

**MINUTES**  
**RIDGEVIEW GLOBAL STUDIES ACADEMY**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 28, 2024**

**PRESENT**

The School Board of Ridgeview Global Studies Academy, Inc met at 6:00 P.M., Monday, October 28, 2024, in the Ridgeview Academy Secondary Office Conference Room. Present were School Board Members Chairman Joe Izzo, Ani Ahmetaj, Isaac Baumer, and Executive Director Ralph Frier.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 P.M. Minutes from the August 26, 2024, board meeting were shared with the Board Members and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Isaac Baumer and seconded by Ani Ahmetaj. A unanimous vote was taken.

**RIDGEVIEW ACADEMY UPDATE**

Mr. Frier gave a brief update of activities that were occurring at Ridgeview.

**PUBLIC INPUT**      None currently.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Frier shared the September financial report with the board. A motion was made by Ani Ahmetaj and seconded by Isaac Baumer to accept the financial report. A unanimous vote was taken. Mr. Frier also gave an update on the approved investment funds with AMG. Mr. Frier shared with the Board that all Reimbursement Requests for ESSER III Funds had been submitted and received..

Mr. Frier shared the 2024 Independent Financial Audit with the Board. A motion was made by Isaac Baumer and seconded by Ani Ahmetaj to approve the 2024 Independent Financial Audit. A unanimous vote was taken.

Mr. Frier shared that Ridgeview met its goal of 1580 students for the October FTE period.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Frier gave an update on the gymnasium project. He stated that he is waiting for the architect to submit the PAR report to USDA.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Frier shared with the Board that since Ridgeview Academy had received an “A” grade from the State, it would be receiving School Grade Recognition Funds from the Florida DOE. A motion was made by Ani Ahmetaj and seconded by Isaac Baumer that the funds be distributed in the same manner that they have been distributed in previous years. A unanimous vote was taken.

The School Grade Incentive Bonus was discussed, and a motion was made by Ani Ahmetaj and seconded by Isaac Baumer to give the staff a \$500.00 bonus in December. Bonuses for part-time staff members would be prorated accordingly. A unanimous vote was taken. The Board will revisit the School Grade Incentive in the month of April for another possible bonus.

Mr. Frier shared a proposal with the Board for making up the missed days during the hurricanes. He shared what the Polk County School Board had approved, and he recommended that Ridgeview approve a similar revision in its Calendar for 2024-2025 which would eliminate all Early Release Days except the one on the last day of school. A motion was made by Isaac Baumer and seconded by Ani Ahmetaj to approve the recommendation. A unanimous vote was taken.

Since a former Board Member, Sybille Oldham-Jackson, is now Ridgeview’s Middle School Principal, Mr. Frier recommended that her vacant position be filled by Zelda Abram, the CFO for MidFlorida Credit Union in Lakeland. A motion was made by Ani Ahmetaj and seconded by Isaac Baumer to approve the appointment of Zelda Abram to Ridgeview’s Board, starting in January 2025. A unanimous vote was taken.

Mr. Frier shared with the Board that Isaac Baumer’s position on the Board is expiring in December. A motion was made by Joe Izzo and seconded by Ani Ahmetaj to approve Isaac Baumer’s re-appointment to the Board. A unanimous vote was taken (Steve Knapp voted yes via phone).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**MISCELLANEOUS** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Ridgeview Board adjourned at 6:55 PM with a motion by Isaac Baumer and seconded by Ani Ahmetaj. Motion was approved

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ralph H. Frier

Executive Director