



RPS News

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Board of Education and District Share Goals and Priorities



This Monday's Board of Education meeting wasn't the first BOE Meeting of the 2021-22 school year but it was the first time this year's Ridgefield High School Student Body President, Anshuman Suryawanshi (aka Ansh, photo top left), addressed the group. Ansh shared how excited the students are to be back in person and some of their plans for the year, including a freshman dance for tonight and other initiatives to increase school spirit. PTA Council Representative Kim Carone detailed the herculean back-to-school efforts of PTAs across the district; please join your PTA if you haven't.

After an update on the turf field resurfacing projects by Athletic Director Dane Street, the meat of the BOE meeting was a robust discussion of the Board's goals and the District's priorities. A video of the entire meeting can be found [here](#). Board Member Liz Floegel urged her fellow Board volunteers

to articulate a goal of academic excellence and to ensure Ridgefield Public Schools is an "employer of choice," where RPS is a place where "every teacher wants to go to teach."

Superintendent Dr. Da Silva added context to Ms. Floegel's comment by saying that hiring educators across Connecticut was particularly competitive this year and that RPS did well filling openings. She pointed out that people want to work in districts like Ridgefield that are innovative and responsive to the needs of the students and staff. Dr. Da Silva went on to introduce each of her team leaders to discuss their departments' draft priority or priorities. She said that the team is looking to and beyond DRG A for possible programs to serve families, including before and after-care and world language instruction in the elementary schools. Each team leader articulated their priorities, which can be found in this [BOE packet](#). Some of the most discussed priorities are outlined below. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Cory Gillette aims to have parity between the schools and a "memorialized" curriculum, which means that it is written down and accessible to teachers and families while remaining dynamic and responsive. Director of Personnel Karen Dewing plans to establish systems to create and support a more diverse workforce and to support professional learning for RPS Administrators, some of whom have been in the District for a short time. Business Manager Dawn Norton will look at RPS's vexing transportation for cost-saving innovations, and Facilities Director Joe Morits is excited by the opportunity to create a five-year facility master plan.

Calendar

September 23

Early Dismissal for Students
Professional Development

September 27

BOE Meeting
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

October 4

[Project Resilience Talk](#)

Please check your [School's Calendar](#) to plan vacations. Note full week off in February and April.

#34



The Ridgefield Press ran a story about Tyler Ugolyn (photo left), a Ridgefield High School graduate, who died in the 9/11 terrorist attack. The article reports that Tyler’s legacy is kept alive at RHS by the boys basketball program. Each year a player wears #34 to memorialize this beloved Ridgefield alum who died too young. The photo on the right shows Luke McGarrity, RHS Class of 2020, wearing Tyler’s number. Luke plays basketball at Union College. The article also previews the first annual Tyler Ugolyn Memorial Basketball Tournament, which will take place in December. Please read the [full story here](#).

Hats On for Hurricane Relief



The East Ridge Middle School student council, advised by Maureen Tyra, organized "Hats for Hurricane Relief." Students and staff each paid \$1 to wear a hat to school, and exceeded their goal of \$500. All funds raised will go to the Red Cross for Hurricane Ida relief.

Captions: Top Left: Clara W., Brooklyn S., Lillian K., and Francis M. Top Right: Dean G. and Bode G. Lower Right: Student Piper B. flanked by teachers Maureen Tyra, Jennifer Roth, Chad Stewart, Andrea Donigian, and Principal Jennifer Phostole.

Parenting Talk



“Do the ABCs have to start with anxiety?” That’s the question Chris Bogart, Ph.D. will address in the next Parenting the #Selfie Generation Workshop on Monday, October 4 at 7 p.m. Please register in advance to receive the Zoom link.

More information about Dr. Bogart, the program, and registration can be found on the [Ridgefield Library’s website](#).

Keep up with Ridgefield Public Schools News on our website [news page](#) and [calendar](#). We would love to hear from you, [contact us](#) with questions and feedback.

