



RPS NEWS

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | January 17, 2020 | Issue No. 9

RPS Names New Superintendent, Dr. Susie Da Silva

On the first school day of 2020, the RPS Board of Education announced the appointment of a new superintendent, Dr. Susie Da Silva. The decision was unanimous. Board of Education Chair Margaret Stamatis (shown in photo left with Dr. Da Silva) thanked Interim Superintendent JeanAnn Paddyfote as well as all the staff, parents, and Board of Education members for their contributions to the search process.

[Read the full press release.](#)

Ms. Stamatis said that they received many qualified candidates but that Dr. Da Silva rose to the top for her effective communication and administrative skills, as well as her proven collaborative efforts to achieve district goals.



Dr. Da Silva, (shown left with her family and right with PTA leaders), is currently Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Darien. At the BOE meeting, she praised the RPS district and said that she was excited to get to work. Dr. Da Silva will begin on April 1, 2020.



VPES Looks for the Good

Veterans Park Elementary started the year with its second annual [Look for the Good Project](#). Inspired by a remarkable story of a whale showing gratitude to its human rescuers, The Look for the Good Project encourages students and staff to take time to say thank you. The two-week program recognizes that every person matters and celebrates gratitude and kindness.

Calendar

January 20

No School
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21*

Special BOE Budget Workshop

January 27*

BOE Meeting

January 29*

Special BOE Budget Workshop

February 1

BOE Public Hearing
Scotts Ridge MS 10 am

[Full RPS Calendar Including
February Break Schedule](#)

February 10*

BOE Public Hearing and
BOE Meeting

*Board Conference Room
Town Annex 7:00 pm
Please Check [RPS Calendar](#)
for BOE Snow Dates

Thank You!

Dr. Robert Miller, Director of Technology and Operations Development, has taken a job as Assistant Superintendent for Business, Human Resources, and Operations for the Oxford Public Schools. Dr. Miller's last day at RPS is January 23. Congratulations, thank you, and best wishes on your next chapter!

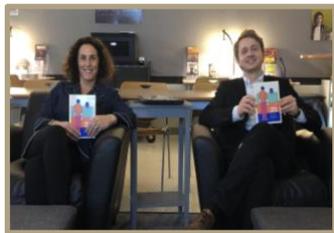


[Visit this month's student art gallery.](#)

News from RHS Reading

Ridgefield High School reading teachers, David Griffith, Adam Rapczynski, and Judith Silver presented the session "Adolescent Reading Reimagined" at the NCTE Conference with author, Brendan Kiely. Kiely wrote the *New York Times* bestselling novel *All American Boys*, which is read in the tenth-grade reading classes.

The author Michael Belanger (shown left with Silver) visited ninth-grade classes. He read his book *The History of Jane Doe* with students, signed their books, and answered questions.



Middle School Robotics

Scotts Ridge Middle School seventh-graders created a model of the Solar System using robots (Spheros) that they coded using the Law of Planetary Motion and an understanding of the differences between rotation and revolution. Each group was assigned a planet and, while creating orbital paths around the sun, discovered the limitations of models both with the size of planets, distance from planets, and the accuracy of the shape of the orbit.



FES Genius Hour

Farmingville Elementary students shared their passions and research at a December Genius Hour. Throughout the month, FES students researched, designed, and prepared a presentation. The photo right shows Seren Z. with her project about the impact of garbage on sea turtles.



BMES Celebrates Lights

Barlow Mountain Elementary's fifth grade started a holiday tradition of a Celebration of Lights! During this time, fifth-grade families came together to celebrate each other's holiday traditions. They enjoyed special holiday foods, read stories, and viewed artifacts from different cultures in the community.



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

