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School District Organization

School District Legal Status

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high-quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities.

The General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. The District is governed by the laws for school districts serving a population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000.

The School Board constitutes a body corporate that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 1.

105 ILCS 5/10-1 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 2:10 (School District Governance), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification)

Reviewed and Adopted: September 20, 2021

School District Organization

District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

The District is organized as a high school district operating to serve the needs of students in grades 9 through 12, and others as required by The School Code.

The District enters into and participates in joint programs and intergovernmental agreements with units of local government and other school districts in order to jointly provide services and activities in a manner that will increase flexibility, scope of service opportunities, cost reductions, and/or otherwise benefit the District and the community. The Superintendent shall manage these activities to the extent the program or agreement requires the District's participation, and shall provide periodic implementation or operational data and/or reports to the School Board concerning these programs and agreements. The District participates in the following joint programs and intergovernmental agreements:

- Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative (LASEC)
- DuPage/West Cook Regional Special Education Association
- Des Plaines Valley Region Education for Employment System
- Norridge Park District
- West 40 Intermediate Service Center #2
- Norridge District 80
- Union Ridge District 86
- Triton College
- Suburban Library System
- CLIC (Collective Liability Insurance Co-op)
- NIHIP (Northern Illinois Health Insurance Program)
- O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission
- West Suburban Special Recreational Association

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Constitution, Art. VII, Sec. 10.

5 ILCS 220/, Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

Adopted: September 20, 2021

School District Organization

School District Philosophy

The District's philosophy is reflected in the Beliefs, Mission and Vision Statements. These accurately depict the current and operational philosophy of the District.

CROSS REF: 2:10 (School District Governance), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 6:10
(Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

Adopted: September 20, 2021

School District Organization

School District Mission, Belief, and Vision Statements

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Ridgewood High School focuses on learning.

- Students become adaptable life-long learners and responsible, ethical citizens, with the ability to make informed decisions in a changing global society.
- Students will demonstrate learning in multiple settings and in multiple ways.
- Members of the Ridgewood High School community will collaborate to ensure that every student learns.

CORE BELIEFS

In 1960, RHS emerges as an idea, an idea shared by a group of forward-thinking educators and civic leaders who believed that the Ridgewood Community needed a progressive new high school to forge a new direction in secondary education.

RHS has, in its persistent reinvention of high school education, remained true to its historical foundations. It has become a pillar of stability in an ever-changing and diversifying community -- not by becoming inert -- but by always seeking and embracing change. The underlying purpose of Ridgewood Community High School has been clear from the start: to help students find their voice and their place in the world, to guide them in the direction of their greatest potential; and to challenge, connect, and transform their lives.

VISION STATEMENT

The Ridgewood High School Community creates a stimulating and respectful learning environment which ensures individual students become autonomous leaders in their pursuit of a well-rounded, multi-faceted education grounded in innovation, aspiration and imagination.

Adopted: October 19, 2015

School District Organization

Human Dignity

The Board of Education, recognizing that we are a multi-racial, multi-ethnic School District, believes it is part of our mission to provide a positive, harmonious environment in which respect for the diverse makeup of the school community is promoted. A major aim of education in the School District is the development of a reasoned commitment to the core values of a democratic society.

In accordance with this aim, the School District will not tolerate behavior by students or staff which insults, degrades, or stereotypes any race, gender, disability, physical condition, ethnic group, religion, intelligence, or economic status.

Appropriate consequences for violating this policy will be specified in the student code of conduct. Staff members offending this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Reviewed and Adopted: October 19, 2015

School District Organization

School District Origin and History

The District was voted into existence by the electors of the area at a Special Election called by the County Superintendent of Schools, on July 12, 1958, following a two-year comprehensive study by a local "High School Problem Committee" working in cooperation with a survey team from Northwestern University. An area, formerly known as Non-High School District No. 216, was the last remaining non-high school district in Cook County in 1957. A District created by the State Legislature in 1917, as a temporary means of affording high school education to students living in unincorporated and rural sections of the State, where high schools were non-existent, but declared to be non-existent by July 1, 1958, by the 70th General Assembly of the State Legislature, for in their opinion such Districts had outgrown their purpose and effectiveness. The District came into existence on August 18, 1958, when the County Superintendent of Schools formally administered the oath of office to the seven-member Board of Education elected on August 16, 1958. At that time the District became formally known as Community High School District No. 234, Cook County, Illinois.

The following year, a naming contest was held among the pupils of the elementary school in the area, the name Ridgewood was selected for the high school, a name being a contraction of the names of the area which the school serves -- namely, Nor - **ridge**, Har - **wood** Heights, and Nor - **wood** Park Township.

Reviewed and Adopted: October 19, 2015

School District Organization

School District Boundaries and Map

The boundaries of the District coincide with part of the boundaries of Elementary District 79 and boundaries of Elementary District 80, and Elementary District 86, a compact and contiguous territory. The following is a legal description of the territory of Ridgewood Community High School District, District 234, Cook County, Illinois.

Commencing at a point formed by the intersection of the north street line of Montrose and the west street line of Narragansett Avenue, thence west along the north street line of Montrose to the intersection of Montrose and Forest Preserve Drive, thence southwest along the north street line of Forest Preserve Drive to the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Forest Preserve Drive, thence south along the west street line of Harlem Avenue to the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Irving Park Road, thence west along the north street line of Irving Park Road to the east line of Thatcher Road, thence north along the east line of Thatcher Road to the north line of Montrose Avenue, thence west along the north line of Montrose Avenue to the east line of Cumberland Road, thence north along the east line of Cumberland Road to the north line of Lawrence Avenue, thence west along the north line of Lawrence Avenue to the east line of East River Road, thence north along the east line of East River Road to the south line of north 40 rods of the W 1/2 SW 1/4 of Sec. 11-40-12, thence east along said line to the west line of the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 of Sec. 11-40-12, thence south along the said line of the south line of Argyle Avenue, thence east along the south line of Argyle Avenue to the east line of Cumberland Avenue, thence north along the east line of Cumberland Avenue, to the south line of Foster Avenue, extended west, thence east along the south line of Foster Avenue extended to the west line of the E 1/2 SE 1/4 of Sec. 11-40-12 thence south along the said line to the south line of the North 10 acres of the North 20 acres of the E 1/2 SE of Sec. 11-40-12 and thence east along aforesaid south line to the west line of Sec. 12-40-12, thence south along the said line to a line 100 feet south of and parallel to the south line of Argyle Avenue, (and as extended) thence east along said line to the west line of Oriole Avenue extended, thence south along the west line of Oriole Avenue extended to the south line of Lawrence Avenue, thence, east along the south line of Lawrence Avenue to the east line of Harlem Avenue, thence north along the east line of Harlem Avenue to the south line of Gunnison Street, thence east along the south line of Gunnison Street to the east line of Nordica Avenue, thence north along the east line of Nordica Avenue to the south line of the alley north of Gunnison Street, thence east along the south line of the alley north of Gunnison Street to the west line of Nagle Avenue, thence south along the west line of Nagle Avenue to the south line of Gunnison Street, thence east along the south line of Gunnison Street to the west line of Narragansett Avenue, thence south along the west line of Narragansett Avenue to the point of beginning, all in section 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Township 40 North, Range 12, Sections 7 and 18 in Township 40 North, Range 13, East of the Third Principal Meridian, Cook County, Illinois.

Reviewed and Adopted: October 19, 2015