High School Football**

The Board accepted the donation from Brian Lewis for Ridgewood High School Football per Enclosure V-K.

*L. **Accepted Donation from Brian Lewis for Athletic Department**

The Board accepted the donation from Brian Lewis for Ridgewood High School Athletic Department per Appendix V-L.

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

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

For your information:

1. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Student fees
2. Proposed Agenda for January 26, 2026 Board of Education Meeting

*B. **Approved the Second Reading and Adoption of the 2026-2027 School Calendar**

The Board approved the second reading and adoption of the 2026-27 school calendar, per Appendix VI-B.

*C. **Approved First Reading of Board Policies**

The Board approved the First Reading of Board Policies: 2:120, 2:150, 2:270, 4:10, 4:30, 4:80, 4:140, 4:190, 5:10, 5:90, 5:100, 5:200, 5:220, 5:280, 5:300, 6:20, 6:40, 6:60, 6:130, 6:160, 6:220, 6:260, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:320, 7:10, 7:70, 7:100, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:290, 7:315, 7:340, 8:30, 8:100 and policies with no changes: 3:10, 3:50, 3:60, 4:110, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 5:20, 5:120, 5:185, 5:190, 6:135, 6:140, 6:210, 6:235, 6:240, 6:270, 6:280, 7:130, 7:250 per Appendix VI-C.

D. **Reviewed Publication of Board Meeting Dates for 2026-27 School Year**

The Board reviewed the Board meeting dates for 2026-27 School Year as presented, per Appendix VI-D.

E. **Reviewed Current Freedom of Information Requests**

The Board reviewed the current Freedom of Information Requests per Enclosure VI-E.

VII. RECEIVED CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 15, 2025 THROUGH JANUARY 26, 2026

December 22 - January 2	Winter Break
January 5	Teacher Work Day – No School
January 6	Institute Day – No School
January 7	Classes Resume - Semester 2 begins
January 10	Ridgewood Foundation Bingo 6 PM
January 19	MLK Day, No School
January 26	Regular Meeting, 7 PM, Community Room

VIII. TAKE FORMAL ACTION ON AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2025

Motion by Member O'Leary, second motion by Member Tanny, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

<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 17, 2025;
II-A-2	3	Appendix II-A-2	Approved Executive Session of Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 17, 2025
II-A-3	3	Appendix II-A-3	Approved Building & Grounds Subcommittee Meeting of November 19, 2025;
II-A-4	3	Appendix II-A-4	Approved Finance-Audit Subcommittee Meeting of November 24, 2025;
II-A-5	3	Appendix II-A-5	Approved Policy Subcommittee Meeting of December 10, 2025;
II-B-1	3	Appendix II-B-1	Approved Accounts Payable of December 15, 2025;
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 14 and 28, 2025;

II-B-4	3	Appendix II-B-4	Authorized Signing of Payroll Vouchers for January 15 and 30, 2026;
III-B	4	Appendix III-B	Approved Requests for Outside Fundraising;
III-C	4	Appendix III-C	Approved 2026 Summer School Program Proposal;
III-D	4	Appendix III-D	Approved Revisions to Parent/Student Handbook;
IV-A	5	Appendix IV-A	Approved the Personnel Report;
IV-B	5	Appendix IV-B	Approved the Educational Support Staff Seniority List;
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 Building Fees for 2026-27 School Year;
V-H	9	Appendix V-H	Received Financial Report in Compliance with Public Act 103-0394;
V-I	10	Appendix V-I	Approved Certificate of Disclosure of Cash Reserve Balances per Section 17-1.3 of the Illinois School Code;
V-J	10	Appendix V-J	Retroactively approved Finance-Audit Subcommittee Meeting of November 24, 2025;
V-K	10	Appendix V-K	Accepted donation from Brian Lewis for Ridgewood High School Football;
V-L	10	Appendix V-L	Accepted donation from Brian Lewis for Ridgewood High School Athletic Department;
VI-B	11	Appendix VI-B	Approved Second Reading and Adoption of 2026-27 School Calendar;
VI-C	11	Appendix VI-C	The Board approved the First Reading of Board Policies: 2:120, 2:150, 2:270, 4:10, 4:30, 4:80, 4:140, 4:190, 5:10, 5:90, 5:100, 5:200, 5:220, 5:280, 5:300, 6:20, 6:40, 6:60, 6:130, 6:160, 6:220, 6:260, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:320, 7:10, 7:70, 7:100, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:290, 7:315, 7:340, 8:30, 8:100 and policies with no changes: 3:10, 3:50, 3:60, 4:110, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 5:20, 5:120, 5:185, 5:190, 6:135, 6:140, 6:210, 6:235, 6:240, 6:270, 6:280, 7:130, 7:250.

Approved as presented 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 Pro Tempore declared the Motion: Carried X Defeated

IX. RECOGNIZED VISITORS AND INVITE COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

There were no visitors at this time.

X. CONDUCT BOARD FORUM

Bingo was very well attended with over 200 people.
Negotiations will begin soon with the Teachers Union.

XI. CONVENE 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.

Purpose: Safety – Discussion pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2@(8): security procedures, school safety plans, and matters relating to the safety and security of school property, personnel and students.

Member O'Leary moved, seconded by Member DiPiero, Be it resolved the Board of Education of District 234 hereby convenes to the Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

Voice Vote:	Aye: 5	Nay:	Present:	Absent: 2
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The President Pro Tempore declared the Motion:

Carried X	Defeated
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XII. ADJOURNED EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION

Member Tanny moved, seconded by Member DiPiero, 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.

Voice Vote:	Aye: 5	Nay:	Present: 5	Absent: 2
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The President Pro Tempore declared the Motion:

Carried X	Defeated
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XIII. ADJOURNED

Motion by Member Tanny, second motion by Member Nealon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Voice Vote:	Aye: 5	Nay:	Present: 5	Absent: 2
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The President Pro Tempore declared the Motion:

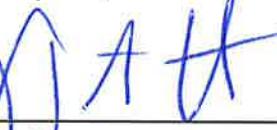
Carried X	Defeated
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On voice vote, the President Pro Tempore declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Cindi Stazzone, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Mike Straughn, President Pro Tempore



Jamie Nealon, Secretary