

**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 7, 2011 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. Laurie Goodman; Mr. Charles Reilly; Mr. Robert Hutton, Vice-President; Ms. Michele Lenhard, Board President

The following members were absent: None

**RESOLUTION
In Opposition to Moving the Annual School Election to November**

Whereas, School boards in New Jersey serve as non-partisan bodies that provide communities with oversight of the schools and accountability for school district operations; and

Whereas, Elections of school officials and school budgets have intentionally been kept separate and apart from partisan elections; and

Whereas, Local school district governance involves responsibilities that should not be subject to partisan influence, including the establishment of curriculum, the evaluation of the superintendent, and representation of the public in contract negotiations; and

Whereas, Several proposals before the state Legislature would move the election of local school board members, who serve on a non-partisan basis, to the partisan November General Election; and

Whereas, Entangling school elections with the partisan municipal, county and state elections would intensify partisan influence over local school board elections and could encourage partisan involvement in school district policies; and

Whereas, Municipalities with non-partisan governments continue to have the option of conducting elections in the spring, distancing the selection of their officials from the partisan November General Election; and

Whereas, Moving school elections to November would require non-partisan school board candidates to campaign at the same time as partisan-backed candidates for state and federal office, thereby requiring them to spend additional money on their campaigns in order to gain voter attention; and

Whereas, School elections must always be based on educational issues, not political party concerns. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Ridgewood Board of Education supports many efforts to increase voter participation in the school election, but opposes legislation that would move the election of non-partisan board of education efforts to the November General Election; and be it further

Resolved, That the Ridgewood Board of Education supports the establishment of a single statewide non-partisan election in the spring to encompass boards of education, non-partisan municipal governments and fire districts; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, Senator Kevin O'Toole, Assemblyman Scott Rumana, and Assemblyman David Russo; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Commissioner of Education Christopher D. Cerf, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Bergen County School Boards Association.

Ms. Brogan moved approval of the Resolution in Opposition to Moving the Annual School Election to November.

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

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Ms. Goodman, Mr. Reilly, 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 Daviet
Assistant Board Secretary