

**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, December 5, 2011 at 7:31 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 Seeking Amendment to Senate Bill 2925 (Ruiz)/Assembly Bill 4132 (Coutinho/Singleton) To Retain Local School Board and Superintendent Authority over Personnel Decisions

- Whereas, Under current law and practice, school district hiring decisions are made upon the recommendation of the chief school administrator to the local board of education; and
- Whereas, Hiring procedures leading up to the chief school administrator's recommendation should always consider the perspective the school principal; and
- Whereas, District-level factors, including the allocation of resources, programming considerations and educational goals, should take precedent when hiring and placing instructional staff; and
- Whereas, Proposed legislation to provide long-overdue reform of the state's tenure process and seniority system also includes provisions that would significantly diminish the involvement of the superintendent and local school board in personnel matters; and
- Whereas In particular, the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) Act.", Senate Bill 2925/Assembly Bill 4132, would give sole authority to appoint or remove instructional staff to the principal, in consultation with a "school improvement panel," consisting of the principal, an assistant principal and an instructional staff member nominated by the principal and approved by the staff; and
- Whereas, The TEACHNJ Act would completely remove the local board of education and the district superintendent from future personnel decisions; and
- Whereas, In New Jersey, the community selects a school board, which has a fiduciary relationship with taxpayers and which sets education policy goals; and
- Whereas, The community vests in the board of education the authority to approve or reject personnel recommendations made by the superintendent; and
- Whereas, In making his or her personnel recommendations to the local board of education, the superintendent normally seeks the input of district and building-level administrators, including school principals; and
- Whereas, The current hiring and staffing process has worked successfully in school districts throughout the state, as evidenced by New Jersey students' performance on nationwide measures of achievement, such as the National Assessment of Education Progress. Now therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Ridgewood Board of Education urges the Legislature to amend Senate Bill 2925 and Assembly Bill 4132 to ensure that personnel hiring and placement decisions remain under the authority of the district superintendent, with the approval of the local board of education, the community's elected or appointed representatives; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be delivered to Governor Chis Christie; State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney; Senator Teresa M. Ruiz, chair, and all members of the Senate Education Committee; Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver; Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, chair, and all members of the Assembly Education Committee; Assemblyman Albert Coutinho; Assemblyman Troy Singleton; and the 40th Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Bergen County School Boards Association.

Ms. Brogan moved approval of the NJSBA Resolution Seeking Amendment to Senate Bill 2925 (Ruiz)/Assembly Bill 4132 (Coutinho/Singleton) To Retain Local School Board and Superintendent Authority over Personnel Decisions.

Mr. Hutton 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