



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

April 1, 2022

Dear RPS Community,

Happy Friday, and April Fools' Day. There were plenty of tricksters at RPS today. I imagine the same in your homes. There is still time....if the "fooling" hasn't happened yet.

This week was filled with budget talk. We shared our BOE adopted budget with the public at the Board of Finance Public Hearing on Monday night, and provided further detail to the Board of Finance on Wednesday evening. They will make their vote this coming Tuesday.

At our BOE meeting this past Tuesday, we shared two exciting programs that we will be bringing to our elementary schools next school year- FUNdations Phonics in grades (PK-2) and MATHodology in grades (3-5). I encourage you to listen in and hear more about the process, and the roll-out plan to other grade-levels in future years.

We have another BOE meeting this coming Monday, April 4. It will be an in-person meeting (with limited technology), but we will be zooming as well.

Have a great weekend!

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

## **Friday BITS**

**RPS NEWS FOUND [here!](#)**

### **[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#)**

In this week's podcast, we welcome back to the show Terence Houlihan, the Department Chair for the RHS Counselors Department. He has some exciting news for us- after an over 20-year hiatus, Ridgefield High School will be hosting a College Fair on Thursday, April 7. We discuss how the fair came to be; the selection of colleges that will be there; and advice for students/parents when attending the College Fair. Thanks for listening!

### **Board of Finance Vote on BOE Budget**

On Tuesday, April 4, the Board of Finance will vote on the BOE adopted budget.

**Board of Education Meeting- to be held in person at the new location.**

The Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4. Click [here](#) to see the agenda. The meeting will be livestreamed and can be viewed [here](#). Just a reminder, our meeting is in person. Thus, while you may view the meeting at home, you need to attend at 90 East Ridge Road to make a Public Comment (at the start or end of the meeting.)

### **RPS Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten registration is open! Families now have the opportunity to register using our brand new online system. Click [here](#) to take a look!

### **Parent Workshop on the Teaching of Reading**

*The Journey of Reading:* K-8 parent workshop will provide an overview for families about how students learn to read and read to learn in RPS. Join in live or watch the recording on our RPS Curriculum Team YouTube Channel. View your invitation [here](#)!

### **K-12 Tutoring**

The middle schools continue to offer virtual evening tutoring sessions. This program has had great success and will now continue through April! Click [here](#) to learn more about it. Elementary schools have reached out to families to offer before or after-school tutoring sessions for small groups of students in areas of need. The high school is working on a similar model in which select students will be offered additional support before or after school, based on need.

### **RPS Summer Bridge Extension '22**

The [RPS Summer Bridge Extension website](#) is open and linked to the front page of the RPS website. Registration will open April 4 at 12 p.m. Registration will be on a first come basis. However, we will keep a running waiting list. We kindly ask families to inform us as soon as possible if there are any changes to family plans which result in students not being able to attend. In addition, the Curriculum Team will present to the Board of Education on Monday night about the components of the program.

### **Health and Safety**

As a reminder for families, students, and staff, anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, must stay home from school and contact your school nurse. When returning to school, please remember to provide either a negative COVID-19 test result or note from your physician stating a diagnosis other than COVID-19. For home test results, please take a photo of the test with name and date taken, then send it to your school nurse. Families and staff may obtain home test kits from their school nurse.

*Important Note:* we STILL have plenty of test kits at each of our schools. You may pick them up at your school, or request that a kit be sent home in your child's backpack.

### **Food Service**

Effective immediately, we will be enforcing the district policy regarding student lunch accounts that are in the negative. This means that we will not be allowing any purchases to student lunch accounts if an account owes \$15 or more. Students with a negative balance will only be allowed to receive their free standard meal under the National School Lunch Program. If a student is

attempting to purchase without sufficient funds in their account, we will ask that they put items back until the account is current.

Student lunch accounts can be accessed online for payment, or be paid at school in the cafeteria via cash or check. Further information pertaining to your student's school will be sent by each school principal, so please keep an eye out for that. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding school lunch accounts, please reach out to:

John Morris - Director of Dining Services, [jmorris@ridgefieldps.net](mailto:jmorris@ridgefieldps.net), 203.894.5550 X1127

Lindsey Brown - Assistant Director of Dining, [lbrown@ridgefieldps.net](mailto:lbrown@ridgefieldps.net), 203.894.5550 X1128

### **Transportation**

There will be a Public Information Meeting about the Route 7 Pump Station Project on April 5. Details [here](#).

### **Follow us here:**

***Twitter:*** [@RPS\\_DaSilva](#)

***Instagram:*** [rpssuper](#)

### **Quote of the Week**

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” - [Mahatma Gandhi](#)