

PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 6, 2019

Public Started: 8:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 8:57 P.M.

High School Little Theater

I. Roll Call

F. Church	P. Montalbano	B. von Bradsky	R. Sileo	D. Bradler	A. Wagner	J. Bruno
Y	Abs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Also Present:

R. Gamper	R. Wright
Y	Y

II. Pledge of Allegiance *was led by Board President Joseph Bruno.*

III. Open Public Meetings Statement *was read by Board President Joseph Bruno.*

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 25, 2019 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on April 25, 2019 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 25, 2019 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. 2019/2020 Budget Hearing

Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright gave a power point presentation on the 2019-20 Budget. Dr. Gamper reviewed a chart showing the enrollment history of the district as well as a chart showing average class sizes. Dr. Gamper then gave a brief review of the budget preparation process and reviewed the history of State Aid the district has received. The 2019/20 State Aid increased over the previous year and is almost back, to where it was in 2009-10. Dr. Gamper then discussed the accomplishments of the previous year as well as areas where funding would be used in the upcoming year. He also explained that this budget maintained the initiatives begun in previous years such as the 1:1 laptop program and full day kindergarten. Dr. Gamper thanked the PTO for all its contributions to the district throughout the year and shared a list of them with the public. Dr. Gamper reviewed a list of projects undertaken in the 2018-19 school year and projects that were budgeted for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Upon the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Wright discussed the financial impact. He explained where and why the budget was increasing or decreasing. Mr. Wright reviewed explained that the main areas of increase was in Salaries. He noted that Capital decreased sharply due to a large project that was funded for the 2018-19 year. He mentioned that while reserves were down, the district is anticipating adding to them at the end of the 2018-19 year. Another large area of decrease was in Health Benefits. Mr. Wright explained that due to a restructuring of the programs offered to both active members and retirees, the state was anticipating a savings in 2019-20. These adjustments along with contributions from staff towards their benefits was driving the cost of Health Benefits down. Another area where the budget was not increasing was in Special Education. Mr. Wright explained that this was due to students graduating and leaving the district. Mr. Wright also noted that there were increases in the budget to address additional facility maintenance needs and new curriculum/testing materials. Mr. Wright then explained how the tax CAP worked and reported that the district would not be using any waivers this year. Mr. Wright then reviewed several cost savings initiatives including shared service agreements and employees contributing to their Health Benefits. Overall, the tax levy will be increasing 2.00%. Mr. Wright explained that the impact to Homeowners would be \$228 to the average homeowner assessed at \$475,000.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Heller asked several questions. In particular, he asked Mr. Wright to elaborate on the reduction in Health Benefits. Mr. Wright explained that the new Governor, upon taking office, appointed a committee to study ways to reduce the costs of Benefits. One of those ways was to force retirees who were over 65 to move out of the current Horizon plan and use an Aetna plan. They also created new Aetna plans with similar benefits of the Horizon plan in hopes people would switch. Mr. Heller asked if these savings were speculation by the State. Mr. Wright responded that they were and that the actual savings would not be known until the end of the calendar year. Mr. Heller also asked Dr. Gamper about enrollments and whether they were declining. Dr. Gamper responded that while overall enrollment is down, there would start to be an increase as smaller Senior classes leave and larger Kindergarten classes enter.

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:

RESOLUTION FOR THE 2019/20 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the preliminary 2019/20 school year budget as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$31,325,763
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 1,218,901
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$32,544,664
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 489,452
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS	\$33,034,160
and	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$29,606,050 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$718,422 to support Debt Service, for the 2019/20 school year budget.

M: *RS S: BvB*
 FC PM BVB RS DB AW JB
 Y A Y Y Y Y Y

VII. Adjournment 8:57 pm

M: *BvB S: AW*
 FC PM BVB RS DB AW JB
 Y A Y Y Y Y Y

Robert Wright
 Business Administrator/Board Secretary