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September 14, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Family,

By now we all have had time to process the news of Dr. Fishbein's retirement announcement at the end of this year. 2020 has certainly tested us all and continues to do so, but we are Ridgewood and we are strong. We have seen COVID-19 change our world, civil unrest rock our senses, and political unease spin our minds daily. Through it all, we have come together and braved the storm.

Dr. Fishbein has been in education for over 26 years, his last 12 with the Ridgewood District. During Dr. Fishbein's tenure here, he has had many accomplishments that we all can be proud of. He continued the Tradition of Excellence that Ridgewood has been known for since 1894, and I am confident that the next Superintendent will do the same.

Now we must look towards the future. The next step in the process is finding an Interim Superintendent while the search for our new permanent Superintendent commences. This entire process will be lengthy, but it will be done with as much transparency and community involvement as possible. During our search, we will strive to find someone who values the whole child, including academics, social and emotional learning, athletics, and the arts.

Retirement is not a sad occasion, but one to be celebrated as it signals new beginnings, and we wish Dr. Fishbein nothing but the absolute best. We are sad to see him go, but we are also excited for what is next. Helen Keller said, "a bend in the road isn't the end of the road, unless you fail to make the turn". We need to remain calm during this time and make that turn together.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Lembo
President, Board of Education

C Board of Education
Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent

