

**PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 9, 2022

Public Started: 7:00 P.M.

Private Started: 7:57P.M.

Private Ended: 8:30 P.M.

Public Ended: 8:32 P.M

High School Little Theater

**I. Roll Call**

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

Also Present:

R. Gamper R. Wright

**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 May 3, 2022, caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on May 3, 2022, 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 May 3, 2022, 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. 2022/2023 Budget Hearing**

*Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2022/23 Budget.*

*Dr. Gamper began the presentation by 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 \$1,266,957. Dr. Gamper then gave examples of what the budget funds have been used for in 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 then discussed three new staff positions for 2022-23 and the need for them. 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 2022/23 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 smaller percentage of the 2022/23 budget as compared to last year. This was due to a decrease in the cost of projects being done from last year to this year. 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 2022/23 budget. Mr. Wright explained that there were two main areas, salaries and special education. Salaries were up due to the three new positions being added and normal contractual obligations. Special Education was increasing due to more out of district placements. Operations for the district, which represent the maintenance of the Buildings and Grounds, was also up slightly to address internal projects such as LED lighting upgrades. Mr. Wright explained that this was largely due to the successful efforts of the Facilities Director, Mr. Lepore, and his ability to do more projects in house. The final area of change was with department supplies. Mr. Wright explained that the increase was due to textbooks and technology spending. Administrative expenses remained flat. Additionally, Benefit costs also remained flat due to the introduction of a lower health plan introduced by the State.*

*Mr. Wright then discussed the tax levy and the CAP. He explained that the original budget that the Board was going to pass was derailed due to the introduction of a new law called Chapter 44. This law caused the Board's CAP to drop below 2% to 1.65% and forced the Board to make changes in order to meet the submission deadline. The Board disagreed with the computation used by the State and filed a challenge requesting that the bulk of the CAP be reinstated. Ultimately, the Board was successful and the CAP was restored. Unfortunately, the County had already reviewed the modified budget and approved it for advertising. Mr. Wright then explained that the Board still has the ability to make changes to the advertised budget. He presented three options for the Board. The first, kept things the same and brought the budget in at 1.65%. The second brought the budget up to 2% and the last option brought the budget up to 2.38%, the highest it could legally go with a CAP waiver. The Board discussed their options. Dr. Gamper explained that since the initial budget was introduced, there was new information about the class size in Grade 1 at East Brook. He also indicated that from a compliance standpoint, the district should have an additional High School Special Education teacher. Mr. Wright then reviewed the tax impact of each option to the average homeowner of a house assessed at \$475,000 with the 1.65% option increasing taxes by \$310, the 2% option increasing taxes by \$326 and the 2.38% option increasing*

taxes by \$344. Mr. Wright also pointed out that the tax increases were also being driven by a drop of \$24 million in the towns Assessed Valuation. He estimated that the impact of this drop caused taxes to rise by about \$140.

The Board discussed which option to use. The Board decided to go with the 2% option. The felt that the 2.38% was not needed and 1.65% would not allow for additional staff as discussed in the presentation.

**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:

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

**RESOLUTION FOR THE 2022/23 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the 2022/23 school year budget as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$33,880,848
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 1,518,901
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$35,399,749</b>
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 489,452
Debt Service Fund (Fund 40)	\$ 998,531
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$36,887,732</b>
and	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$31,686,602 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$729,861 to support Debt Service, for the 2022/23 school year budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2022/23 budget includes the use of banked cap in the amount of \$3,206 as a result of additional expenses created due to the pandemic.

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

Board adjourned to Executive – 7:57 PM

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

Return to Public – 8:30

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

**VII. Adjournment - 8:32 pm**

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

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Robert Wright  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary