



PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - Public Hearing on the Budget

Date: May 6, 2014

Public Started: 8:00 P.M.

Meeting Ended: 9:20 P.M.

Park Ridge High School – Little Theater

I. Roll Call

F. Church	P. Montalbano	B. von Bradsky	R. Sileo	D. Browne	P. Moran	J. Bruno
A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Also Present:

R. Gamper	R. Wright
Y	Y

II. Pledge of Allegiance was lead 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 4, 2014 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 2 Park Avenue, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on April 4, 2014 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 4, 2014 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. 2014/2015 Budget Hearing

Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2014-15 budget. Dr. Gamper reviewed 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 a technology supervisor, an internship jointure with PVRHS and Robotics Club. Dr. Gamper concluded by discussing previous and upcoming capital projects. Upon the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Wright discussed the financial impact. He explained where and why the budget was increasing and how the CAP was calculated. Mr. Wright reviewed several cost savings initiatives including shared service agreements and employees contributing to their health benefits. Overall, the tax levy will be increasing 3.95%, which will raise taxes to the average homeowner assessed at \$470,000 by \$246.

Mr. Heller addressed the Board. He expressed displeasure that the Board no longer mailed the flyer out to all residents. He feels that it is important for people to receive it. Mr. Heller also took issue with statements made about capital reserve stating that they are misleading since the money comes from previous budget years. Mr. Heller also commented that the flyer uses a different levy increase than the actual change in taxes. Mr. Wright explained that this was due to the fact that the Board is on a different fiscal year than the town and the taxes raised will reflect ½ of the previous year's levy and ½ of this year's levy.

Mr. Heller then asked about the percentage of spending in special education. He pointed out that 25% of the budget goes to this area even though it represents less than 16% of the population. He feels the State needs to take a bigger role in this area. Dr. Gamper pointed out that the district must adhere to a set of guidelines with special education and while the district does try to save money, the primary objective is to ensure that special education students receive the best education to meet their needs.

Mr. Heller questioned why Park Ridge has one of the highest costs per pupil in the surrounding area. Only Pascack Valley Regional has a higher one. President Bruno responded that the Board creates a budget based on students' needs, not cost per pupil. He feels it is very narrow minded to focus on cost per pupil numbers. President Bruno also pointed out that the Board had to undertake a lot of capital initiatives to address problems that previous Boards let go for too long.

A Park Ridge resident, who identified herself as the parent of a classified student, thanked the Board for providing an appropriate education. She felt that when students receive the help early on it saves money in the future. She feels that the special education budget is a necessary piece of the pie and thanked Mrs. Bernardo for her hard work.

Ms. Maryanne George stated that the improvements to the facilities have been tremendous and thanked the Board for the much needed repairs. She stated that she felt the teachers at Park Ridge are excellent and worth "every penny they get."

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Mr. Heller commented that the Borough saved a lot of money this year moving to the State plan for their benefits and asked if the school is in this plan? Mr. Wright responded that the district also realized a large savings several years ago when they joined the State plan.

With no more further questions/comments, Mr. Wright read the resolution to approve the 2014-15 budget.

V. FINANCE 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:

F1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Park Ridge Board of Education adopts the budget for the 2014/15 school year in the following amounts:

	<u>BUDGET</u>
Total General Fund	\$28,208,706
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 414,452
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,065,263

Totals	\$29,688,421

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$25,657,068 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$787,036 to support Debt Service, for the 2014/15 school year budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2014/15 school year budget includes allowable adjustments in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38(b), in the amount of \$36,326 for the weighted average increase in enrollment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2014/15 school year budget includes automatic adjustments in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-39(e), in the amount of \$115,740 as an adjustment for health care costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2014/15 school year budget includes the use of Banked CAP in the amount of \$327,639 for the implementation of a 1:1 laptop initiative. This initiative is required in order to implement changes made to the curriculum and how it will be delivered and must be completed by the end of fiscal year 2015. These costs cannot be deferred or completed over a longer time frame.

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

VI. Hearing of *Citizens* (See above)

VII. Adjournment – 9:20 p.m.

M: DB S: PM

FC PM BVB RS DB PatM JB

A Y Y Y Y Y Y

Robert Wright
Business Administrator/Board Secretary