

Subject: Fwd: Dr. Fishbein's Resignation
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 06:32:30 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=9mih3SmCNTHF8SthWCT=dimxpQtQkQJ326r0AW5S1gSA@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 64e5b8f0d07e1a6ef0d3c604ae80f3b7

[REDACTED]

Sheila

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hyunju Kwak** <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:08 PM
Subject: Re: Dr. Fishbein's Resignation
To: Stacey Loscalzo <sloscalzo1@gmail.com>
CC: Cristopher Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Antoinette Kelly <akelly@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Dear Ms. Loscalzo,

(With copy to the board in name of transparency- please do not reply.)

Thank you for reaching out again. To clarify- a "private person" designation means my personality, not my role (that is why I did not describe myself as a private *citizen* or *resident*). Please read my response carefully with as much care and consideration as I do yours.

I hope you appreciate that I am fulfilling my role in a hostile, toxic environment fanned by messages passed along by you and many others. You can do so much with your vast network to spread a positive message and bring a community together, instead of propagating a rally and such. Please take the moment to reflect on your actions and motivations, and I hope that we can celebrate Dr. Fishbein's well-earned retirement together.

Sincerely, HyunJu Kwak

PS you are not the first person to project my husband's views or actions onto me. I have my own accomplishments and ideas and it is incredibly frustrating and demoralizing when I am considered an adjacent or accessory to him. Please respect my agency and I do not know what purpose you gain by mentioning my husband other than to undermine my agency.

On Monday, September 14, 2020, Stacey Loscalzo <sloscalzo1@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Kwak,

First, you may believe that you are a private person but you hold a public office. I am, in fact, a private person.

Second, I am not a coordinator of the rally. The rally is being organized by people far closer to the Ridgewood Public School system than I am. I simply passed along the message.

Third, truthfully, I would be thrilled if "rudeness and blatant disregard" were what showed up when I searched my name. My "legitimate questions and differences of opinion" led your husband, your supporters and various anonymous writers to use the following words (and others- I had to stop reading at a certain point) to describe me on the internet:

"racist, bigot, liar, liar, liar, hates democracy, trying to organize a lynch mob, next time wear your white hood and robe Stacey, trying to stir up an angry mob".

I am wondering which one of us should be more prepared this evening "to withstand any slurs, open hostility and verbal/physical charges."

Sincerely,
Stacey Loscalzo

Stacey Loscalzo

Writer: [Newsletter](#)

Contributor: "rudeness" and "blatant disregard" [Bookclique](#)

Visit me on Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:16 AM Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:
Dear Ms. Loscalzo,

Thank you for your email clarifying your position. I am responding to you personally as I am one of the targets specifically named in your call to action email that was widely disseminated. I am a private person, and you have an enviably extensive network of friends and sympathizers as evidenced by the emails that I and the Board received with language, almost verbatim, that you prescribed. If you believe that *you* have been the subject of hurtful feedback, I invite you to search my name in Facebook/social media and see how impactful your directive is.

It is unfortunate that legitimate questions and differences of opinion are cast as "rudeness" and "blatant disregard" and deserving of a coordinated, vitriolic campaign that undermines our authority as elected trustees. I take my role as a Board trustee seriously, and I am mindful of my responsibilities to advance the public education for the kids in the district. It is Dr. Fishbein's personal decision to resign and retire and we should all respect his decision. Ridgewood is an inclusive community that celebrates ethnic diversity and different voices and backgrounds, or so I would like to believe.

We have never met but perhaps we shall in the "rally" today as you are one of the architects of the protest. I will not be changing my habit of arriving about 15-20 minutes before the 6pm executive session. I will be in a bright yellow raincoat (in case I get egged, the yolks will blend right in), which should stand out in the sea of maroon that I believe you recommended your supporters to wear. I will be prepared to withstand any slurs, open hostility and verbal/physical charges. You cannot miss me - I am the only minority woman on the Board.

Sincerely,

HyunJu Kwak
Cc: M. Lembo
D. Fishbein
A. Kelly

On Sunday, September 13, 2020, Stacey Loscalzo <sloscalzo1@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Fishbein. Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Kaufman, Ms. Kwak, Mr. Lembo and Ms. Kelly,

Thank you Dr. Fishbein and Ms. Kelly for your years of service and dedication to the Ridgewood Public Schools.

As most of you know, an email that I wrote to my personal friends has been shared on Facebook without my approval. While the things that were said about me in response to this email were hurtful, I am glad that my opinions have been made public as I now can speak more openly.

Contrary to what many have stated after reading my email, the new board member's rudeness and persistent questioning are not my primary concern.

To set the record straight, I fully support new board members asking tough questions and pushing up against the status quo. I also believe that over his tenure, Dr. Fishbein has graciously dealt with parents far more rude than the new representatives- this is Ridgewood after all.

My primary concern is the new board member's consistent and blatant disregard for Dr. Fishbein, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Brogan's expert opinions and recommendations. Refusing the advice of experienced educators and professionals is foolish and detrimental to the students, families and community you serve. To push for change in all areas, simply for the sake of change, in the midst of a pandemic, is reckless.

Sincerely,
Stacey Loscalzo

Stacey Loscalzo

Writer: [Newsletter](#)

Contributor: [Bookclique](#)

Visit me on Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

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Subject: Re: RBOE
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 14:34:21 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=9iwFLOOqDXRZ0AEjnCL+Xy8PXXVBGswcX4JOot8v66TQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: a2f0a816691413d71c0d12eeeac75ef7

[REDACTED]

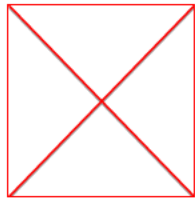
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:09 AM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

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Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 12:53:19 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-EXtRRf2s+L4SkmFzctZaY7MUZxvJBNpLc+LWTFuPK_w@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: caab30c06eefd382ed92b59a2e7d7c7b

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

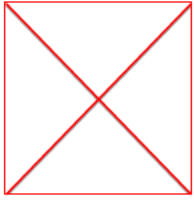
On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:32 PM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Board and District Administrators

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

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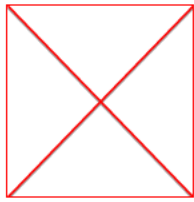
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Subject: Re: Dr Fishbein resignation notice
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 16:13:04 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Hans christinger <hans.christinger@gmail.com>
Cc: Mike Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyun-Ju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Chris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFxFbAK6yFRnE2QUYXGgByfKvkVhcVUM6BKiiE25mjrPw@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: e593a2dff382c41fda8741914d45c965

Hans,

I always tell administrators it is always easy to captain a ship in calm seas, but the true test is when the seas are rough. Ridgewood has great administrators and they will be able to captain the ship during these times and until there is new leadership. Thanks for your kind words and support.



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

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www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 4:55 PM Hans christinger <hans.christinger@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Fishbein and Board

I am sorry and concerned to read about your pending resignation. What can we as citizens of Ridgewood, with students in the school system do to help facilitate a different outcome?

We have friends with children in many “top” school systems around the country. Our experience in the Ridgewood school system during 2020 in particular was unlike any other as we compared notes with friends and family around the US. Without question, our town was the envy of everyone we spoke with about how schools were dealing with COVID. Each and everyone one of the towns we compared COVID response with, had a far inferior response to this unfortunate situation.

Anyone can lead during the good times. We have been tested like no other time in my life time and I am grateful for all that Ridgewood has done under your leadership Dr. Fishbein. Now, in the middle of a pandemic is not the time to make this kind of change, if it can be avoided.

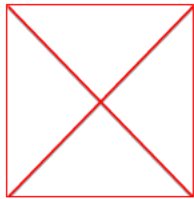
Highly concerned (and grateful) citizen

Hans Christinger

Subject: Re: Letter to Dr. Fishbein from Federated HSA
Date: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 16:54:33 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Kelly Buchsbaum <kellyjakeb@gmail.com>
Cc: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Chris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyun-Ju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Kathy Marshall <kmmarshall1989@gmail.com>, "Tansey, Madison" <cmtansey1@verizon.net>, Valerie Auyeung <vauyeung1@yahoo.com>, amy gill <nycgill@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFygdZYvwZ-t7+3RdF3O6RxYE3LfAwreaYNPEp3MmTAuog@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 03f61b38546147415bad1ee15cf41495

FHSA Executive Board.

Thanks for your kind note. All administrators and teachers came together to make this historic reopening happen. While there was apprehension, uncertainty, and the fear of the unknown, my experience as an administrator guided me to know that sometimes you have to ride out the storm to see if your planning paid off. In this case, it did and we had a great opening. There is still a lot of work that has to be done and we have a great team working on it. If all goes well community health wise we will be ready for Phase 2. Thanks for your support.



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Thu, Sep 10, 2020 at 1:28 PM Kelly Buchsbaum <kellyjakeb@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Fishbein:

The Federated Home & School Association Executive Board would like to formally express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the District Administrators, Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers and Staff for the successful re-opening of school last week.

Under your leadership and guidance, the Ridgewood Public Schools team worked together to design a brilliant back-to-school plan, with hybrid and all-remote options, all while keeping top of mind the health and safety of our children and your staff.

We are thankful to you and our RPS Administrators for your compassionate, thoughtful, careful leadership. From March 16th to September 2nd, you and your staff kept parents informed, inspired, and encouraged during historic times where you had to navigate completely uncharted territory. It sounds cliché, but it is absolutely a fact that your and our District's leaders' efforts will go down in history!

Thank you for working 24/7 without pause or break -- you and your leadership team performed herculean tasks on behalf of the children and families of Ridgewood.

We also want to express our deep gratitude to the Principals for their creative custom videos. The introductions and guided tours of the school buildings were wonderful! Seeing the school hallways and classrooms, along with meeting the Principals, Guidance Counselors, and the school teams via video meant so much to children and parents alike. There was an immediate comfort level for the first day of school, along with such a warm welcome to each school.

We would like to formally express our gratitude and appreciation for your leadership and for the outstanding Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers and Staff. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Federated Home & School Association Executive Board 2020-21

Kelly Buchsbaum, President
Colleen Tansey, 1st Vice-President
Amy Gill, 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Auyeung, Treasurer/Secretary

Kathy Marshall, Member at Large

Subject: Fwd: Incredibly disappointed!
Date: Sat, 12 Sep 2020 21:22:46 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=8tpDTF3_6jrtAkQQWA-S0gS=H9-up-vG3jLJgOZMUUyA@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: fd4ff8aced812a6dea70b09b7df57f3b

Interesting exchange.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **margarite carmody** <margarite.carmody@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 5:03 PM
Subject: Re: Incredibly disappointed!
To: Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
CC: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Thank you for the quick response - I appreciate it, however your response feels like a complete deflection (pointing to other superintendent turnover and suggesting I am somehow not on board with an inclusive, diverse community that can express different opinions). I absolutely celebrate diverse thoughts and difference of opinions. I do not celebrate the APPROACH you and Mr. Dani take in these meetings. It is publicly combative and has become a "gotcha" quest - rather than a collaboration to improve the outcome (including the opportunity to exercise better judgment about when when issues should be researched / debated offline rather than publicly). It is possible to disagree in an agreeable manner. It is possible to dig in for more info and transparency (which I applaud) without publicly undressing someone like Antoinette. My hope was these resignations would be a moment of reflection for the Board - not deflection - both for those who are being unnecessarily combative, and for the full board to hold each other to account when any member is not operating in a collaborative manner.

I am not looking for a response to this email. My message was intended to share my constructive criticism outside of the public eye given the respect I have for these BOE positions.

Margarite

On Sep 12, 2020, at 1:25 AM, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Carmody,

Thank you for sharing your heartfelt thoughts. I am responding to you personally since you wrote about "two of our new board of Ed members" and I believe you are referencing me and Mr. Dani. Dr. Fishbein has been a superintendent for many years, and there has been quite a bit of superintendent turnover in northern Jersey recently (Glen Rock and Montclair last year, Paramus and Ramapo Indian Hills this year, etc). I respect Dr. Fishbein's personal decision to resign and join the many who wish him only the best in the future. We are an inclusive, ethnically diverse community where differences of opinions and backgrounds are celebrated and not "an embarrassment to our district" in my opinion. I hope you appreciate that we are all fulfilling our responsibilities and always keeping students' interests in the forefront.

Sincerely,

HyunJu Kwak

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, Margarite Carmody <margarite.carmody@gmail.com> wrote:

I am incredibly disappointed, and quite honestly angry, that due to the disrespectful, condescending

and antagonist approach taken by two of our new board of Ed members, Dr. Fishbein felt he needed to

resign today. The videos of the BOE meetings speak for themselves and are an embarrassment to our

district and will no doubt impede our ability to attract a qualified replacement.

Sent from my iPhone

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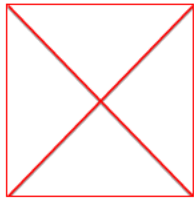
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Subject: Re: Letter to Board of Education from Federated HSA Executive Board
Date: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 08:30:13 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFyjjh=bN66PoN+wS1umU_QBDQSU7bn4gOW7QHynsVH47g@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 8891b489a4055de06a4cede1140b5efc



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 9:09 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Wonderful letter and so true!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kelly Buchsbaum** <kellyjakeb@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 8:37 PM

Subject: Letter to Board of Education from Federated HSA Executive Board

To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Dear Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Kaufman, Ms. Kwak, and Mr. Lembo:

We, the Federated Home and School Association Executive Board as parent volunteer leaders in our Ridgewood Public Schools, would like to formally recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, our Superintendent, Dr. Dan Fishbein.

We feel that this is especially appropriate as we have just completed our first successful week of the district's re-opening, largely due to the hard work and dedication of our district and school administrators and our wonderful faculty and staff, all under Dan's leadership.

Dr. Fishbein's steadfast leadership over the past several months of this historic pandemic, from the day our district began all-remote instruction on March 16th to last week's school re-opening on September 2nd deserves particular commendation.

During difficult and uncertain times, Dr. Fishbein implemented and oversaw first, a totally remote learning plan which accommodated all learners, and second, a seamless, successful reopening for our students and families to safely return to school, while offering outstanding options in all-virtual and hybrid learning models. He accomplished this in the midst of a constantly changing health and regulatory landscape, while balancing the academic, physical and mental health needs of a variety of students and the professional and safety needs of his staff. This was not an easy task, and Dan and many of his colleagues worked tirelessly throughout the late spring and all summer long to develop a workable plan to meet the greatest needs of the community. At the same time, the daily business of the district was also successfully attended to, with many planned projects being completed over the summer months. We want to ensure that these extraordinary efforts during an unprecedented time in our world are noticed and recognized.

Dr. Fishbein's leadership in guiding the Ridgewood team of District administrators, along with the outstanding Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers and Staff, has been remarkable and exemplary.

We would like to commend Dr. Fishbein and formally express our gratitude and appreciation for his leadership. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Federated Home & School Association Executive Board 2020-21

Kelly Buchsbaum, President
Colleen Tansey, 1st Vice-President
Amy Gill, 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Auyeung, Treasurer/Secretary
Kathy Marshall, Member at Large

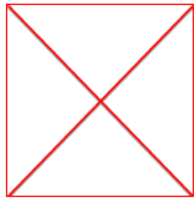
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Subject: Re: Fishbein Letters/Emails/Posts
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 15:32:36 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFyQc_oYWAM_dUyKvZc_+4Ndigc-b=dpAMGbA9KjwEM3Q@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: dedde199d0b51480ef0efb0d26586fae



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 3:00 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:



Sheila

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:56 PM

Subject: Fishbein Letters/Emails/Posts

To: Christopher Kauffman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, HyunJu Kwak
<hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani
<sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Board,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-Mike

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

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specific OPRA exception. You should have no expectation that the content of e-mails sent to or from school district e-mail addresses, or between the public and school district officials and employees, will remain private.

Subject: Fwd: Public Comment
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 06:40:09 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=8HuSCifuwYDBdwnTKU=3nhbFUjboJ264-ahy9hCyMWfw@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 81b3b238c0abb3af7709f5115e1cf423

More ...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Beth Meleski** <bethmeleski@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:45 PM
Subject: Re: Public Comment
To: Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
CC: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo
<mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani
<sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Cristopher Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

For your highlighting pleasure:

“Dear All,

Dr. Fishbein, Superintendent of Ridgewood Public Schools, will submit his resignation

to the Board of Education (BOE) on Monday, September 14th. This is terrible news for

the Ridgewood Public Schools (RPS), our families and our community.

I am writing to request two things.

1)

E-mail Immediately- E-mail Dr. Fishbein and the BOE with your thoughts on Dr. Fishbein's

resignation. (email addresses below)

2)

Rally [on Monday September 14th at 5:30pm](#) at [49 Cottage Place](#)- Please wear Ridgewood

colors. We will be there when the BOE enters for their executive session and can stay or return

home to call in for public comment.

Dr. Fishbein has served as Ridgewood's superintendent for the past twelve years. He

is a longtime Ridgewood resident and his five children are Hawes, Benjamin Franklin

and RHS graduates. Ridgewood principals, administrators and parents along with

fellow superintendents hold Dr. Fishbein in high regard. Thanks to Dr. Fishbein's stable

and effective leadership, Ridgewood Public Schools have thrived even and especially

during a global pandemic.

This spring, Ridgewood elected three new BOE representatives. Two of these

representatives, Mr. Dani and Ms. Kwak, were frequent speakers at the BOE public

comment podium for the past few years. At public comment and then in their official

capacity following the election, Mr. Dani and Ms. Kwak consistently approached Dr.

Fishbein and Ms. Kelley (the recently resigned RPS business administrator) with an

assumption of negligence. They spoke consistently in an accusatory tone and their

micromanagement made it impossible for these seasoned professionals to lead

effectively.

On average, it takes eighteen months to replace a superintendent. Importantly, one of

the first things that a candidate will do is view archived Board of Education meetings to

better understand the community. Any candidate who views our recent BOE meetings,

will see a hostile environment and board members who show disrespect, distrust and

disregard of professional educators.

The damage done by these BOE representatives will have far reaching consequences

to our schools and therefore to our community. I hope that you will email, come out on

Monday and importantly, if you aren't already, pay close attention to what is happening

in our schools.

I will be sharing more information and details over the next few days but I wanted to get this message out as quickly as possible.”

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 14, 2020, at 12:32 PM, Beth Meleski <bethmeleski@gmail.com> wrote:

Can you please highlight in the email copied below the places where you found calls to action that you feel endanger your safety? And please spare me the part where you beg off responding to me for some lame reason. You had the time to answer the first email. You have the time to answer this one.

As for my motivation, it was to ask that we not resort to the exact form of hyperbole and hysteria that you have engaged in with this response to me.

I had heard you were reasonable. Apparently not.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 14, 2020, at 12:17 PM, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Meleski,

I am copying the entire Board on my reply in the spirit of transparency. This is for your information only.

I believe you are referring to my husband. His opinions are his own, and he has the right to express them per First Amendment rights. Please do not project or super-impose my husband's views as my own, which truly undermines all that I have accomplished on my own right. You are correct to remind the members of the Board that we volunteered to serve the community. I personally did not volunteer to be harassed, intimidated or bullied in social media or by email. If you disagree with the severity or extent of the disparaging, hurtful comments linked with my name, I invite you to search my name on Facebook/social media and read what I have been a target of. I find myself attempting to fulfill my responsibilities as an elected official in a hostile, toxic environment, in which a Superintendent's personal desire to retire is co-opted by individuals for their own purposes. It is Dr. Fishbein's decision to resign, and I respect his decision --- unless you have direct knowledge or been told otherwise and if so, whom?

As you know, the Board cannot condemn a private citizen for speaking up and expressing a personal viewpoint. This is why an individual who has broadly disseminated an urgent call to action targeting myself and Mr. Dani cannot be condemned for her action, even though her directive has imperiled my personal safety and I have considered hiring private security as I go about my duties tonight.

Please take a moment to reflect on your motivation. I am motivated to serve the community, a community that I believe celebrates ethnic diversity and differences of opinions and backgrounds despite recent events.

Sincerely yours,
HyunJu Kwak

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:54 AM Beth Meleski <bethmeleski@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning. The form for public comments for your meeting tonight has not been opened yet so I wanted to make sure you saw the text of the comment I would have made.

It has come to my attention that the husband of a current board member has recently labeled a fellow resident and active community volunteer a racist in response to comments he felt disparaged the current board members. The original comment was made in a private email and made public on social media by a third party.

It seems dangerous to co-opt and weaponize such an important social, cultural, and life-and-death issue as racism in an attempt to intimidate or silence dissent.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the members of the Board that they sought this position and took it on willingly. As Dr. Fishbein can surely attest, being a public servant in a public role involves subjecting one's actions and decisions to the scrutiny of one's constituents. Your actions and decisions are now fair game and we, as citizens, have the right to demand your accountability. Just as several of you have done repeatedly for many years. Your acceptance of this responsibility is true even when, perhaps particularly when, that scrutiny is of a critical nature.

I would like to ask the Board to condemn this intimation of racism in the strongest possible terms. Especially leveled, as it has been, by the relative of one of your members. I fear that if we begin to define racism simply as the civic act of expressing our disagreement with our public servants, then you're going to have to sign me up to be a racist too.

I wish Dr. Fishbein all the best in his future endeavors even as I wish we could keep him right here. Those of you who lived in Ridgewood in the years prior to Dr. Fishbein's tenure will join with me in remembering how much he has accomplished and set right in his time as Superintendent. Those of you who don't have that history, I hope you haven't just condemned yourselves to repeating it.

Thank you for your attention.

Beth Meleski
61 California Street

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Subject: 9-14-2020
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 06:56:20 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-TXaTquz4xqpadcLOu4LiP0kG_6uHsnStB-irj8R-0Bg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: eaa23170c47cf68a78594d308beff47b

Good morning Dan,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

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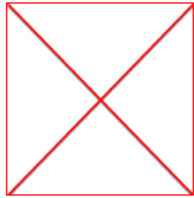
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Subject: Out of the office notice Re: Precedent???
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 14:03:58 -0700
From: "Daniel Fishbein" <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFwhDF_FST7jwHf+xre9Cj_pzH4Oegf9HJx72s1B9FaT8A@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: c0c4dd001bbecaf581e0ef558b59f7f9

I will be out of the office on Wednesday, September 16 and return to work on Thursday, September 1. If you need assistance you should contact my assistant Lucy Papamichael at lpapamichael@ridgewood.k12.nj.us or at 201-670-2700 ext. 10530.

--



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

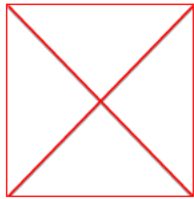
Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

Subject: Re: RBOE
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 14:49:40 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFwL2Jvctq8qwyVq0bn0Xs61xnmCA41VZ+91vX7m9Hu=3w@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: a414048f89dd0c9fd43ac6fae22cb54a

Thanks



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 2:34 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:09 AM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

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Subject: Fwd: Public Comment
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 12:41:38 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=8Lw3AEUb=wN7=KE3=5q1w_mLd3PbABacgH5CKJyxybA@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 9c01168366cb18728778fb56334921a8



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hyunju Kwak** <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:17 PM
Subject: Re: Public Comment
To: Beth Meleski <bethmeleski@gmail.com>
CC: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo
<mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani
<sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Cristopher Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyunju Kwak
<hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Dear Ms. Meleski,

I am copying the entire Board on my reply in the spirit of transparency. This is for your information only.

I believe you are referring to my husband. His opinions are his own, and he has the right to express them per First Amendment rights. Please do not project or super-impose my husband's views as my own, which truly undermines all that I have accomplished on my own right. You are correct to remind the members of the Board that we volunteered to serve the community. I personally did not volunteer to be harassed, intimidated or bullied in social media or by email. If you disagree with the severity or extent of the disparaging, hurtful comments linked with my name, I invite you to search my name on Facebook/social media and read what I have been a target of. I find myself attempting to fulfill my responsibilities as an elected official in a hostile, toxic environment, in which a Superintendent's personal desire to retire is co-opted by individuals for their own purposes. It is Dr. Fishbein's decision to resign, and I respect his decision --- unless you have direct knowledge or been told otherwise and if so, whom?

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Please take a moment to reflect on your motivation. I am motivated to serve the community. a community that I believe celebrates ethnic diversity and differences of opinions and backgrounds despite recent events.

Sincerely yours,
HyunJu Kwak

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I wish Dr. Fishbein all the best in his future endeavors even as I wish we could keep him right here. Those of you who lived in Ridgewood in the years prior to Dr. Fishbein's tenure will join with me in remembering how much he has accomplished and set right in his time as Superintendent. Those of you who don't have that history, I hope you haven't just condemned yourselves to repeating it.

Thank you for your attention.

Beth Meleski
61 California Street

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Subject: Fwd: Public Comment
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 06:37:03 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-RrLFV6kt4E0cf_sk6AS4OEMVFcffsZPo=9WtUsQ_W1g@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: d005d42f3dd088c5644dec52f30596bc

And more...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Beth Meleski** <bethmeleski@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:54 PM
Subject: Re: Public Comment
To: Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
CC: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo
<mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani
<sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Cristopher Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Thank you. I'll look forward to receiving the highlighted doc I requested as well.

Sincerely,
Beth Meleski

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 14, 2020, at 12:45 PM, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Meleski,

(I am copying the entire Board again to abide by Ms. Meleski's request that I respond to all. This is for your information only -- no reply from the Board is expected or warranted.)

Thank you for your extremely prompt response. Please read my email carefully with the same attention and consideration that I gave to yours. There is no "hyperbole and hysteria" intended in my response, and it is unfortunate that you are ascribing a tone or characteristic that is not there, in other words, tone policing.

I appreciate you sharing your comment with the entire Board. In my personal opinion, all this angry rhetoric and vitriol mars Dr. Fishbein's legacy, and I hope you can join me in wishing him only the best in his well-earned retirement.

Sincerely,
HyunJu Kwak

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:32 PM Beth Meleski <bethmeleski@gmail.com> wrote:

Can you please highlight in the email copied below the places where you found calls to action that you

feel endanger your safety? And please spare me the part where you beg off responding to me for some lame reason. You had the time to answer the first email. You have the time to answer this one.

As for my motivation, it was to ask that we not resort to the exact form of hyperbole and hysteria that you have engaged in with this response to me.

I had heard you were reasonable. Apparently not.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 14, 2020, at 12:17 PM, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Meleski,

I am copying the entire Board on my reply in the spirit of transparency. This is for your information only.

I believe you are referring to my husband. His opinions are his own, and he has the right to express them per First Amendment rights. Please do not project or super-impose my husband's views as my own, which truly undermines all that I have accomplished on my own right. You are correct to remind the members of the Board that we volunteered to serve the community. I personally did not volunteer to be harassed, intimidated or bullied in social media or by email. If you disagree with the severity or extent of the disparaging, hurtful comments linked with my name, I invite you to search my name on Facebook/social media and read what I have been a target of. I find myself attempting to fulfill my responsibilities as an elected official in a hostile, toxic environment, in which a Superintendent's personal desire to retire is co-opted by individuals for their own purposes. It is Dr. Fishbein's decision to resign, and I respect his decision --- unless you have direct knowledge or been told otherwise and if so, whom?

As you know, the Board cannot condemn a private citizen for speaking up and expressing a personal viewpoint. This is why an individual who has broadly disseminated an urgent call to action targeting myself and Mr. Dani cannot be condemned for her action, even though her directive has imperiled my personal safety and I have considered hiring private security as I go about my duties tonight.

Please take a moment to reflect on your motivation. I am motivated to serve the community, a community that I believe celebrates ethnic diversity and differences of opinions and backgrounds despite recent events.

Sincerely yours,
HyunJu Kwak

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:54 AM Beth Meleski <bethmeleski@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning. The form for public comments for your meeting tonight has not been opened yet so I wanted to make sure you saw the text of the comment I would have made.

It has come to my attention that the husband of a current board member has recently labeled a fellow resident and active community volunteer a racist in response to comments he felt disparaged the current board members. The original comment was made in a private email and made public on social media by a third party.

It seems dangerous to co-opt and weaponize such an important social, cultural, and life-and-death issue as racism in an attempt to intimidate or silence dissent.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the members of the Board that they sought this position and took it on willingly. As Dr. Fishbein can surely attest, being a public servant in a public role involves subjecting one's actions and decisions to the scrutiny of one's constituents. Your actions and decisions are now fair game and we, as citizens, have the right to demand your accountability. Just as several of you have done repeatedly for many years. Your acceptance of this responsibility is true even when, perhaps particularly when, that scrutiny is of a critical nature.

I would like to ask the Board to condemn this intimation of racism in the strongest possible terms. Especially leveled, as it has been, by the relative of one of your members. I fear that if we begin to define racism simply as the civic act of expressing our disagreement with our public servants, then you're going to have to sign me up to be a racist too.

I wish Dr. Fishbein all the best in his future endeavors even as I wish we could keep him right here. Those of you who lived in Ridgewood in the years prior to Dr. Fishbein's tenure will join with me in remembering how much he has accomplished and set right in his time as Superintendent. Those of you who don't have that history, I hope you haven't just condemned yourselves to repeating it.

Thank you for your attention.

Beth Meleski
61 California Street

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Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 12:43:46 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Cris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyun-Ju Kwak <Hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Mike Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Cc: Antoinette Kelly <akelly@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, "Ojetta C. Townes" <otownes@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Stacie Poelstra <spoelstra@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFzXBaM65HQ8-yXW+HMXAQQv86czJ+DNA8w2qRKKDLeFQQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 86b0e7f1fa9600a1520b06f3d6de7f2e

Good afternoon.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

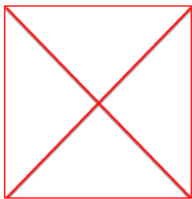
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 14:27:02 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFwKJCFTW4FJRaznthXEed-CCMRVW3BrWrLhsZADFzFzKQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 5376a681240ce886ffd7015563c20220

[REDACTED]



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Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:53 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

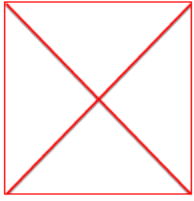
On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:32 PM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Board and District Administrators

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

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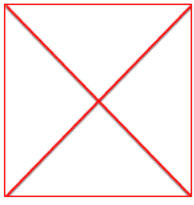
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Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 15:34:04 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFz8URaCfDZ-r8npOeaQb57SL8=hKhZLp4U-KXid==qzFA@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: a8e072bd761d69789c15032aaa2fe6a4

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

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Twitter: @RWDSupt

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www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 3:02 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:58 PM

Subject: Re: Fishbein Letters/Emails/Posts

To: Cristopher Kauffman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, HyunJu Kwak

<hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani

<sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

[REDACTED]

Mike

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:56 PM Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Board,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-Mike

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

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Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 2020 15:02:32 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=_a2kY31j4Rr8o0M=NP590HYQrwsvMJK6Q=aNn4Zq55Bg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: afb9f56b8cb7ef9e7e1361a5a5e6e281

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:58 PM
Subject: Re: Fishbein Letters/Emails/Posts
To: Cristopher Kauffman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, HyunJu Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

[REDACTED]

Mike

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:56 PM Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Board,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-Mike

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

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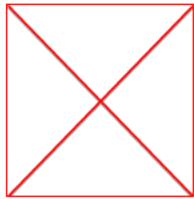
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Subject: Re: Incredibly disappointed!
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 15:06:49 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFxS1be3TYKhsi_nD_VUkP6Hu=kM8bbh+PkZrY1CXvFEg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 76912454c5cdb65ee5a2d97a483ed2aa



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 9:22 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Interesting exchange.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **margarite carmody** <margarite.carmody@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 5:03 PM
Subject: Re: Incredibly disappointed!
To: Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
CC: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Thank you for the quick response - I appreciate it, however your response feels like a complete deflection (pointing to other superintendent turnover and suggesting I am somehow not on board with an inclusive, diverse community that can express different opinions). I absolutely celebrate diverse thoughts and difference of opinions. I do not celebrate the APPROACH you and Mr. Dani take in these meetings. It is publicly combative and has become a "gotcha" quest - rather than a collaboration to improve the outcome (including the opportunity to exercise better judgment about when when issues should be researched / debated offline rather than publicly). It is possible to disagree in an agreeable manner. It is possible to dig in for more info and transparency (which I applaud) without publicly undressing someone like Antoinette. My hope was these resignations would be a moment of reflection for the Board - not deflection - both for those who are being unnecessarily combative, and for the full board to hold each other to account when any member is not operating in a collaborative manner.

I am not looking for a response to this email. My message was intended to share my constructive criticism outside of the public eye given the respect I have for these BOE positions.

Margarite

On Sep 12, 2020, at 1:25 AM, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Carmody,

Thank you for sharing your heartfelt thoughts. I am responding to you personally since you wrote about "two of our new board of Ed members" and I believe you are referencing me and Mr. Dani. Dr. Fishbein has been a superintendent for many years, and there has been quite a bit of superintendent turnover in northern Jersey recently (Glen Rock and Montclair last year, Paramus and Ramapo Indian Hills this year, etc). I respect Dr. Fishbein's personal decision to resign and join the many who wish him only the best in the future. We are an inclusive, ethnically diverse community where differences of opinions and backgrounds are celebrated and not "an embarrassment to our district" in my opinion. I hope you appreciate that we are all fulfilling our responsibilities and always keeping students' interests in the forefront.

Sincerely,

HyunJu Kwak

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, Margarite Carmody <margarite.carmody@gmail.com> wrote:

I am incredibly disappointed, and quite honestly angry, that due to the disrespectful, condescending

and antagonist approach taken by two of our new board of Ed members, Dr. Fishbein felt he needed to

resign today. The videos of the BOE meetings speak for themselves and are an embarrassment to our

district and will no doubt impede our ability to attract a qualified replacement.

Sent from my iPhone

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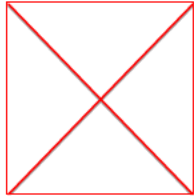
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Subject: Re: Letter to Board of Education from Federated HSA Executive Board
Date: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 19:24:02 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-N43WxCi23NRSTTf-GOP4=S7tRraErW7czdb0ja0nE7A@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: e667add4aa60db8353e68fec627b65ea

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Sep 10, 2020 at 8:29 AM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 9:09 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Wonderful letter and so true!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kelly Buchsbaum** <kellyjakeb@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 8:37 PM

Subject: Letter to Board of Education from Federated HSA Executive Board

To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Dear Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Kaufman, Ms. Kwak, and Mr. Lembo:

We, the Federated Home and School Association Executive Board as parent volunteer leaders in our Ridgewood Public Schools, would like to formally recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, our Superintendent, Dr. Dan Fishbein.

We feel that this is especially appropriate as we have just completed our first successful week of the district's re-opening, largely due to the hard work and dedication of our district and school administrators and our wonderful faculty and staff, all under Dan's leadership.

Dr. Fishbein's steadfast leadership over the past several months of this historic pandemic, from the day our district began all-remote instruction on March 16th to last week's school re-opening on September 2nd deserves particular commendation.

During difficult and uncertain times, Dr. Fishbein implemented and oversaw first, a totally remote learning plan which accommodated all learners, and second, a seamless, successful reopening for our students and families to safely return to school, while offering outstanding options in all-virtual and hybrid learning models. He accomplished this in the midst of a constantly changing health and regulatory landscape, while balancing the academic, physical and mental health needs of a variety of students and the professional and safety needs of his staff. This was not an easy task, and Dan and many of his colleagues worked tirelessly throughout the late spring and all summer long to develop a workable plan to meet the greatest needs of the community. At the same time, the daily business of the district was also successfully attended to, with many planned projects being completed over the summer months. We want to ensure that these extraordinary efforts during an unprecedented time in our world are noticed and recognized.

Dr. Fishbein's leadership in guiding the Ridgewood team of District administrators, along with the outstanding Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers and Staff, has been remarkable and exemplary.

We would like to commend Dr. Fishbein and formally express our gratitude and appreciation for his leadership. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Federated Home & School Association Executive Board 2020-21

Kelly Buchsbaum, President
Colleen Tansey, 1st Vice-President
Amy Gill, 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Auyeung, Treasurer/Secretary
Kathy Marshall, Member at Large

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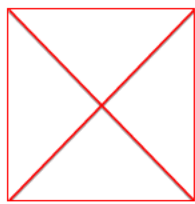
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Subject: Re: Incredibly disappointed!
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 15:11:53 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-9bRZuYE45rt90bcOEumktQfr8uc82gvRyT_CpUvC+TQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 22ee974f5fbcfb6e33a45dea21103fa2

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 3:05 PM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 9:22 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Interesting exchange.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **margarite carmody** <margarite.carmody@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 5:03 PM

Subject: Re: Incredibly disappointed!

To: Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

CC: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Thank you for the quick response - I appreciate it, however your response feels like a complete deflection (pointing to other superintendent turnover and suggesting I am somehow not on board with an inclusive, diverse community that can express different opinions). I absolutely celebrate diverse thoughts and difference of opinions. I do not celebrate the APPROACH you and Mr. Dani take in these meetings. It is publicly combative and has become a "gotcha" quest - rather than a collaboration to improve the outcome (including the opportunity to exercise better judgment about when when issues should be researched / debated offline rather than publicly). It is possible to disagree in an agreeable manner. It is possible to dig in for more info and transparency (which I applaud) without publicly undressing someone like Antoinette. My hope was these resignations would be a moment of reflection for the Board - not deflection - both for those who are being unnecessarily combative, and for the full board to hold each other to account when any member is not operating in a collaborative manner.

I am not looking for a response to this email. My message was intended to share my constructive criticism outside of the public eye given the respect I have for these BOE positions.

Margarite

On Sep 12, 2020, at 1:25 AM, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Carmody,

Thank you for sharing your heartfelt thoughts. I am responding to you personally since you wrote about "two of our new board of Ed members" and I believe you are referencing me and Mr. Dani. Dr. Fishbein has been a superintendent for many years, and there has been quite a bit of superintendent turnover in northern Jersey recently (Glen Rock and Montclair last year, Paramus and Ramapo Indian Hills this year, etc). I respect Dr. Fishbein's personal decision to resign and join the many who wish him only the best in the future. We are an inclusive, ethnically diverse community where differences of opinions and backgrounds are celebrated and not "an embarrassment to our district" in my opinion. I hope you appreciate that we are all fulfilling our responsibilities and always keeping students' interests in the forefront.

Sincerely,
HyunJu Kwak

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, Marguarite Carmody <margarite.carmody@gmail.com> wrote:

I am incredibly disappointed, and quite honestly angry, that due to the disrespectful, condescending

and antagonist approach taken by two of our new board of Ed members, Dr. Fishbein felt he needed to

resign today. The videos of the BOE meetings speak for themselves and are an embarrassment to our

district and will no doubt impede our ability to attract a qualified replacement.

Sent from my iPhone

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Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 14:29:44 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=_BEJmZHageBYETiDzuhDsFGAs0ni+DW3j4BNo=6NnAOg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 66d04da6ea477904a1438966809c8201

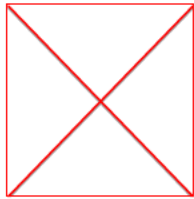
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 2:26 PM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:53 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

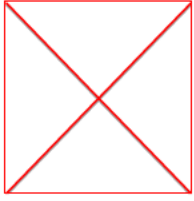
Sheila

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:32 PM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Board and District Administrators

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

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Subject: Last night
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 06:22:47 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=_subqQer7q=NkOj_5mWwZhXfeHkxrCbS+SUJG-YvCC3A@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 5b073c6db93dc43856532dd80023435c

Dan, I wanted you to have a copy of my remarks from last night. Your accomplishments are many and I hope you are proud of your work here in Ridgewood. My support for you is unwavering and I will be here to provide assistance when and if you need it.

The good governance of our district is my focus and I will try to lead by example. I am glad that we will still be working together. There is much that still needs to be done!

Sheila

Let me start by thanking the staff and community members who spoke tonight and the community members who have sent emails in support of Dr. Fishbein for his excellent work in the district and for our students.

I have struggled with what to say regarding Dr. Fishbein's resignation. I have always voted to accept a resignation based on a request for retirement. But tonight is different.

I will vote no to accept Dr. Fishbein's resignation with the hope that he would reconsider his request. I know from the emails received today and over the weekend that there are many in the community that would like your resignation rescinded.

The list of accomplishments during Dr. Fishbein's twelve years in Ridgewood of which I have first hand knowledge is impressive. So let me name a few:

This fall Dr. Fishbein and our administrative staff effectively planned for the reopening of schools to meet the needs of over 5600 students. Other districts have not been successful in opening and are still in full remote. We are now in our third week of school. An accomplishment worth noting.

The district was ready to make the transition to remote learning last March

because Dr. Fishbein was a strong proponent of and masterminded the 1 to 1 Initiative that put a Chromebook in every student's hand in grades 3 through 12. This summer he made sure that purchases were made to allow students in kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades to have Chromebooks. Embedded in the 1 to 1 initiative was in district and out of district professional development opportunities for our teachers and administrators. Opportunities were given and our staff participated collaboratively and with focus. Another accomplishment of note.

Under his watch, the district is on a path of continuous improvement. Our curriculum and course of study from pre - k to grade 12 is reviewed in five year cycles. A process is in place that includes identifying the curricula need/issue; involves all stakeholders; reviews best practices, resources, and materials; implements change; and once changed it is reviewed and revised as needed. This ongoing process has allowed for our curriculum and textbooks to be updated systematically aligned with our mission of providing a rich and challenging learning environment, enabling students to maximize their unique potentials. Another accomplishment.

Dr Fishbein was instrumental in bringing full day kindergarten to Ridgewood. Full day kindergarten was a long discussed program need, but no superintendent prior to Dr. Fishbein stepped up to the challenge. I watched as he engaged community members in discussions throughout town to enumerate the reasons why full day k made educational sense for our young learners. With focus and energy he successfully advocated for full day k. One more accomplishment of note.

In special education, a thorough review was undertaken and steps to improve and expand in district programs instituted. This year we have fewer students out of district than we have had in years. Our special education programs have been expanded and resources identified to appropriately staff the programs from pre-K through age 21. I am so pleased to see the addition of our STEPSS program for students age 18 to 21 at BF this year. For years we have discussed adding this type of program and Dr. Fishbein made it happen in yet another accomplishment.

He has engaged the community and staff in three strategic planning sessions in his twelve years, reaffirming the vision, beliefs, and mission of the district formulating goals to keep our focus on the education of our students, our number one priority, and staying on course for continuous improvements. One more accomplishment.

It is not only the curricular needs that have been his focus, but also facility improvements. The 2009 referendum added classrooms to four of our schools -

Willard, Hawes, Ridge and GW. One of the goals of this project was to add classrooms to meet the needs of our special education students who prior to the referendum would be moved from school to school, year to year, as enrollment fluctuated. Building the classrooms in our elementary schools allowed students to stay at the same school throughout their elementary years. During Dr. Fishbein's tenure, windows were replaced, asbestos flooring remediated and replaced, electrical upgrades completed, roofs replaced and repaired, site improvements made, drop off lanes created, and school security addressed. In accordance with a 2004 athletic facility evaluation done in concert with the Village, Dr. Fishbein followed through on the report's recommendations adding a new gym to GW, turfing the high school fields, and building a new track and field stadium at BF. All significant accomplishments.

Dr. Fishbein knows the importance of the social and emotional needs of students. Under his leadership the availability of counseling for students has expanded with Care Plus counselors at the high school and middle schools, expansion of guidance counselors to our elementary schools, the addition of crisis counselors, and embracing StigmaFree.

For four of Dr. Fishbein's years in the district I served as President of the Board. I worked closely with him on several initiatives. He has tremendous energy, unwavering passion for education, a genuine love of children and a deep understanding of the complexities of human nature, he is guided by compassion and humility, he is a true advocate for our students, always acts with integrity, and is highly regarded by the staff, his fellow superintendents and the aspiring superintendents whom he teaches and mentors.

I have admired his fair and unbiased hiring practices and his ability to build a team of highly qualified administrators who work well together. He models positive leadership and it is manifested in the relationships he builds and the ultimate success of the district and our students.

Finally, my last word on this is thank you Dan for your outstanding service to the children of Ridgewood. I hope that you will continue your work here and look forward to more accomplishments in the future.

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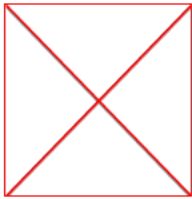
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addresses, or between the public and school district officials and employees, will remain private.

Subject: Re: Dr Fishbein's resignation
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 18:13:02 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Leila Kamel <lc_kamel@yahoo.com>
Cc: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Mike Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyun-Ju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Cris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFwwS9YJw4V4C2XLENMqApHXAiiGofD1FDFzM_1bn6hmbQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 19bc4edc426084cf5548f2dad20ee69a

Leila,

Thank you for your kind words and support.



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

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On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 3:03 PM Leila Kamel <lc_kamel@yahoo.com> wrote:
Dr Fishbein,

It is with great sadness that I read the news about your resignation. I would first of all like to thank you for your years of service. Your guidance and leadership allowed the district to navigate the most difficult times and open the school year with such success. This is despite the constantly changing landscape and guidelines provided by the Governor. Your weekly letters during the spring pandemic phase, provided parents with the guidance and updates needed to stay resilient.

I know that the strength of the school system and it's standing, despite underfunding, is in large part due to your leadership.

I urge you to reconsider your resignation.

In addition, I have copied the board members on this email. We as a community are aware of the hostility and lack of civility shown by new board members towards administration and view it to be unacceptable. We as a district will come together to ensure that these members are held to a higher and appropriate standard of conduct. Their agenda is unproductive and goes against the fabric of what the parents of the ridgewood school system strive to achieve.

Regards
Leila Kamel
(Ridgewood resident)

Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 2020 15:00:13 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=8=OOdZNtK=B2mURQ05YvCMkFurnktYvercmWL9xzArEg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 7a63ca254be387c48b5618600e5e4124

[REDACTED].Sheila

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:56 PM
Subject: Fishbein Letters/Emails/Posts
To: Cristopher Kauffman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, HyunJu Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Board,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-Mike

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

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Subject: Re: Dr. Fishbein resignation 9/11/2020
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 2020 21:39:49 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=9d6hN--nGfNBhOuK4cStfJ=fFAvnBuNf5vhOJNbqWV6Q@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: b0d0f89c97d801e5597e81718fdf39a1

FYI

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 9:35 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 8:51 PM Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

19 years ago over 3,000 people, including 8 Ridgewood residents lost their lives in an act of terror. Do not compare that tragedy to the recent retirement announcement of our Superintendent. Retirements are happy occasions. We value our administration and we look forward to a prosperous future for our district. We wish Dr. Fishbein nothing but the best in retirement and whatever comes next for him.

Mike

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 8:17 PM Christian Reinhardt <sunny1215@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Fishbein & BOE members,

Today 9/11 marks a sad anniversary for our country. Also today 9/11 marks a sad day for our Village of Ridgewood with the news of Dr. Fishbein resignation. Me and my family are extremely upset and sad that the situation with BOE and it's latest hostility approaches during the meetings have resulted in Dr. Fishbein's resignation.

Dr. Fishbein has been amazing leader and organizer of our Ridgewood School system and has contributed outstanding efforts, organization and energy for our school system to be admirable and desirable for so many residents and residents to be. Also his amazing work during pandemic and his valuable and accurate information during the past months have been beyond excellent. We want to express our deepest gratitude for all the work and efforts Dr. Fishbein put into school system.

I fear that damage done by couple of BOE representatives will have far reaching damaging consequences to our schools and to our village community.

I have to admit that we are deeply disappointed at the latest events regarding BOE and

**it's actions and stand strongly in support
of Dr. Flshbein!**

Sincerely

Christian Reinhardt
[359 Corona Place](#)

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

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Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 2020 12:45:37 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Chris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyun-Ju Kwak <Hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Mike Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Cc: Serhiy Morhun <smorhun@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFzOs2o+E7tOEiYUfVYUsY9KakEOMs+DvXKqDEjBuB30qg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: ba387d6a533a4ef219352e000308d802

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

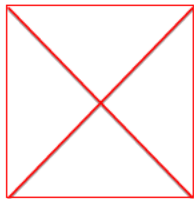
www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 15:39:49 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=_1MZCuPzcxyjQP0a43U601YayroS4rABS5f3NAQnByaQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 4dd71beae0880fc4268aa7990ace1829

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 3:33 PM Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 3:02 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:58 PM

Subject: [REDACTED]

To: Cristopher Kauffman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, HyunJu Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

[REDACTED]

Mike

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 2:56 PM Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Board,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-Mike

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

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Subject: RBOE
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 10:10:37 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFz43H52=e4+QH=Q5k79tCeZFGWMUeZTnKP92ujCQnOV-Q@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 4bbe5f42d4c5c4ad698f287907f434f5



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

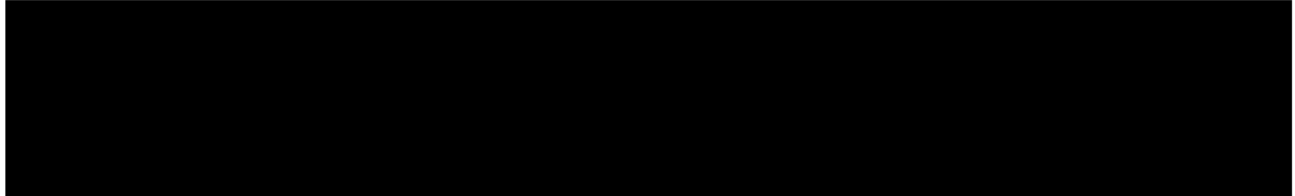
Twitter: @RWDSupt

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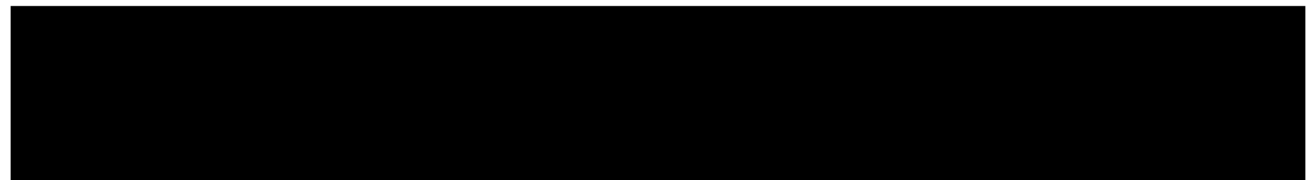
Subject: Re: Precedent???
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 17:03:45 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Bcc: dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-j5cu43s19Pu9L6rk79ev7--JbbTegybsCk-OC1M-rtg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 1feea0ce9d523d0e3fe2c1d60b158ade

Hello Hyunju,



Sheila

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:16 PM Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:
Hi Sheila,



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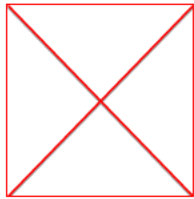
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Subject: Re: Public Comment
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 12:44:14 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFxaGPns5N2rKr3QfTvz=7ryu0y-Yq2YFk2_wt_5Z501hQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: ace29c6c6c3c8423746ee1e558342786



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:41 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hyunju Kwak** <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 12:17 PM

Subject: Re: Public Comment

To: Beth Meleski <bethmeleski@gmail.com>

CC: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo

<mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani

<sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Cristopher Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyunju Kwak

<Hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Dear Ms. Meleski,

I am copying the entire Board on my reply in the spirit of transparency. This is for your information only.

I believe you are referring to my husband. His opinions are his own, and he has the right to express them per First Amendment rights. Please do not project or super-impose my husband's views as my own, which truly undermines all that I have accomplished on my own right. You are correct to remind the members of the Board that we volunteered to serve the community. I personally did not volunteer to be harassed, intimidated or bullied in social media or by email. If you disagree with the severity or extent of the disparaging, hurtful comments linked with my name, I invite you to search my name on Facebook/social media and read what I have been a target of. I find myself attempting to fulfill my responsibilities as an elected official in a hostile, toxic environment, in which a Superintendent's personal desire to retire is co-opted by individuals for their own purposes. It is Dr. Fishbein's decision to resign, and I respect his decision --- unless you have direct knowledge or been told otherwise and if so, whom?

As you know, the Board cannot condemn a private citizen for speaking up and expressing a personal viewpoint. This is why an individual who has broadly disseminated an urgent call to action targeting myself and Mr. Dani cannot be condemned for her action, even though her directive has imperiled my personal safety and I have considered hiring private security as I go about my duties tonight.

Please take a moment to reflect on your motivation. I am motivated to serve the community, a community that I believe celebrates ethnic diversity and differences of opinions and backgrounds despite recent events.

Sincerely yours,
HyunJu Kwak

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:54 AM Beth Meleski <bethmeleski@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning. The form for public comments for your meeting tonight has not been opened yet so I wanted to make sure you saw the text of the comment I would have made.

It has come to my attention that the husband of a current board member has recently labeled a fellow resident and active community volunteer a racist in response to comments he felt disparaged the current board members. The original comment was made in a private email and made public on social media by a third party.

It seems dangerous to co-opt and weaponize such an important social, cultural, and life-and-death issue as racism in an attempt to intimidate or silence dissent.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the members of the Board that they sought this position and took it on willingly. As Dr. Fishbein can surely attest, being a public servant in a public role involves subjecting one's actions and decisions to the scrutiny of one's constituents. Your actions and decisions are now fair game and we, as citizens, have the right to demand your accountability. Just as several of you have done repeatedly for many years. Your acceptance of this responsibility is true even when, perhaps particularly when, that scrutiny is of a critical nature.

I would like to ask the Board to condemn this intimation of racism in the strongest possible terms. Especially leveled, as it has been, by the relative of one of your members. I fear that if we begin to define racism simply as the civic act of expressing our disagreement with our public servants, then you're going to have to sign me up to be a racist too.

I wish Dr. Fishbein all the best in his future endeavors even as I wish we could keep him right here. Those of you who lived in Ridgewood in the years prior to Dr. Fishbein's tenure will join with me in remembering how much he has accomplished and set right in his time as Superintendent. Those of you who don't have that history, I hope you haven't just condemned yourselves to repeating it.

Thank you for your attention.

Beth Meleski
61 California Street

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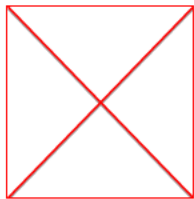
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Subject: Re: Rescinding your resignation is the right thing to do
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 16:46:32 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: "Nan V. Thornton" <nvtornton@yahoo.com>
Cc: "mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us" <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>,
"hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us" <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>,
"sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us" <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>,
"ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us" <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>,
"sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us" <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFyQAewsLbyJP6ucztbKHhFO-wpO2s1k5LiTuN9xdk2exg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 7f978cea82830a9503746554d2fab611

Nancy,

The decision to retire is my decision. No one can make that decision for me. It is time that this Board chooses the leader they want to lead this district. Thanks for your email and support.



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 6:10 PM Nan V. Thornton <nvthornton@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Dr Fishbein,

I have been a Ridgewood resident for nearly 11 years and have two children currently in Ridgewood schools. I have appreciated your leadership for the entirety of my boys' public school education. Your response to Ridgewood's horrific racial incidents at the high school 3 or 4 years ago, your sensitive communications surrounding mental health issues in our community, and your compassionately human emails as we entered the lockdown broke through and helped support my family.

As I am certain you are aware, so much has been asked of administrators, teachers, parents, and children in the last seven months: we are all expected to be flexible, patient, nimble, creative, diligent in our reading of countless changes of plans, and steady in our own employment so that we can continue to support our families. In these circumstances, to voluntarily resign from a public office -- where no vetted, elected official stands ready to take your place -- is simply unconscionable.

We are in a global crisis and our children are suffering. If you have extenuating circumstances, we will add our sudden lack of leadership to the pile of things about which those of us who depend on our schools have to deal with. If however, this is truly a voluntary decision, I am incredibly disappointed and -- because I have long considered you an asset to Ridgewood -- shocked.

If, however, this was not your decision but instead was a tactic sponsored by members of the Board of Ed, please know that this shameful, disgraceful, and - frankly - asinine. The blind arrogance of pushing out a 12 year veteran during these unprecedented is simply absurd and you will have to answer for it. I can only imagine the press that Ridgewood (you!) will receive for making this kind of move at this time.

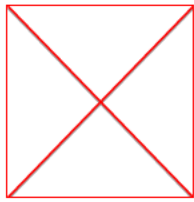
I hope whoever among you in the position to rectify this situation will spend the weekend in reflection and do the right thing.

Thank you.

Nancy Thornton

Subject: Re: Last night
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 16:18:02 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFyBerrUV1izOc+bY7fcDpHynTP81fg88yO+K=A1cjJ_FQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: e2711631157c96f3dad77527cde0e595

Thank you. It is always good to stop and take stock in what has been accomplished. I did nothing on my own. Thanks for remembering all these accomplishments.



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 6:22 AM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Dan,

I wanted you to have a copy of my remarks from last night. Your accomplishments are many and I hope you are proud of your work here in Ridgewood. My support for you is unwavering and I will be here to provide assistance when and if you need it.

The good governance of our district is my focus and I will try to lead by example. I am glad that we will still be working together. There is much that still needs to be done!

Sheila

Let me start by thanking the staff and community members who spoke tonight and the community members who have sent emails in support of Dr. Fishbein for his excellent work in the district and for our students.

I have struggled with what to say regarding Dr. Fishbein's resignation. I have always voted to accept a resignation based on a request for retirement. But tonight is different.

I will vote no to accept Dr. Fishbein's resignation with the hope that he would reconsider his request. I know from the emails received today and over the weekend that there are many in the community that would like your resignation rescinded.

The list of accomplishments during Dr. Fishbein's twelve years in Ridgewood of which I have first hand knowledge is impressive. So let me name a few:

This fall Dr. Fishbein and our administrative staff effectively planned for the reopening of schools to meet the needs of over 5600 students. Other districts have not been successful in opening and are still in full remote. We are now in our third week of school. An accomplishment worth noting.

The district was ready to make the transition to remote learning last March because Dr. Fishbein was a strong proponent of and masterminded the 1 to 1 Initiative that put a Chromebook in every student's hand in grades 3 through

12. This summer he made sure that purchases were made to allow students in kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades to have Chromebooks. Embedded in the 1 to 1 initiative was in district and out of district professional development opportunities for our teachers and administrators. Opportunities were given and our staff participated collaboratively and with focus. Another accomplishment of note.

Under his watch, the district is on a path of continuous improvement. Our curriculum and course of study from pre - k to grade 12 is reviewed in five year cycles. A process is in place that includes identifying the curricula need/issue; involves all stakeholders; reviews best practices, resources, and materials; implements change; and once changed it is reviewed and revised as needed. This ongoing process has allowed for our curriculum and textbooks to be updated systematically aligned with our mission of providing a rich and challenging learning environment, enabling students to maximize their unique potentials. Another accomplishment.

Dr Fishbein was instrumental in bringing full day kindergarten to Ridgewood. Full day kindergarten was a long discussed program need, but no superintendent prior to Dr. Fishbein stepped up to the challenge. I watched as he engaged community members in discussions throughout town to enumerate the reasons why full day k made educational sense for our young learners. With focus and energy he successfully advocated for full day k. One more accomplishment of note.

In special education, a thorough review was undertaken and steps to improve and expand in district programs instituted. This year we have fewer students out of district than we have had in years. Our special education programs have been expanded and resources identified to appropriately staff the programs from pre-K through age 21. I am so pleased to see the addition of our STEPSS program for students age 18 to 21 at BF this year. For years we have discussed adding this type of program and Dr. Fishbein made it happen in yet another accomplishment.

He has engaged the community and staff in three strategic planning sessions in his twelve years, reaffirming the vision, beliefs, and mission of the district formulating goals to keep our focus on the education of our students, our number one priority, and staying on course for continuous improvements. One more accomplishment.

It is not only the curricular needs that have been his focus, but also facility improvements. The 2009 referendum added classrooms to four of our schools - Willard, Hawes, Ridge and GW. One of the goals of this project was to add classrooms to meet the needs of our special education students who prior to

the referendum would be moved from school to school, year to year, as enrollment fluctuated. Building the classrooms in our elementary schools allowed students to stay at the same school throughout their elementary years. During Dr. Fishbein's tenure, windows were replaced, asbestos flooring remediated and replaced, electrical upgrades completed, roofs replaced and repaired, site improvements made, drop off lanes created, and school security addressed. In accordance with a 2004 athletic facility evaluation done in concert with the Village, Dr. Fishbein followed through on the report's recommendations adding a new gym to GW, turfing the high school fields, and building a new track and field stadium at BF. All significant accomplishments.

Dr. Fishbein knows the importance of the social and emotional needs of students. Under his leadership the availability of counseling for students has expanded with Care Plus counselors at the high school and middle schools, expansion of guidance counselors to our elementary schools, the addition of crisis counselors, and embracing StigmaFree.

For four of Dr. Fishbein's years in the district I served as President of the Board. I worked closely with him on several initiatives. He has tremendous energy, unwavering passion for education, a genuine love of children and a deep understanding of the complexities of human nature, he is guided by compassion and humility, he is a true advocate for our students, always acts with integrity, and is highly regarded by the staff, his fellow superintendents and the aspiring superintendents whom he teaches and mentors.

I have admired his fair and unbiased hiring practices and his ability to build a team of highly qualified administrators who work well together. He models positive leadership and it is manifested in the relationships he builds and the ultimate success of the district and our students.

Finally, my last word on this is thank you Dan for your outstanding service to the children of Ridgewood. I hope that you will continue your work here and look forward to more accomplishments in the future.

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Subject: Re: Precedent???

Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 17:26:12 -0400

From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

To: Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Bcc: dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Message-ID: <CABvgH=_9AWcitT4FHypxLSE+oeR6mTwNOEeWaAvbZAvzBfWQ=g@mail.gmail.com>

MD5: 95c4b51e7aeb9c24991c8764a40c49f2

Sheila

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 5:21 PM Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

On Tuesday, September 15, 2020, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Hello Hyunju,

Sheila

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:16 PM Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:
Hi Sheila,

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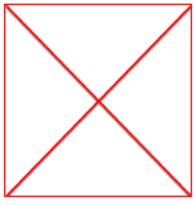
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Subject: Re: Dr. Fishbein resignation 9/11/2020
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 15:11:58 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFxSfDmjk_eWsPt=KK=BHPw=nfd6REAVDZTEFYyAmx2Saw@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: b7e16ddb9e910545c4ecf0607dca3fc4



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 9:40 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

FYI

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 9:35 PM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 8:51 PM Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

19 years ago over 3,000 people, including 8 Ridgewood residents lost their lives in an act of terror. Do not compare that tragedy to the recent retirement announcement of our Superintendent. Retirements are happy occasions. We value our administration and we look forward to a prosperous future for our district. We wish Dr. Fishbein nothing but the best in retirement and whatever comes next for him.

Mike

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 8:17 PM Christian Reinhardt <sunny1215@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Fishbein & BOE members,

Today 9/11 marks a sad anniversary for our country. Also today 9/11 marks a sad day for our Village of Ridgewood with the news of Dr. Fishbein resignation. Me and my family are extremely upset and sad that the situation with BOE and it's latest hostility approaches during the meetings have resulted in Dr. Fishbein's resignation.

Dr. Fishbein has been amazing leader and organizer of our Ridgewood School system and has contributed outstanding efforts, organization and energy for our school system to be admirable and desirable for so many residents and residents to be. Also his amazing work during pandemic and his valuable and accurate information during the past months have been beyond excellent. We want to express our deepest gratitude for all the work and efforts Dr. Fishbein put into school system.

I fear that damage done by couple of BOE representatives will have far reaching damaging consequences to our schools and to our village community.

I have to admit that we are deeply disappointed at the latest events regarding BOE and it's actions and stand strongly in support of Dr. Fishbein!

Sincerely

**Christian Reinhardt
[359 Corona Place](#)**

--



Michael W. Lembo

President

Board of Education

[Ridgewood Public Schools](#)

[49 Cottage Place](#)

[Ridgewood, NJ 07450](#)

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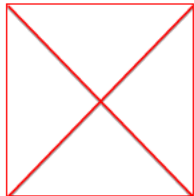
Subject: Re: 9-14-2020
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 08:49:51 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFyo30u7q94iTQMwqgbBJN8DFDaWJ=8uwCoHAjg87tvbDA@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: f0de67118c80cd7f5e732c0c2b9e532d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 6:56 AM Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us> wrote:

Good morning Dan,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheila

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Subject: Fwd: Public Comment
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 06:41:19 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-RcWoiAdtXcZfsThHo9_vc5+YasJKtjX4GGR_WtyX3Og@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 747afe5db58642b151e6f79f7ec90036



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Beth Meleski** <bethmeleski@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Public Comment
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Good morning. The form for public comments for your meeting tonight has not been opened yet so I wanted to make sure you saw the text of the comment I would have made.

It has come to my attention that the husband of a current board member has recently labeled a fellow resident and active community volunteer a racist in response to comments he felt disparaged the current board members. The original comment was made in a private email and made public on social media by a third party.

It seems dangerous to co-opt and weaponize such an important social, cultural, and life-and-death issue as racism in an attempt to intimidate or silence dissent.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the members of the Board that they sought this position and took it on willingly. As Dr. Fishbein can surely attest, being a public servant in a public role involves subjecting one's actions and decisions to the scrutiny of one's constituents. Your actions and decisions are now fair game and we, as citizens, have the right to demand your accountability. Just as several of you have done repeatedly for many years. Your acceptance of this responsibility is true even when, perhaps particularly when, that scrutiny is of a critical nature.

I would like to ask the Board to condemn this intimation of racism in the strongest possible terms. Especially leveled, as it has been, by the relative of one of your members. I fear that if we begin to define racism simply as the civic act of expressing our disagreement with our public servants, then you're going to have to sign me up to be a racist too.

I wish Dr. Fishbein all the best in his future endeavors even as I wish we could keep him right here. Those of you who lived in Ridgewood in the years prior to Dr. Fishbein's tenure will join with me in remembering how much he has accomplished and set right in his time as Superintendent. Those of you who don't have that history, I hope you haven't just condemned yourselves to repeating it.

Thank you for your attention.

Beth Meleski
61 California Street

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Subject: Fwd: Letter to Board of Education from Federated HSA Executive Board
Date: Wed, 9 Sep 2020 21:09:48 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=8ciOzyqjsu7ZS5WKpEqFXk57CnN_Rc9QCE3Wg+C1E4w@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: cae60283a9f0bbebb70b279bf4f595ba

Wonderful letter and so true!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kelly Buchsbaum** <kellyjakeb@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 8:37 PM
Subject: Letter to Board of Education from Federated HSA Executive Board
To: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

Dear Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Kaufman, Ms. Kwak, and Mr. Lembo:

We, the Federated Home and School Association Executive Board as parent volunteer leaders in our Ridgewood Public Schools, would like to formally recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, our Superintendent, Dr. Dan Fishbein.

We feel that this is especially appropriate as we have just completed our first successful week of the district's re-opening, largely due to the hard work and dedication of our district and school administrators and our wonderful faculty and staff, all under Dan's leadership.

Dr. Fishbein's steadfast leadership over the past several months of this historic pandemic, from the day our district began all-remote instruction on March 16th to last week's school re-opening on September 2nd deserves particular commendation.

During difficult and uncertain times, Dr. Fishbein implemented and oversaw first, a totally remote learning plan which accommodated all learners, and second, a seamless, successful reopening for our students and families to safely return to school, while offering outstanding options in all-virtual and hybrid learning models. He accomplished this in the midst of a constantly changing health and regulatory landscape, while balancing the academic, physical and mental health needs of a variety of students and the professional and safety needs of his staff. This was not an easy task, and Dan and many of his colleagues worked tirelessly throughout the late spring and all summer long to develop a workable plan to meet the greatest needs of the community. At the same time, the daily business of the district was also successfully attended to, with many planned projects being completed over the summer months. We want to ensure that these extraordinary efforts during an unprecedented time in our world are noticed and recognized.

Dr. Fishbein's leadership in guiding the Ridgewood team of District administrators, along with the outstanding Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers and Staff, has been remarkable and exemplary.

We would like to commend Dr. Fishbein and formally express our gratitude and appreciation for his leadership. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Federated Home & School Association Executive Board 2020-21

Kelly Buchsbaum, President
Colleen Tansey, 1st Vice-President
Amy Gill, 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Auyeung, Treasurer/Secretary
Kathy Marshall, Member at Large

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Subject: Re: Resignation
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2020 14:28:00 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Kathy Cowie <kac.c2@verizon.net>
Cc: Hyun-Ju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Mike Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Chris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, anthony Cowie <anthony_cowie@swissre.com>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFyvC07icDXWdg=640dVo9DprLDRu+bWKTxJqY=6+9PNpw@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 406aec83eb5ca1350ef3649945a08541
Attachments: c2 Blue.png ; facebook Blue.png ; linkedIn Blue.png ; pinterest Blue.png

Kathy,

I am sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of sorrow. May the happy memories of your mom bring you and your family peace. Thank you for reaching out during this difficult time in your life.



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

On Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 12:24 PM Kathy Cowie <kac.c2@verizon.net> wrote:

Dear Dr. Fishbein,

As if 2020 could not possibly get any worse, the email with your resignation came across my desk this weekend. I say this with what I believe is earned sorrow, as I am preparing to bury my mother this week.

Despite this, I feel it is important to take the time to tell you how much your work for our school system has meant to me and my family, residents of this town for over 21 years. Prior to the pandemic, I felt first and foremost that your fine leadership and genuine compassion stemmed from the fact that you cared deeply about our town, and the schools your own children attended. Their attendance at each level of our schools provided you with insight that informed your own understanding of the schools' successes and failures. During the pandemic, this was proven for me exponentially, as your constant communication became a source of inspiration and comfort in our home. We are so grateful for your strong leadership, and I am truly at a loss to understand how any board member or resident of this town could feel otherwise. The fact that you have been belittled and bullied embarrasses me as a parent, and makes me furious as a tax payer. We have been in school these past two weeks because of your leadership, while towns nearby still flounder. My niece and nephew attend local public schools, and they have not even started. These are difficult times to be sure, but, as the parent of a 2020 grad of the high school, I am so proud of all you were able to do for those students, in spite of the incomprehensible obstacles the schools faced to accomplish that.

You have a thankless job, I know, Dr. Fishbein. My mother was a teacher in the Wyckoff public school system for a decade, and I can still remember how important her own superintendent was to her and the other teachers in their school. In a school district as large as ours, the superintendent has the responsibility for so many, but is seldom recognized until there is blame to be placed. I for one, thank you, Dr. Fishbein, and I am happy to say that this is not the first time I sent a note to show my appreciation. I was hoping it would not be my last.

Best,
Kathy

Kathy Anne Cowie | c-squared design inc.

40A Tillman Street, Westwood, NJ 07675

www.c-squaredesign.com

office: 201.664.2212 cell: 201.747.0851



Subject: Fwd: Letter from Dr. Fishbein
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 2020 16:15:54 -0400
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-QGB5Mox6tW-ccTLhkhvpcKcGKLsRaSW+feO1peSB5w@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 31d96d5c70364aca534ef7ade9335289
Attachments: Announcement to RPS Community, 9.11.2020 (3).pdf

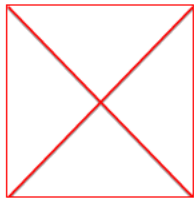
[REDACTED] Sheila

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lucy Papamichael <lpapamichael@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 4:01 PM
Subject: Letter from Dr. Fishbein
To: Cristopher Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyunju Kwak <hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Michael Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
CC: Antoinette Kelly <akelly@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Ojetta Townes <otownes@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Stacie Poelstra <spoelstra@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>

The attached letter is being sent to the Ridgewood School Community.

--



Lucy Papamichael

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Assistant Board

Secretary

Ridgewood Public Schools

201-670-2700 ext. 10530

www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us

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Subject: Forwarding a letter as requested
Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2020 18:45:05 +0000
From: Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us, hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us,
ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us, sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us
Cc: dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us, tgorman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us
Message-ID: <CABvgH=-C=bKJC7T0x5zftigEuf0MD=TubqGf8byrX+9bPZZRkg@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 43012a99a39dcc8523d7680a565b2cc0
Attachments: Ridgewood BOE.docx

I received this letter (attached) with a request to forward to the Board. I have also copied Dan and Tom Gorman.

Sheila

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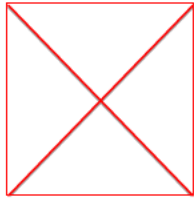
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Subject: Letter of Resignation
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 2020 14:57:03 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Chris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyun-Ju Kwak <Hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Mike Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFy6b7LOgt7sTgh6MoBa-TkK_tTh6NDzq_3xhOUss6gu2w@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: cbae45a4f87b93ad2d8382b30bf7e8d2
Attachments: Letter of Resignation.pdf

Please see the attached letter.



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-670-2700 ext. 10530

Email: Dfishbein@Ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Twitter: @RWDSupt

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools/

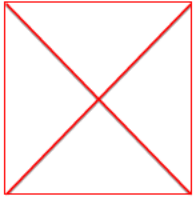
Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 12:33:18 -0400
From: Daniel Fishbein <dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
To: Cris Kaufman <ckaufman@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Hyun-Ju Kwak <Hkwak@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Mike Lembo <mlembo@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Saurabh Dani <sdani@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>, Sheila Brogan <sbrogan@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Cc: District Admininstrators <district-admininstrators-rps@ridgewood.k12.nj.us>
Message-ID: <CAA8jUFxMc-CC79G2=4mTNBxff7f6M+UOHYinnXC5ALnpEzLWMQ@mail.gmail.com>
MD5: 9caee91eeaf86414833ca3fea00218ad
Attachments: close_contact letter 9.15.20.docx ; notification_letter 9.15.20.docx

Board and District Administrators

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.,

Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action Officer

School Security Specialist

Ridgewood Public Schools

49 Cottage Place

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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