

**PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 1, 2023

Public Started: 7:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 8:05 P.M.

High School Little Theater

**I. Roll Call**

J. Bucco	J. Pierotti	N. Agoos	L. Sum	D. Clare	A. Wagner	D. Bradler
X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Also Present:

R. Gamper	R. Wright
X	X

**II. Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Board President, David Bradler.

**III. Open Public Meetings Statement** was read by Board President, David Bradler.

This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the minutes that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act," the Park Ridge Board of Education on April 19, 2023, caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on April 19, 2023, sent to The Record, 1 Garret Mountain Plaza, P.O. Box 471, Woodland Park, NJ 07424-0471 and The Ridgewood News, 41 Oak Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-3805 and on April 19, 2023, delivered to the Office of the Municipal Clerk of Park Ridge and the Park Ridge Public Library a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

**IV. 2023/2024 Budget Hearing**

*Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2023/24 Budget.*

*Dr. Gamper began the presentation by thanking Mr. Wright, Ms. Kersting and the Board of Education for their work on the budget. Once again presenting a well-balanced budget. There were no cuts to programs, and a few were added. He cautioned that budgets are becoming harder to put together with the CAP restrictions.*

*Dr. Gamper reviewed the district mission statement and then moved on to the enrollment history. reviewing the district enrollment history. He then spoke about the class sizes at the elementary schools. In discussing the budget, Dr. Gamper reviewed the steps involved in preparing it. He then recapped a history of the district's State Aid allocation commenting that this year the number is now \$1,457,270. Dr. Gamper then gave examples of what the budget funds have been used for in*

## SM 050123

*the past and what they will be used for moving forward. He highlighted such programs as Full Day Kindergarten, the Senior Internship program and the OWL House. Dr. Gamper also discussed the use of technology in the district. Dr. Gamper also thanked the PTO's for the contributions they make throughout the year to financially supplement and support the schools. Dr. Gamper concluded by reviewing a list of programs and projects which the 2023/24 budget will fund.*

*Mr. Wright then gave a financial review of the Budget. He spoke about the use of funds being similar to prior years with Capital taking up a larger percentage of the 2023/24 budget as compared to the previous year. This was due to the anticipated funding of the Locker room project. Mr. Wright explained that since the projects are funded by Capital Reserve, they do not impact taxes. Mr. Wright then reviewed the main areas of increase in the 2023/24 budget. Mr. Wright explained that there were two main areas, salaries, and benefits. Salaries were up due to a new elementary Guidance Counselor and pay adjustments for Paraprofessionals. Benefits were up due to a large increase in Health Benefits by the State and expanded coverage of Dental and Vision coverage. Mr. Wright explained that while Special Education was remaining flat, it was actually being subsidized by grant funds. The district did see an increase in out of district placements and transportation costs but some of that was offset by a drop in related services increasing due to more out of district placements. Operations for the district, which represent the maintenance of the Buildings and Grounds, remained flat. Mr. Wright explained that there were no large-scale in-house projects in the works. Finally, Mr. Wright explained that both Administration and school supplies were down as a result of budget cuts.*

*Mr. Wright then discussed the tax levy and the CAP. He explained that there were certain waivers which would allow the Board to increase the budget past 2% and still be considered under CAP. He then pointed out that the district had chosen to take two such waivers. One was the use of banked CAP and the other was a Health Benefit waiver. He explained that the need to do this was being driven largely by inflation and a 15% hike in benefit costs. Doing this resulted in a tax levy increase of 4.18%. Mr. Wright also pointed out that the Board would be using additional surplus this year to further offset anticipated increases. Mr. Wright then spoke about why there was no longer a second question being proposed for the SLEO 3 security officers. The reason for the omission was that there was talk of introducing legislation at the State level that would accomplish the same purpose as the second question. As a result, the Board decided to wait and see what happened with that rather than move forward with the second question. Mr. Wright then recapped the budget explaining that it would result in an increase of \$331/yr. to the average homeowner of a house assessed at \$535,931. He qualified this by saying that the amount is somewhat inflated due to a sharp drop in Assessed Valuations in town of \$24 million.*

*At the conclusion of the presentation, the Board thanked Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright for their work on the budget. Dr. Gamper then informed the Board of changes that he needed to make to his March and April HIB reports. The Board requested more information on HIB incidents during their executive sessions.*

### **V. FINANCE RESOLUTIONS**

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools in conjunction with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that the following actions be taken:

**SM 050123**

F1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following budget:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the 2023/24 school year budget as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$35,532,992
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 6,261,151
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$41,794,143</b>
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 489,452
Debt Service (Fund 40)	\$ 782,190
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$43,065,785</b>
and	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$33,010,178 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$516,245 to support Debt Service, for the 2023/24 school year budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2023/24 budget includes the use of banked cap in the amount of \$124,255 as a result of additional expenses created due to inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2023/24 budget includes automatic adjustments in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-39€, in the amount of \$565,589 as an adjustment for health care costs.

M: JB S:JP  
 JB JP NA LS DC AW DB  
 Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

**VII. Adjournment – 8:05 pm**

M: AW S:LS  
 JB JP NA LS DC AW DB  
 Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

---

Robert Wright  
 Business Administrator/Board Secretary