



**PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

*Date:* January 25, 2021

*Public Started:* 6:00 P.M.

*Private Started:* 6:05 P.M.

*Public Started:* 7:00 P.M.

*Public Ended:* 9:18 P.M.

VIDEO CONFERENCE

<https://parkridge.webex.com/meet/ParkRidge>

**I. Roll Call**

N. Triano	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	D. Lopez
X	X	X

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

**III. Open Public Meetings Statement – was led 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 January 12, 2021 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on January 12, 2021 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 January 12, 2021 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. Adjournment to Private Session**

Private Closed Session was read by *President Bradler*.

The Park Ridge Board of Education will adjourn into private session to discuss item(s), which fall within specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential due to the nature of pending or anticipated litigation, attorney client privilege and personnel – employment matters affecting a specific, prospective or current employee privilege. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified (RICED – in accordance with Policy #0162, Notice of Board Meetings by the Board Secretary/Business Administrator).

Motion, second and vote to enter into private session at 6:00 pm.

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

**Private Session Agenda**

The Regular Session of the Board of Education was recalled at 7:00 pm.

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

**V. Minutes for Approval**

Private Session Meeting	December 14, 2020	Board Approved
Monthly Meeting	December 14, 2020	Board Approved
Reorganization Meeting	January 6, 2021	Board Approved

The Board reviewed the minutes and approved them as follows:

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

## VI. Special Presentations to the Board

### A. Sports – Presenter Chris Brown:

#### a. 2019-2020 – Winter Sports Recognition

- i. Bowling – NJIC Patriot Division Champions/NJIC Conference Champions
  1. Blair Buscareno – NJIC Patriot Division Bowling Coach of the Year
- ii. Wrestling – NJIC Patriot Division Champions/NJIC Conference Champions/North 1 Group 1 State Sectional Champions
  1. Stan Wood – NJIC Patriot Division Wrestling Coach of the Year

#### b. 2020 – Fall Sports Recognitions

- i. Girls Soccer – NJIC Patriot Division Champions
  1. Dylan Evans – NJIC Patriot Division/NJGSCA – State Soccer Coach of the Year
- ii. Girls Tennis – NJIC Patriot Division Champions
  1. Muhammad Awais – NJIC Patriot Division/BCWCA Tennis Coach of the Year
- iii. Football – NJIC Patriot Division Champions
  1. Tom Curry – NJIC Patriot Football Coach of the Year
- iv. Record Athletes of the Week:  
Ella Madden – Girls Soccer  
Christina Richiez – Girls Tennis

*Mr. Brown spoke about the 2019-20 season. He commented on how this presentation was delayed due to the current Health crisis. He spoke about how proud he was of the athletes and coaches for their accomplishments.*

*First, he spoke about the bowling team. The team finished with an 18-0 record. He also mentioned it was their first ever NJIC championship. He recapped some of their matches including their come from behind win in their final game. At the conclusion of his speech, he recognized each team member and coach on the team and congratulated them on a great season.*

*Two coaches were named Coaches of the Year. First ever NJIC championship. A very dominating season.*

*Mr. Brown then spoke about the Wrestling Team. The team finished the season with a record of 16-10. They were undefeated in league dual meets. The team was also County champions. For the State tournament, they hosted Kittatinny. They were down in the beginning but came back and won. Mr. Brown mentioned that numerous individual wrestlers from the team went on to the State championships. Mr. Brown then recognized each member of the team and coaches individually.*

*Mr. Brown then Recognized Stan woods. Coach Woods has led the wrestling team to 11 consecutive championships. He has also had strong showings in several tournaments. He has the top ranked public*

*school in Bergen County. He congratulated Coach Woods on being named NJIC coach of the year as well as Coach Mazzeo, for being named assistant coach of the year.*

*Mr. Brown then spoke about the Girls soccer team. The team finished the season with a record of 11-1. They captured the NJIC championship and made it to the State finals were they had a tough loss to Glen Ridge. They had a league record of 8-0, scored 58 goals and only gave up 6. Mr. Brown recognized the individual members of the team and the coaches. He then congratulated Dylan Evans for being named Coach of the Year. It is the team's first title since 2016.*

*Mr. Brown then spoke about the Girls Tennis team. The team had a record of 12-1 and won the NJIC patriot division. They were undefeated in league play. It was their first championship since 2012. They were ranked 11th in the Bergen Record poll. He then recognized each member of the team and the coaches. Mr. Brown congratulated Mr. Awais for being named Coach of the Year. This is his third championship and he has over 100 career wins.*

*Mr. Brown then spoke about the Football team. He mentioned that they once again made it to conference playoffs and were NJIC Patriot division champions. They were undefeated in divisional play. They were ranked 7th in the Bergen Record poll. Mr. Brown then recognized each member of the team individually and their coaches. Mr. Brown then recognized Coach Curry for being named Coach of the Year. His accomplishments include beating Hasbrouck Heights, and compiling a 50-18 career record.*

*Mr. Brown also recognized two student athletes, Ella Madden and Christina Richiez. Ella had a hat trick in the team's 6-1 win that lead them to a divisional title. Christina had a perfect set against rival Emerson and is the top singles tennis player in the State.*

*Mr. Brown concluded by thanking the Board of Education for their support. Dr. Gamper congratulated all the student athletes and coaches. He apologized for the delay in recognition. He also congratulated the fall sports teams. He thanked Mr. Brown for all his hard work. Mr. Bradler also congratulated coaches, athletes, the grounds crew and coaches.*

## **VII. Hearing of Citizens - None**

Agenda Items Only

Hearing of Citizens will be restricted to three minutes per person for a total of fifteen minutes for questions and/or comments on agenda items only.

## **VIII. Student Representative's Report**

*Mr. Lopez reported that the Park Ridge Student Rights Council will consist of representatives from various other councils. There will be connections to the Borough and Board of Education. The purpose will be to promote student rights initiatives. The Student Council will be doing fundraisers to support Local businesses. Each week they will select a different food and support that. This week is pizza week.*

**IX. President’s Report**

*Mr. Bradler commented that he is honored to be serving Park Ridge, and excited about what is going on in Park Ridge. He mentioned the creation of a new Community Relations committee, and that the Board will be updating and improving the Mission statement. The Board is also creating an Ad Hoc Housing and Development committee. This committee will be communicating with the other committees. He also thanked all the school employees who are working under very adverse conditions, and encouraged them to keep up the good work.*

**X. Superintendent’s Report**

 **HIB Update**

*Dr. Gamper reported that there were no HIB investigations last month. He wished the best of luck to the winter sports teams. He thanked the staff for the great job they are doing making students feel comfortable and delivering high quality education.*

**XI. BOE Committee Reports**

*Buildings & Grounds Committee– The committee reported that they met on January 19<sup>th</sup>. They were updated on existing projects. The LENS system is now up and running and the East Brook trailer project is complete. The committee approved moving forward with ceiling repairs in all three schools and renovations to the remaining High School bathrooms. The committee is still waiting for more information on renovating the Elementary bathrooms.*

**XII. Supplemental Agenda – None**

**XIII. Consent Agenda**

*The Board reviewed and passed the consent agenda as follows:*

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

**XIV. Hearing of Citizens -**

Hearing of Citizens will be restricted to three minutes per person for a total of thirty minutes for questions and/or comments on non-agenda items only.

*Mr. Bradler explained that the Board was here to listen to input and not to answer questions directly. The Board will operate as a group, and make decisions jointly. He then reminded everyone of the rules and the three-minute time limit.*

*The first to speak was Mr. Bievetto. He stated that he had read the re-opening plan. He felt the plan was not sufficiently observable and measurable. He referenced a comment in the plan that spoke to maintaining 6ft of separation when practical. He also expressed interest in being on the re-opening committee. He pointed to his twenty years as an Air Force veteran. He then referenced an email that went out to the community yesterday, which indicated that teachers would need to be fully vaccinated in order to move to the next phase. He felt the language used was vague. He wanted more quality education and more observable and measurable guidelines.*

*Mr. Frederics gave his background as a University professor. He wanted to help educate the board. He stated that there were 211,000 COVID cases reported last week, the most in a single week. There were 2.5 million cases of children getting the disease. This data comes on the heels of a holiday break. Health experts are very concerned about variants in the UK, and there were cases detected in 20 states. They feel it could become the predominant Strain by March. Children make up 12.6% cases. 191 have died. He asked the Board to consider closing the schools until everyone is fully vaccinated. He is concerned about community spread.*

*Mr. Herroder expressed disappointment in the lack of leadership. He felt the Superintendent was not doing enough to move things forward. He wanted to know what was a State requirement and where the plan was. He feels there has been nothing but excuses to open. Current strategy is one of failure and not a plan. Closing the schools is due to fear, not rational thought. He expressed concern about students having suicidal thoughts and harming themselves.*

*Ms. Stevens stated that she has been an educator for 15 years. She feels that town educators did an amazing job last year and did not fault them. She did express disappoint in the lack of transparency. Stated that they were in the Yellow and Green categories in the past. She also pointed out that while the social distancing of 6ft is not required, only if it is practical. She felt children are at great risk. Suicide rates are up in ages 10-14. She hoped that plans moving forward would include counselors as she felt they would be needed. She said that she is seeing the impact on her children. She questioned how the vaccination of staff would be measured. Requiring disclosure might violate HIPPA regulations. Feels that all the stakeholders need to be involved in the transition. Felt that transparency has gone away.*

*Ms. Pais stated that she was a Health care worker. She is not able to stay at home. Felt the Board needs to be more transparent as to what the next move is. Many parents do not know what is going on. They need to be able to adjust their lives accordingly. She stated that Children need more than 2.5 hours of education. Currently leaving parents with the bulk of the work.*

*Ms. Schroeder asked the Board to consider the mental health aspect. She used to be a professor and on the PTO. Children are a vulnerable population. She promoted development of social and mental health needs. She stated that School is the most stable time of their day, where they feel safe. Lack of time in school equate to a loss. Teachers are familiar with the dip over the summer break. This has been amplified over the 6-12 months. In person education is needed. For children, their brain is not fully developed and this time can feel insurmountable. She feels there is a finite amount of time before they crack. She has seen all forms of fear at work. Hospital visits for ages 5-11 is 24% higher since the pandemic started. They are starting suicide risk screenings at the age of 10. There is a need for more presence at school to provide a greater sense of security. She feels the way to best manage these effects is by reopening the schools.*

*Gisella stated that she is a teacher. She is concerned about the content being given. The district should leave the decision on whether to attend up to the parent. She felt not enough educational time is being given. She expressed appreciation for what is being done but said it was not enough. She felt there needs to be more consistency. She felt the quality of education they are getting is not sufficient.*

*Ms. Riccio stated that she has been a science educator for 20+ years. She felt the Board was thinking too pragmatically. She felt they were not listening to those who have a stake in this and who can think outside the box. She feels there are many resources in town that the Board can make use of. The Pandemic team does not have enough people, and she felt they should have more. She also felt that some practices were wasting time. She gave the example of taking temperatures. She asked the Board to expand their ideas and look at all the space available. She asked if they have looked into outdoor learning. She mentioned that social and emotional issues are real and starting to wear on children. She felt the communication was sparse and that it was important to be reflective.*

*Ms. Liu commented that she works in public education. Her place has been able to stay fully open 4 days/week for IEP students. Students are in all four days. The General Education population comes in 2 full days per week. The Superintendent at her school is listening and moving forward. Children wear masks and have Plexiglas dividers up. They are not 6 ft apart. The staff worked with the administration on what was needed. All of those things made having a full day of school possible. They had four cases last week. There was no documentation of a case where the student transmitted it while in the school. They are getting it from the outside. She felt opening up more can be done. Waiting for all teachers to be vaccinated is not reasonable. She felt the current environment was unfair and unhealthy and that the community was being shut out of the decisions.*

*Mr. Feigenbaum felt there were no efforts being made to make incremental changes to move forward. He stated that it was almost impossible for him to get his work done under this arrangement. He would like to see incremental efforts. Start small and work up.*

*Ms. Stern pointed out that the task force no longer exists. Dr. Gamper has not reached out since October. She felt the task force needs to be revamped. She questioned whether Dr. Gamper did not like the suggestions that were being made. She also wanted to know who authorized the email that went out to the community. She was also not in agreement with the comments in that email about the vaccine.*

*Ms. Muller commented that the restart and recovery plan is supposed to consist of 4 hours of instruction. East Brook is only getting 2.5 hours. She felt "gipped." She wants to see more in-person learning.*

*Ms. Engle stated that she has been an educator for 23 years. She is in school every other day. Every district is doing the best they can. Most districts are doing things similar to what Park Ridge is offering. She is proud of what the children are getting. She feels the ability to be in school every day is very meaningful. She thanked the staff and Dr. Gamper and Board for what they are doing.*

*Mr. Brickman said that he agreed with previous statements. He is not an educator but has a child and wants to protect them. He felt everyone should be part of the re-opening committee. Need as many people as we can get on the committee. He commented that he does not know what to believe or expect on the number of suicides. He felt teachers are doing a great job for his kids. He would like to work together with the Board and with teachers. He believes this will please the majority of people, and do what is best for family and children. He asked the Board to take into advisement everything that has been said. He approved of the fact that there is a task force.*

*Ms. Lincoln still feels there is a need to wear masks and practice social distancing. She is not sure of the efficacy. She felt this was important for the district to consider moving forward. She commented that the Board needs to think outside of the box.*

*Ms. Rosenberg asked what resources the Board is using. She also wanted to know what other school districts are doing. She felt the Board was not taking advantage of parent resources.*

*Ms. Weiss felt teachers have done an amazing job. Under normal conditions, students would have received 600 hours of instruction. Now, they are only receiving 200 hours. The Virus positivity rate is low in schools. She would love to see Kindergarten go from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm daily. She felt the most vulnerable students should go back first. She closed by saying she loves living in Park Ridge.*

*Ms. Varenis has children in both elementary school and the High School. Mental health and well-being are falling behind. She feels students are struggling. She thanked the community for everything they have done.*

*Hanna commented that she appreciates everything being done. She spoke to Dr. Gamper and her concern with the vaccine. Health care workers are having a hard time getting it. She feels that if we wait for teachers to all get it, we will be waiting a long time. They are not even sure if having the vaccine will stop you from being a carrier. She feels that we need to look at ways to get kids in the building other than waiting for a vaccine. She stated that kids are struggling now.*

*Ms. Boyle stated that she was a Special Education teacher. She agrees that the socialization element is important especially at a young age. She works with a severely disabled population. The level of regression she has seen is awful. She has seen elements of their independence being lost. If they were at school, this would not happen. It is very important for kids to be in school or there will be a huge level of regression. This is having a detrimental effect on students.*

*Mr. Rozzi commented that it was great to see the community so engaged. He asked the Board to reconsider the milestones to implement phase 2. He feels it is a good idea to engage parents to navigate these decisions.*

*Joanna informed the Board that she is a Nurse working at Valley Hospital. She understands the desire for the vaccine. She did not think this was a viable option if you want to have your school population back in the building. It is a great tool but should not be the “end all be all”. People can still be contagious. Schools need to maintain handwashing and masking. She asked the Board to reconsider having all staff members vaccinated before phase 2 can move forward. She also felt that waiting to be in the “Green” was not a reasonable option.*

*Mr. Keenan felt there was a lack of information and a lack of transparency. He encouraged more involvement of the community adding that there was no shortage of volunteerism. The Board should be looking for people that are visionaries who are thinking outside the box. They should not be taking a sit back and wait approach. Should do what is for the greater good of the community. He feels that the community is here to help and support the district but the conversations being had are dismissive and not creating good will. He felt that it was tearing the community apart. The district needs leadership from the Board. A more proactive approach is needed. The current system is broken. He asked the Board to take the comments made into consideration. He hoped there would be a follow-up meeting.*



*Ms. Aday stated that she was a Teacher. Her students were on the same schedule as Park Ridge when they started. Parents asked for a change. The data showed that the disease was not spreading through schools. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, her school will be increasing hours to 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. The conversation was begun on January 4<sup>th</sup> and they are starting the new schedule on Feb 1st. It took three weeks to implement.*

*Ms. DellaVolpe commented that she has heard great points being made. The vaccine was not part of the original plan. Phase 1 was not meant to be a long-term solution. The district should have started looking at different alternatives. Adding the vaccine to the plan creates a moving target. She wondered if this is another hurdle be thrown their way. At best case, she felt the timeline would be a least 2 months. This would mean the entire school year would be lost. She commented that the State mandates that students receive 4 hours of instruction. They are not getting it. She wanted to see a plan to increase the hours of instructional time. She felt the time the students have is not being used efficiently. She wanted to know what could be done to bridge the GAP for learning. Feels students are going to be behind the eight ball.*

*Ms. Daschione wanted to know what will change if they are required to get a vaccination. She commented that a vaccine does not prove immunity. Feels that the district is using it as a crutch. She did not see how it is a positive thing to wait. Kids are suffering. She felt the virus is here to stay and the district needs to find a way to live with it.*

*Ms. Falkenstern said she has been tracking the virus for the last 10 months. Vaccinations do reduce symptoms by over 90%. We need to educate people on what it does and does not do. She appreciates everything staff and Superintendent are doing. She feels there is a need to have more instruction, even if it has to be at home. Need to fill the void. She was not sure if being in school is the answer. She watches the data every day and science does back the decisions being made. She feel if teachers want the vaccine, then we need to give them that opportunity.*

*Ms. Burdette stated that she spoke to Dr. Gamper personally. She was disappointed to find out that the school was waiting for a vaccine to re-open. Not enough space to spread kids out. We are going on a year of inadequate education and do not have a plan. There needs to be a change.*

*Ms. Crisafulli commentd that she was an educator who has been fully remote. She has not seen the inside of classroom in a year. She is extremely proud that the district mentioned vaccination opportunities for teachers. In Jersey City, they are partnering with the Health department to get teachers and students back in the classroom. She was perturbed by the tone and comments that are going on in the chat. If children acted like this, the parents would not like it. She was extremely supportive of the staff at West Ridge and the administration. She felt this needs to be an on-going discussion. Having students in for longer days may impact other areas such as Teacher contracts. She stated that no one would argue that a full day of school is best but it needs to be safe.*

*Ms. Rushermere stated that she spends a lot of time volunteering. She mentioned that she was on the parent task force to re-open schools. She said that getting school open seemed like an insurmountable task. Having a school that has been open is enormous. She is still amazed at how long we have been doing this. She commented that she is not seeing the education she would like to see for children. She is not satisfied it will meet the curriculum needs. She felt the district needs to find more creative ways to provide students with more education without needing a teacher. She expressed interest in speaking with the Director of Curriculum to discuss ideas. She mentioned several homeschool examples. She thinks there are many ideas that do not require more teacher hours. So far, her requests have fallen on deaf ears. She requested a review to see where students are and where they need to be.*

*Ms. Sohenny stated that she was new to town. She felt that the conversation this evening had been very enlightening. There were many themes discussed and points raised. A good outcome would be to package the information and provide parents a report on what has been addressed. She has chosen to keep her daughter home and commented that it has been difficult. She felt there should be mini groups with counselors and workshops. She recommended the creation of forums for students to express themselves. She does not see how there will be a 100% back to school this year. She encouraged thinking outside of the box and to come up with creative ideas. She felt the task force has enormous potential. She would like to see everyone come together.*

*Ms. Sachs commented about maternity leaves and how they are handled by the district. She was upset that parents are not given official start dates and timeframes of substitutes. She hoped that the process would be evaluated for the future and improved.*

*Ms. Varghese expressed thanks for what everyone is doing. She stated that she works in hospital and that the vaccine is great. She felt that the district needs a back-up plan for re-opening. She suggested weekly meetings where parents are kept informed. She also noted that other schools are open for longer hours. She thought that Park Ridge could learn from other school districts. She commented that things need to be done safely. She concluded by stating that we do not know what future will bring but need to be prepared.*

*Ms. Kristen introduced herself as a former president of the PTO. She is concerned about the safety of children. She was dismayed to find out that the High School was closed because teachers were not following the rules. She has heard rumors that teachers were attending parties. They did not think of the repercussions and thought it was unfair that students were not able to be in school. She felt it was important for students to be in school. She spoke about difficulties with substitutes due to maternity leaves and dealing with her child's education needs. She felt the district needs to do better in this area. She also felt that requiring a vaccination for phase 2 is unfair.*

*Ms. DeMar introduced herself as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and President of the PREA. She stated that the teachers are eager to move to Phase 2. She appreciated the acknowledgement given to the teaching staff. She felt compelled to address certain points. First, she addressed the comments about the teacher's willingness to work. She said these comments have taken its toll on moral. She said to suggest that staff is not willing to work is disrespectful. The overwhelming majority were willing to return to their classrooms. This was not the case in surrounding districts. The decision to move to phase 2 is not up to the staff but to the CDC and data. Increasing intensity goes against the DOH guidelines. Ms. DeMar addressed the comments on instructional time. She stated that staff is required by contract to provide a specific number of instructional hours. This has not changed. Moving to phase 2 would not increase the hours. She thanked Dr. Gamper for creating a safe and functional reopening environment. The staff is appreciative for this. She invited parents to reach out to PREA.*

*Ms. Friedlander commented they were fortunate to have school open this year. While she would like to see students in for a full day she felt doing this would lead to a more crowded environment and make social distancing difficult. This could lead to more virus transmission and present a risk for teachers. She believes there is room for improvement. She is supportive of efforts the teachers are putting in. She also supported the vaccinations but noted that they are not yet available for teachers. She thanked the staff, Board and Superintendent.*

Ms. Stern stated that no one is advocating for their children and she is angry. She plans to do all she can and will not stop. She will email board members constantly to move this forward. She stated that the length of instruction they are receiving is not 4 hours. She has contacted the Principal and is not happy with the response. His statement that "You can't please everyone" was unacceptable. She wants accountability, and wanted to know when the administration is going to be accountable for educating their children.

Mr. Bradler thanked everyone for their comments. The Board appreciates everyone's efforts. He speaks as a Board member, parent and teacher. He mentioned that he has seen things during this pandemic that would break your heart. He asked everyone to stay focused. There were some great points made tonight. The Board will meet in committees and discuss what is possible.

**XV. Board Comments – New/Unfinished Business**

Dr. Gamper thanked everyone for their comments this evening. He stated that any decision to close schools comes from BCDOH. Each case is a unique set of circumstances. They review the situation and make recommendations which he brings back to the district. He does not feel he is in a position to question their decisions. He owes it to the faculty to keep everyone safe. The information recently released on Phase 2 is identical to what was released in August. He did not have any additional meetings because the information was already outlined. As for the addition of the vaccinations, that was his decision. It came after discussions with administrators and the teachers association. He did not think it is long time off and believes it will start to roll out quicker. Not everyone needs to get the vaccination but they should be given an option. He will start planning for phase 2. He commented that he is also a parent, aware of the effects of the pandemic and would like things to go back to normal. It is just not possible right now. He will do everything to further the education of students in Park Ridge and keep everyone safe. He thanked everyone for their comments and he remains committed to the health and safety of faculty and students.

Ms. Agoos told the community that they were being heard. She stated that the discussions will continue. She thanked Dr. Gamper for being accountable and appreciated that he was putting the safety of all in the community first.

Ms. Wagner commented that the online forum is challenging especially with so many people in attendance. She informed them that the Board is taking notes. There will be a committee meeting tomorrow. She asked for a motion to reinstate the re-opening committee. The members would be Ms. Wagner, Mr. Bradler and Mr. Triano.

A motion was made by Ms. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Triano. The motion passed as follows:

NT JP NA LS DC AW DB  
Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

Mr. Pierotti thanked the parents for their comments. He thanked the teachers and felt everyone was doing a great job. He feels there is still work that needs to be done such as finding out what the timeline is for increasing instructional time. He thanked everyone and stated they will keep the conversation going.

*Mr. Triano commented that he appreciated everyone's hard. He is looking forward to moving forward as a community. He felt it is important to take care of the children.*

*Ms. Sum appreciated seeing a lot of parent participation. She was encouraged to hear the conversation.*

*Ms. Clare stated she was impressed to see all the people here tonight. She felt that the Board has their work cut out for them, but will do it together with the community.*

**XVI. Adjournment - 9:18 PM**

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

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Robert Wright  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

## RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSENT AGENDA (XIII)

### EDUCATION 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:

- E1. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the suspension, truancy and HIB reports from the Superintendent for the month of December with no suspensions, and no truancy to report.

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

- E2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the tuition for the following students for the 2020/21 school year:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
268(B)-050	Rockland County BOCES West Nyack, NY (Shared-Time Placement)	9/1/20 - 6/30/21	\$17,500.05 (Revised amount)
1030(a)-060	Sage Day Mahwah, NJ	1/4/21 – 6/30/21	\$38,413.00

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

- E3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves student 1930(a)-050 on bedside instruction, as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>PLACEMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TIME/RATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Brookfield School/Inspira Bridgeton-IBCU	1/4/2021-4/2/21	10 Hours/ week @ \$55.00/Hour (13 weeks)	\$7,150.00

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

## 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. Certification Resolution: The Park Ridge Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (e), certifies that the Board Secretary's December 2020 monthly financial report (appropriations section) did not reflect an over-expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, has not been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20 – 2.13(b), and based on the advice of the district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Park Ridge Board of Education also certifies that the financial records are in compliance with Park Ridge Policy numbers 0171, 1320, 4413 and 6510. *"F1"*

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F2. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the Cafeteria Report for the months of November and December 2020. *"F2"*

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Check Journal (List of Bills) containing Check #44899 - 45045 in the amount of \$4,285,726.83, and EFTs using ACH technology #L48782 – L48941 in the amount of \$43,916.00. *"F3"*

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the payment of Athletic Vouchers #12124 - #12152 in the total amount of \$2,795.00. *"F4"*

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NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Varsity Athletic Club Vouchers #1055 - #1057 in the total amount of \$335.90. *"F5"*

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Unemployment Compensation Vouchers #\_\_N/A\_\_ in the total amount of \$\_\_N/A\_\_.

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the December 2020 "Report of the Secretary" and the "Report of the Treasurer" to the Board of Education. "F7"

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following 2020/21 General Fund Transfers for the month of December 2020 in the amount indicated per Appendix A. "F8"

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F9. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts an additional allocation of \$15,285.00 through the FY20 CARES Emergency Relief Grant Award, and approves an amendment to the Grant to budget the additional funds.

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F10. WHEREAS, Frontline has confirmed that it is the exclusive owner, developer, provider and copyright holder of the integrated suite of products including Frontline RTI (formerly RTIm Direct), Frontline IEP (formerly IEP Direct), Frontline Time and Attendance (formerly AESOP), and Frontline Applicant Tracking, all products which are currently being used in the Park Ridge Board of Education School District ("District");and

WHEREAS, these products have been utilized and managed by the District for over five years. The District was in possession of these product prior to Frontline purchasing and gaining exclusive ownership rights over them; thus, transitioning to a new software program is not ideal for the District, which would be far more costly, will take a significant amount of training to learn, and a significant amount of time to integrate the District's information. Moreover, the District had made a substantial investment in these programs, therefore, continuing their use will maintain the value of the District's investment; and

WHEREAS, The public's need for the proprietary software is of a compelling nature, such that the value gained by the public as a result of the proprietary designation overshadows the public benefit of permitted "brand name or equivalent" and the benefits of such competition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Park Ridge Board of Education hereby authorizes the purchase of proprietary Frontline Education Products and Services for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F11. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following:

RESOLVED, that there be authorized renewed participation in the School Employees' Health Benefits Program of the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education hereby renews participation in the Health Program provided by the New Jersey State Health Benefits Act of the State of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.26 and N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.46.2) and to authorize coverage for the employees and dependents thereunder in accordance with the statute and regulations adopted by the School Employee's Health Benefits Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education renews participation in the Employee Prescription Drug Plan defined by the N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq. and authorizes coverage for employees and their dependents in accordance with the statute and regulations adopted by the School Employee's Health Benefits Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will be maintaining Horizon as our dental plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that eligibility for Health Benefits shall be determined based upon the collective bargaining agreements between the Park Ridge Board of Education and all current Unions/Associations by any contracts between individuals not in a collective bargaining agreement, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as a participating employer we will remit to the State Treasury all charges due on account of employee and dependent coverage and periodic charges in accordance with the requirements of the statute and the rules and regulations duly promulgated thereunder, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we hereby appoint Robert Wright, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to act as certifying officer in the administration of this programs, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, continued participation in the School Employees' Health Benefits Program of the State of New Jersey is subject to the availability and appropriation of sufficient funds, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately and coverage shall be effective as of January 1, 2021.

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB



F12. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Educational Consortium for Telecommunications Savings to act on behalf of the district in matters of E-Rate applications and filings for an amount not to exceed \$1,500 for the 2020-21 filing year as per the attached agreement.

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NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F13. The Park Ridge Board of Education renews its Internet and Telecom agreement with Lightpath at a monthly rate of \$5,705.91 effective immediately and for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F14. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP, as Counsel for Special Services beginning January 1, 2021 through December 30, 2022. "F14"

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F15. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Joint Transportation Agreement with Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, for one (1) student attending the Bergen County Interactive Design Program, located at Northern Valley Regional High School, for the 2020/21 school year, at an estimated amount of \$6,550.80.

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F16. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Emergence SSO Food Service Management Company Breakfast Cost Reimbursable Contract for the 2020/21 school year, as attached. "F16"

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

F17. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following rate for participating members working at Park Ridge athletic games/events:

RATES FOR 2020-22	PROPOSED RATE PER GAME	CURRENT RATE PER GAME	AMOUNT OF INCREASE
Timekeeper	\$55.00	\$50.00	\$5.00

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## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS 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:

- BG1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following payments to Parette Somjen Architects for the following projects: "BG1"

<u>PROJECT NO.</u>	<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
8363	HS Room 106 Renovations	\$43.35
8419	HS Restroom Renovations	\$21.03
8420	EB Ceiling Replacement	\$3,503.15
8572	WR/HS Ceiling Replacement	\$5,000.00
8572	WR/HS Ceiling Replacement	\$28,335.64
8612	HS Restroom Renovations Phase 3	\$10,040.21

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- BG2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the attached contract with Parette Somjen Architects for Phase 3 of the Park Ridge High School Restroom Renovations at a fixed fee of \$66,500, this fee excludes reimbursable expenses which will be billed as a "not to exceed amount" of \$3,500. "BG2"

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- BG3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the attached contract with Parette Somjen Architects for the Ceiling Replacement at West Ridge P Elementary School and Park Ridge High School at a fixed fee of \$82,900, this fee excludes reimbursable expenses which will be billed as a "not to exceed amount" of \$3,400. "BG3"

M: S:  
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## POLICY 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:

PO1. The Park Ridge Board of Education reviews the following Policies and Regulations for second reading and approval on January 25, 2021: *"PO1"*

Policy 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts
Policy 1648.02	Remote Learning Options for Families
Policy 1648.03	Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-time Remote Instruction
Policy 2431	Athletic Competition
Regulation 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity
Policy 2451	Adult High School
Policy 2464	Gifted and Talented Students
Policy 5200	Attendance
Regulation 5200	Attendance
Policy 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan
Regulation 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan
Policy 6440	Cooperative Purchasing
Policy 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification
Regulation 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification
Policy 7440	School District Security
Regulation 7440	School District Security
Policy 7450	Property Inventory
Policy 7510	Use of School Facilities
Policy 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations
Policy 8561	Procurement Procedures for School nutrition Programs

**PERSONNEL RESOLUTION**

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:

- P1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of the following substitute teachers for the 2020/21 school year:

Substitute Teachers

Julie Appelblatt \*

Beth Ann DeMarco\*

M: S:  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

*\*Contingent upon completion of state-mandated paperwork.*

- P2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of the following in the area listed, for the 2020/21 school year, or as indicated:

APPOINTMENTS – SCHEDULE “E”

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Jack Baldissard	Volunteer Boys Baseball coach	N/A

OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Elizabeth Werner	Substitute Paraprofessional	\$15.85

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- P3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the reimbursement of anticipated conference/ seminar expenses for the following staff members for the 2020/21 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON/LOCATION FOR CONFERENCE/SEMINAR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
NONE			

M: S:  
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P4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves additional hours for the following staff members for the 2020/21 school year:

Staff Member	Hourly Rate	Total Hours	Time Period	Assignment
Jean Eramo	\$16.97	1.5 hours per day	1/6/2021-6/23/2021	Provide virtual support
Wendy Rudis	\$69.68	22 hours	1/13/2021- 6/23/2021	Social Skills Group

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P5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Nicole Ortiz, as Substitute Guidance Secretary at Park Ridge High School, at a per diem rate of \$194.00, effective January 4, 2021 through February 28, 2021.

M: S:  
 NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

P6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves a Leave-of-Absence for Allison Schulien, (High School Teacher) as follows:

- A Disability Leave-of-Absence from May 21, 2021 through June 11, 2021, with pay and with benefits.
- A State Family Leave-of-Absence effective June 14, 2021 through June 30, 2021, without pay but with benefits.

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 NT JP NA LS DC AW DB

P7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Beth Anne DeMarco as East Brook maternity leave replacement teacher, from 3/22/21 – 6/23/21, on Step 2 of the MA Guide, at an annual salary of \$62,104.00, prorated to her start date.

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P8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Alyssa Prisco as West Ridge maternity leave replacement teacher, from 1/27/21 – 6/23/21, pending release from her current

employer, on Step 1 of the BA Guide, at an annual salary of \$58,254.00, prorated to her start date.

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