

PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 21, 2020

Public Started: 7:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 10:15 P.M.

Board Office Conference Room

I. Roll Call

N. Triano	D. Bradler	B. von Bradsky	R. Sileo	A. Wagner	J. Pierotti	F. Church
X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Also Present:

R. Gamper	R. Wright
X	X

II. Pledge of Allegiance *was led by Board President, Frank Church.*

III. Open Public Meetings Statement *was read by Board President, Frank Church.*

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 8, 2020 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on January 8, 2020 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 8, 2020 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. 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 appoints the Board of Education members to the following Ad Hoc Committees:

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Amara Wagner
Robert Sileo
Barbara vonBradsky

Dr. Gamper gave an overview of what Buildings and Grounds has been doing. Mr. Sileo stated that he would like to see Committee as a Whole discussions on larger projects. Then it could branch off into sub-committees. Mr. Church commented that in the past, decisions were made but whole Board did not know about it. Would like to see formal presentations at each meeting as to what is happening.

Security – Sub committee

Nick Triano
John Pierotti
Frank Church

Mr. Pierotti and Mr. Triano spoke about hiring retired law officers. They felt it was a popular idea in town and with the Police department. They would like to explore the idea further. They are also interested in hardening school security. Ms. Wagner would like to review the policy for school entrance. Mahwah has an ID check as part of their policy. Dr. Gamper thought that the High School has this as well. Mr. Sileo felt there should be more emphasis on counseling for emotional issues with evening access.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Robert Sileo
David Bradler
Amara Wagner

Dr. Gamper explained that what the Education committee had been doing. They reviewed new courses, textbooks and the effectiveness of programs. A Homework committee (Ad-hoc) is looking at the K-5 homework policy. They would like to try to have one member in Personnel and one in Finance to offer insight into decisions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

David Bradler
Nick Triano
Frank Church

Mr. Wright explained that this committee works on developing the Budget and reviewing large purchase requests.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE: N/A

The Board opted to wait until next month to decide on members.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

John Pierotti
Barbara vonBradsky
Robert Sileo

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: (Roll into Education)

Dr. Gamper explained that this sub-committee might get more active as the district is looking to run dark fiber in-between schools. Also, the district has been experiencing problems with their emails.

Mr. Wright reviewed the Capital Reserve Fund Balance. He reviewed the proposed projects and their related costs.

Dr. Gamper reviewed the LENS security system. He explained that the High School does not have phones in each classroom like East Brook and West Ridge do. He reviewed an example of how the current Lockdown system works. He then explained how the LENS system would improve on response time. Additional features include Strobe lights and message boards. The system takes the Human element out of it. There are Panic buttons in undisclosed locations now, but the LENS system would put them in the hallways. Dr. Gamper reviewed the costs with the Board.

The Board asked several questions. Will it identify where the call came from? Dr. Gamper responded that it would. He did not know if it would send that information to a cell phone.

A question was asked about who knew where the undisclosed locations were in the district. Dr. Gamper responded that administration knows. They send a signal to a location in Ridgewood.

The Board asked to see a presentation of the system. They would also like to see other districts that are using it.

Dr. Gamper discussed what projects the Board would like to do during the summer. The Board indicated that they would look towards the Security Committee to get direction on the LENS

system. Dr. Gamper then reviewed several projects currently under consideration and their status/costs.

High School Bathrooms (4)- \$500,000

East Brook Abatement/Lighting \$350,000

LENS – Presentation to Security committee

Chimney Removal – Mr. Wright to get pricing.

Ms. Wagner asked if we want to use Somjen for bathrooms. Dr. Gamper responded that he feels working with two architects may be awkward. Mr. Sileo did not see a conflict in looking for new architect now.

A motion was made to approve the committees and was passed as follows:

M: RS S:BvB

NT DB BvB RS AW JP FC

Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

V. Board Comments – New/Unfinished Business

Dr. Gamper reported that he met with John Ferguson, Matt Capilli and Danielle Schwartz. They discussed renovation of the dugouts. Looking to share the cost three ways (Board, Borough and PRAA). They also spoke about resurfacing the tennis courts. The district met with a representative who did the basketball courts for the town but Dr. Gamper explained that his tennis court surface is currently not being used by any other High School.

Dr. Gamper discussed the article in the paper on Emerson Football. Emerson will be going into a smaller league, which will not be eligible for playoffs. They have approached Park Ridge in the past to co-op. The Board decided it was not the right time. It will probably come back up again in the future. If we co-op, we would be a small group 2, and no longer in Group 1. Dr. Gamper mentioned that Park Ridge currently co-ops with Emerson for several other sports such as Lacrosse and Cross Country.

Dr. Gamper discussed investigating available classroom space in alternate locations in Park Ridge. Dr. Gamper reviewed several locations that are currently zoned for school use. He asked the board for permission to move forward with the investigation. The Board indicated they would like Dr. Gamper to wait on this.

Mr. Bradler informed the Board about a College student, Eric Johnson, who wants to do a research program on Wampum. It would require digging on school property. He would like him to meet with the Board. The Board agreed to do so in March or April.

A question was asked about the status of the Attorney RFP's. Mr. Wright indicated that he is researching samples from other districts and preparing a list of questions that can be distributed to the attorneys. He will share the questions with the Board before sending them out. The Board discussed the status of this process. Some Board members would like more information on what

the Board attorney has done and how he has represented the district. Others felt he has done a good job for the district.

V. *Adjournment 10:15 p.m.*

M: BvB S:DB
NT DB BvB RS AW JP FC
Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

Robert Wright
Business Administrator/Board Secretary