



Town of Ridgefield
BOF Approved Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

I. Call to order

Mike Rettger called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. BOF members Mike Rettger, Dave Ulmer, Greg Kabasakalian, Andrew Okrongly, Joe Shapiro present.

Others Present: Rudy Marconi, First Selectperson; Susie Da Silva, Superintendent of Schools; Jill Browne, RPS Director of Finance; Cory Gilette, RPS Assistant Superintendent; Elizabeth Hannaway, RPS Assistant Superintendent of Special Services; Joseph Morits, RPS Director of Facilities; Wes DeSantis, RPS Director of Educational Technology; Karen Dewing, RPS Director of Personnel; Tina Malhotra, BOE Chair; Sean McEvoy and Christine More, BOE members; and Sean Connelly, BOS member.

II. Budget Deliberations – BOE Operating and Capital Budgets

Dr. Da Silva reviewed the BOE-adopted FY 2025-2026 Operating budget of \$119,885,958, commenting on or explaining in detail a variety of items. Members of the BOF addressed questions to RPS administrators regarding various Operating budget items, including those relating to the student population at Scotts Ridge Middle School, numbers of employees in different capacities, the proposed new academically gifted program in elementary schools, transportation, IT expenses, the continuation of the planned expansion of the elementary school world language program with an additional teacher, electricity usage, elementary library and assistant principals, hockey team rink usage, sports participants' pay to play obligations and RPS level of subsidization, budgetary impact of Special Education, growth of FTEs, professional education services, and health insurance costs. Dr. Da Silva, Ms. Browne and other RPS administrators responded to questions about these and related matters.

Dr. Da Silva then presented the details of the proposed RPS Capital budget. Items of discussion included furniture replacement, technology, heat pumps, and LED upgrades for lighting and their energy savings impact. Dr. Da Silva noted that off-cycle capital requests are mostly for

emergencies. She invited and encouraged BOF members to view the master plan and noted that it is not a directive, but a guide.

BOF members and RPS representatives discussed the likelihood of any budget surplus at the close of the current fiscal year for use in the BOF's estimation of the overall projected financial result for the Town for the current fiscal year. Ms. Browne noted that there may be a budget surplus, however, RPS does not have a figure at this time. It may be possible to estimate the surplus around the end of April, she reported.

III. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. by Mr. Ulmer, seconded by Mr. Okrongly. All in favor.

Next meeting March 27, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mia Belanger