

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF RIDGEWOOD  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J. AS RECORDED IN THE  
OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK**

The Board of Education of Ridgewood, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, convened in public session on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

The following members of the Ridgewood Board of Education were present:

Ms. Sheila Brogan; Ms. Laurie Goodman; Mr. Charles Reilly; Mr. Robert Hutton, Vice-President; Ms. Michele Lenhard, Board President

The following members were absent: None

**RESOLUTION  
In Opposition to Senate Bill 1872 and Assembly Bill 2810  
“Opportunity Scholarship Act”**

Whereas, The Opportunity Scholarship Act would grant corporations tax credits for contributing to a program that issues education vouchers to certain students for use at any public or non-public school of their choice; and

Whereas, During a five-year pilot program, any child residing in one of 13 targeted districts, which operate one or more persistently underperforming schools, may apply for the vouchers, even if the student currently attends a school that is performing satisfactorily; and

Whereas, One-quarter of the funds would be reserved for students who already attend private schools; and

Whereas, Public school districts have experienced reduced state funding and are operating under state-imposed restrictions on local tax levy growth; and

Whereas, The five-year pilot program would divert from \$360 million to \$1 billion in public funds to private schools; and

Whereas, The State of new Jersey is currently experiencing a fiscal emergency during which its revenues are insufficient to provide adequate funding for public education through the School Funding Reform Act, and

Whereas, The Ridgewood Board of Education opposed any government policy that would divert funds from the State’s revenue stream to private schools when sufficient revenue is not available for New Jersey’s public school finance law; and

Whereas, The Ridgewood Board of Education believes in school choice within the public education sector upon the mutual agreement of the school boards involved; and

Whereas, The Ridgewood Board of Education believes that public funds should not be used to support private schools; and

Whereas, The Opportunity Scholarship Act would fail to address the needs of those students in targeted districts who do not participate in the program; and

Whereas, The Ridgewood Board of Education believes that the State should target improvement efforts within the public school system, ensuring that they reach all students. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Ridgewood Board of Education petitions the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to reject the Opportunity Scholarship Act (S-1872 and A-2810); and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, Senator Kevin O’Toole, Assemblyman Scott Rumana, and Assemblyman David Russo; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Commissioner of Education Christopher D. Cerf, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Bergen County School Boards Association.

Ms. Brogan moved approval of the Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill 1872 and Assembly Bill 2810 – “Opportunity Scholarship Act”.

Ms. Lenhard seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Ms. Goodman, Mr. Reilly, Ms. Lenhard

NAYS: Mr. Hutton

I certify that this is a true and correct excerpt from the Ridgewood Board of Education minutes.

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Date

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Jennifer Daviet  
Assistant Board Secretary