



PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 1, 2017

Public Started: 8:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 9:20 P.M.

High School Little Theater

I. Roll Call

F. Church	P. Montalbano	B. von Bradsky	R. Sileo	D. Browne	P. Moran	J. Bruno
Y	Y	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 18, 2017 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on April 18, 2017 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 18, 2017 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. 2017/2018 Budget Hearing

Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2017/18 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 2017/18 State Aid remained flat from the previous year. 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 then reviewed new items in this year's budget including new K-6 STEAM curriculum additional basic skills support and new elective offerings at the High School. 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 2016/17 school year and projects that were budgeted for the 2017/18 fiscal year. Dr. Gamper then gave a brief overview of The OWL House, a special education program to provide life skills to 18-21 year olds. Dr. Gamper shared a list of the college acceptances and concluded with a an article in New Jersey Monthly ranking Park Ridge High School #20 in the State. Upon the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Wright discussed the financial impact. He explained where and why the budget was increasing. Mr. Wright reviewed the five main areas of increase. He noted that capital increased due to additional capital reserve projects. Salaries and benefits were the next largest area of increase with technology supplies increasing due to expanding the 1:1 initiative last year. From the revenue side, Mr. Wright noted that there was additional fund balance used to offset taxes in the amount of \$334,204. Mr. Wright also explained that he anticipated revenues from The OWL House would help reduce the need to use this much fund balance in upcoming years. Mr. Wright then explained how the tax CAP worked and reported that the district would be using a health benefit waiver allowed by the State. 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 2.99%. Mr. Wright explained that the impact to homeowners would be \$193 to the average homeowner assessed at \$470,000.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Heller addressed the Board with a series of comments and questions. Mr. Heller asked about the clinical technician. Dr. Gamper explained this was to service students who are in danger of hurting themselves. It is consistent with what other districts are doing. Mr. Heller then asked Dr. Gamper if he has seen any benefit of full-day kindergarten. Dr. Gamper responded that it was difficult to measure as it is hard to compare test scores. In speaking with teachers, he hears that students are better prepared when moving into first grade. Mr. Heller asked about the class sizes. Dr. Gamper stated that he did not want to commit to number. Mr. Heller asked about the High School electives. Dr. Gamper responded that the new programs have been very popular. Digital photography class is already full. Mr. Heller took exception to The OWL House wording. He did not think it was a highlight to generate revenue. He also did not think that he should have found out about the program in a newspaper article. Dr. Gamper responded that the Board did not get approval to use the house until the night of graduation. Mr. Heller then commented about the pie chart categories used in the newsletter. He felt administration should not be included with other items. Mr. Wright responded that those other items were part of administration. Mr. Heller then pointed out that the district employee

benefits ratio is higher than other districts. He suggested the Board look into why Cresskill's costs are so much different from Park Ridge.

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 2017/18 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the preliminary 2017/18 school year budget as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$29,648,979
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	<u>\$ 2,816,151</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$32,465,130
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 489,452
Debt Service (Fund 40)	<u>\$ 1,107,762</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS	\$34,062,344
and	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$27,964,298 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$837,113 to support Debt Service, for the 2017/18 school year budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2017/18 school year budget includes automatic adjustments in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-39(e), in the amount of \$267,965 as an adjustment for health care costs.

F2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWALS FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FOR PROJECTS IN THE 2017/18 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of \$2,800,000 from the District's Capital Reserves to fund other projects/expenditures in the 2017/18 fiscal year.

M: RS	S: FC						
FC	PM	BVB	RS	DB	PatM	JB	
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

VI. Hearing of Citizens - *None*

VII. Adjournment - *9:20 P.M.*

M: *RS* S: *DB*
FC PM BVB RS DB PatM JB
Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

Robert Wright
Business Administrator/Board Secretary