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**PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PARK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY**

**REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**

**High School Little Theater**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016**

**8:00 P.M. Public**

**Public Started: 8:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Ended: 9:20 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by *Robert Wright* at 8:00 p.m.

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:

Dr. Robert Gamper	Robert Wright
Y	Y

Pledge of Allegiance was led by *Robert Wright*.

Reading of the "Open Public Meetings Act" was done by *Robert Wright*.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

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 December 11, 2015 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, NJ, and on December 11, 2015 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 December 11, 2015 delivered to the Office of the Municipal Clerk of Park Ridge a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

Public participation may be limited to 3 minutes per person.

*Mr. Wright then led the Oath of Office for Daniel Browne and Patrick Moran. Both were sworn in as Board Members with a term to expire in the year 2018.*

**II. ORGANIZATION MEETING Superintendent's/Business Administrator's Report:**

**A. RESULTS OF THE ELECTION:**

CANDIDATES – 2 Members for 3 years:

	<u>Polls</u>	<u>Absentee</u>	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Total</u>
Daniel Browne	866	38	2	906
Patrick Moran	815	38	3	856

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT**

*Mr. Montalbano* moved the nomination of *Joseph Bruno* for President.

*Mr. Moran* seconded the motion.

Roll call for election of *Joseph Bruno* as President:

FC	PM	BVB	RS	DB	PatM	JB
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

*Mr. Bruno* was elected Board President.

**B. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF A VICE-PRESIDENT**

*Mr. Sileo* moved the nomination of *Daniel Browne* for Vice-President.

*Mr. Montalbano* seconded the motion.

Roll call for election of *Daniel Browne* as Vice-President:

FC	PM	BVB	RS	DB	PatM	JB
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

*Mr. Browne* was elected Vice-President.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Public participation may be limited to 3 minutes per person.

*Kelly Epstein spoke about the 2016/17 School Calendar. In her statement, she asked on behalf of the PREA that the Board table the motion to approve the calendar until after more research could be done on the impact the calendar will have on students and staff. As an example, she stated that child-care coverage would be harder to find and that some staff worked at camps, which would still be operating on these dates. She also pointed out that it impacts sports' schedules. She pointed out that no other district in the region has approved a pre-Labor Day start for students. Ms. Epstein also expressed concern about the virtual school day that the district is planning stating that we are trying to be too much like Pascack Valley Regional. She concluded by saying the PREA has proposed compromises. One example is to have students start 9/6/16 and end 6/22/17. This would include a full winter break. Another option is to have off 1/2/17 and skip the winter break. She hoped the Board will sit down with them to discuss options and to alleviate concerns.*

*Matt Capilli, 199 Park Ave, spoke as a concerned parent who is also a teacher. He commented that he was unaware of the calendar until the last minute. He asked how or if the information on the calendar was communicated. He wanted to know if it was shared with other stakeholders (parents). He pointed out that at the end of the year, there is a town camp. He felt the schedule change would impact the ability for parents to send their kids to the camp and would result in extra day-care costs. He did not understand the logic for an August start date. He said it is not common and has only heard of one other district doing it. He commented that the proposed calendar has a lot of PREA members unhappy. As parent, it is important to have the staff happy. He hoped the Board could sit down with the PREA and work this out.*

1. **PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**  
Authorize the payment of vouchers that are due and payable each month prior to the regular meeting of the Board, including payroll, health benefits, debt service, social securities, and investments.
2. **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**  
Designate the Board Members on a rotating basis to review vouchers contained on the monthly List of Bills.
3. **CHART OF ACCOUNTS**  
Approval of the continuation of the Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts in accordance with State statutes.
4. **LEGAL NEWSPAPERS**  
The Ridgewood News and The Record are appointed as the legal newspapers for advertisements. The Record is designated for legal notices, The Ridgewood News is being recommended in order to provide flexibility for emergencies.
5. **FACSIMILE SIGNATURE**  
The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the use of facsimile signatures of the Board President for the Operating Account.
6. **TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING** – Pursuant to Board Policy #0154.

The Regular Monthly Meetings of the Park Ridge Board of Education will generally be held on the third Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the Little Theater of the Park Ridge High School, except as indicated.

The dates for the regular monthly meetings are as follows:

January 25, 2016	August 29, 2016
February 29, 2016	September 19, 2016
March 21, 2016	October 17, 2016
April 25, 2016	November 21, 2016
May 23, 2016	December 19, 2016
June 13, 2016	

January 3, 2017 Reorganization Meeting\*\*

\*\*To be held in Board Office Conference Room

Other meetings will be designated as Special Meetings and advertised as needed.

**7. DEPOSITORIES AND SIGNATURES JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH THE NEXT REORGANIZATION MEETING:**

N.J.S.A. 17:9-9; 18a:17-34 and 18A:19-1

Bank – Capital One

Location – Westwood

**A. AGENCY ACCOUNT #7047888500**

SBA/BS, Robert Wright

and

Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper

or

Assistant to SBA/BS, Rita Coppola

**B. PAYROLL ACCOUNT #7047888519**

Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper

**C. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACCOUNT #7047888527**

SBA/BS, Robert Wright

and

Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper

or

Assistant to SBA/BS, Rita Coppola

**D. OPERATING ACCOUNT #7047888535**

President or V.P.

and

SBA/BS, Robert Wright

and

Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper

or

Assistant to SBA/BS, Rita Coppola

**E. PETTY CASH ACCOUNT #7047888543**

SBA/BS, Robert Wright

or

Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper

SM 010416

- F. ATHLETIC ACCOUNT #7047888551  
SBA/BS, Robert Wright  
or  
Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper  
and  
Assistant to SBA/BS, Rita Coppola
  
- G. EXTRA CURRICULAR ACCOUNT #7047888578  
SBA/BS, Robert Wright  
or  
Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper  
and  
Assistant to SBA/BS, Rita Coppola
  
- H. PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION ERNA FOLKENS TRUST  
State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund, Account #7047888586  
SBA/BS, Robert Wright  
or  
Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper  
or  
Assistant to SBA/BS, Rita Coppola  
or  
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper, Yvette Dallesandro
  
- I. PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION VARSITY CLUB, A/C #7047888594  
SBA/BS, Robert Wright  
or  
Superintendent, Dr. Robert Gamper  
and  
Assistant to SBA/BS, Rita Coppola
  
- J. ROLAND C. QUACKENBUSH SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Managed by Capital One  
A/C #7057304353
  
- K. BEER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Managed by Capital One  
A/C 7057347222
  
- L. JOHANNA MULHALL SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT, Managed by State of New  
Jersey Cash Management Fund  
A/C #117-51578-171

M. ANDREW AND MARIE JOHNSON PRIZE, Managed by son, Edward Johnson through Vanguard Wellington  
A/C #0021/09910849226

8. **DEPOSITORIES AND INVESTMENTS**

Pursuant to Title 17:12b-241, the Park Ridge Board of Education to authorize Robert Wright, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or Yvette Dallesandro, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper, to invest school funds and order wire transfers, if necessary to complete the transaction, in one or more accounts in any insured bank, whose principal office is located in New Jersey in any amount up to, but not exceeding, the amounts for which such accounts are insured.

9. **PETTY CASH FUND**

Approval of the petty cash fund, as per Policy 6620.

10. **FLEXIBLE SPENDING PLAN**

Approval of the continuation of the district's flexible spending plan with Aflac.

11. **403(b) AND 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS**

Approval of the continuation of the district's 403(b) and 457 deferred compensation plans and waiver of coverage incentive plan.

12. **ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

Approval of Organizational Chart, as listed under Policy 1110.

13. **SECTION 125/CAFETERIA PLAN**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to authorize the Premium Conversion Plan, the "Plan," effective January 1, 2016 to allow eligible employees to elect to reduce their cash compensation in consideration of their receipt of certain employee and dependent health care coverage under the employer sponsored health plans. This Plan is intended to qualify as a "cafeteria plan" within the meaning of Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code.

14. **RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICIES**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to re-adopt Board Policies and Regulations on file and shall remain in effect until the next organizational meeting unless otherwise amended.

15. **JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to re-approve job descriptions, which are on file in the Superintendent's office.



25. **FEES FOR COPIES**

Approval of continuation of fees for copies of public documents as follows:

- .75 per page for first ten pages
- .50 per page for next 11-20 pages
- .25 per page for over 20 pages

26. **BID AUTHORIZATION**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to authorize the Board Secretary/Business Administrator to advertise for bids in accordance with the provisions of Title 18A:18A 'Public School Contracts Law' in The Record or The Ridgewood News whenever appropriate for the period through the next Organizational Meeting. Such bids for goods and/or services are to be in accordance with prepared bid specifications and to be opened at the office of the Board Secretary/Business Administrator not less than 10 days subsequent to advertising.

27. **SAFETY AND HEALTH**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to approve Robert Wright as the district's Safety and Health Coordinator.

28. **SUBSTANCE AWARENESS**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to approve Andrew Yeager as the Substance Awareness Coordinator.

29. **RIGHT-TO-KNOW**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to approve Robert Wright as the Right-To-Know Coordinator.

30. **APPOINTMENT BY THE BOARD**

A. Ad Hoc Committees

- 1) Finance Committee: *Frank Church, Peter Montalbano, Patrick Moran*
- 2) Buildings & Grounds Committee: *Peter Montalbano, Joseph Bruno, Daniel Browne*
- 3) Education Committee: *Robert Sileo, Barbara vonBradsky, Patrick Moran*
- 4) Technology Committee: *Daniel Browne, Frank Church, Patrick Moran*
- 5) Negotiations Committee: *(Tabled for a later date)*
- 6) Personnel Committee: *(Tabled for a later date)*

B. Delegates to:

- 1) New Jersey School Boards Association: *Joseph Bruno*
- 2) Bergen County School Boards Association: *Joseph Bruno*

31. **CODE OF ETHICS**

The Park Ridge Board of Education to discuss and approve the Code of Ethics. Each board member has to acknowledge and sign the receipt.

32. **REGION II MEMBERSHIP**

Resolved that the School District of Park Ridge to affirm their membership in the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education (Region II) for the 2016/17 school year and commits their full support and financial participation in the Council.

33. **SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUBS**

The Park Ridge Board of Education recognizes the following school Booster Clubs:

S.P.A. - Supporters of the Performing Arts  
PREF - Park Ridge Educational Foundation  
Park Ridge HS Band

Park Ridge Athletic Booster Clubs:

Cheerleader  
Football  
Boys and Girls Soccer  
Volleyball  
Wrestling  
Baseball  
Softball  
Track  
Boys and Girls Lacrosse

**EDUCATION RESOLUTION**

- E1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the School District Calendar for the 2016/2017 school year.

*The Board discussed the 2016/17 Calendar. The following changes were made:*

*1/02/17 will be a holiday*

*1/16/17 will be a regular school day*

*6/16/17 will be a staff-only day.*

*Dr. Gamper spoke about the calendar for the 2016/17 calendar. He stated that it was identical to the one we currently follow. It includes two staff-only days at the beginning of the year. The difference is that the first two days are in August as opposed to September. The Administration reviewed the calendar and agreed it is the best for educational purposes. The first calendar did start in September but ended school on Monday. He did not like this. He looked at other options. In regards to the February break, he did intend to return it. However, with the introduction of PARCC, he cannot recommend the return of a full week of February break. It is better to have more days before testing occurs than after it. He spoke to Mr. Bruno about the calendar and Mr. Bruno recommended a compromise with the return of the February break. This option was dismissed by PREA leadership. He stated that the Administration is in agreement with the calendar. January 2nd is a federal holiday. He indicated that if the Board wanted to set this day as a holiday, they can open school on 1/16/17 and change end date to 6/16/17. The rest of the calendar follows the contract and the State.*

*Mr. Montalbano asked how many instructional days are lost if the school starts after Labor Day. Dr. Gamper replied they would lose between 6-7 days depending on what is done with January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Montalbano commented that he remembered why the February break was instituted. It was done during the energy crisis to save money. He said it was not a bad idea to have off but that it is also hot in June.*

*Mr. Sileo asked if the staff development on January 16<sup>th</sup> was a full day or half day. Dr. Gamper responded that it was a full day.*

*Mr. Bruno commented that the Board appreciates what the Union has said. He noted that the proposal does follow a similar calendar to this school year. It still starts for staff on the Tuesday before Labor Day weekend. He stated that it is no cooler on September 6<sup>th</sup> than in late June. The partnerships with PVRHS are done when they are advantageous to Park Ridge. The Board is not trying to be like them. The Administration put a lot of work into this calendar. The staff understands what disruption the PARCC is. The schedule will give five extra days during the better part of the year. By June, students are checked out. The town camp is done at the end of July. It is the start date that causes problems, not the end date. A few extra days before a start of camp are not as important.*

*Mr. Church commented that it is a long stretch without a break.*

Mr. Moran commented that one of the proposals was to start on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The school year would end on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. He is in agreement that June days are not as valuable as earlier days, but he also did not think the first few days before a three-day weekend is any better. It is a bit of a toss-up. He is, therefore, relying on the Administration's opinion.

At the completion of the discussion, the Board voted on items 1-33 and "Educational" motion E-1. The motions passed as follows:

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Capilli commented that he was very disappointed in the Board's decision. Nothing goes on the first and second days of school. The PARCC test will soon be gone. Town camp directors are teachers. They will need to find day care from June 15<sup>th</sup> until camp starts. The logic used by the Board is flawed. He felt it was a rushed decision. This decision will be bad for parents in town. He also wanted to know why there was no February break.

Dr. Gamper responded that the February days are more valuable.

Mr. Capilli stated that the calendar is not best for instruction. The educational process adjusts for the last end day. You are too far removed from the test for the days to make a difference. The kids need a break. Saddling parents with extra financial costs is not a good idea. The idea that kids will be more focused in September is wrong.

Ms. Russo said that a lot of things are accomplished in June. The days before Labor Day are useless days. They can't get things started. Dr. Gamper responded that the value is that the days occur before the testing.

Ms. Dow stated that she is disappointed in the decision. The PARCC scores are good. Park Ridge is a great district. It outperforms all other districts even if our start date was not August. She feels there is a lack of respect being shown to faculty and a lack of respect to other working parents. She questioned whether the town pool would be open. They are professionals and will do their job but she wanted the Board to know that there is a level of frustration associated with this decision.

Sharon Smith-Raska commented that she is saddened by the statements that June days are wasted days. She teaches seniors. She pushes her student's right until the last day in June. She takes offense to statements saying these days are wasted. She is disappointed that the Board is not willing to discuss the matter further.

*Ms. Epstein expressed her dissatisfaction with the Board's decision and felt the decision was insulting to the staff. She commented that what has been a decent relationship up until now is at risk. She felt that passing this calendar will have a serious impact on everyone.*

*Ms. Washnik commented that she has been here awhile and felt the new principal, Mr. Lederman, was a great addition and staff worked well with him. What upsets her is this situation puts that relationship in jeopardy. It will make it very difficult to bond people together. She felt there were other options that would have worked better.*

*Mr. Montalbano commented that the Board needs to meet with the Council to talk about rezoning the Sony property for 500 units. The Borough could have a lot of new residents.*

*Mr. Ryan Cangialosi said that they have had discussions with the developer who has shared his studies. They have not agreed on a number of units. The Town is still exploring options and are keeping all options open. The types of units being proposed are luxury rentals with one to two bedrooms and a handful of three bedrooms.*

*Mr. Montalbano asked what will happen when Hertz asks for the same thing. Mr. Cangialosi responded that the Hertz property is staying corporate. That has already been finalized.*

*Mr. Cangialosi followed up by saying that Sony is on a two-year leaseback. The next meeting on the property will not be until June. He plans to continue to be the liaison with the Board of Education.*

*President Bruno commented that this was not the proper venue to have this discussion since nothing can be decided. The Building and Grounds Committee will meet and bring a list of concerns to the Governing Body.*

*Mr. Sileo commented on the statements made by staff at the meeting. He felt the tone and the way it was presented was wrong. You cannot be disrespectful of the Administration. He recommended that the Board put something in writing to the Association.*

*President Bruno said he was disappointed in some of the statements made by the PREA membership and expressed complete confidence in the Administration and Superintendent.*

IV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:20 p.m.

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

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Robert Wright  
Board Administrator/ Board Secretary