

PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 24, 2025

Public Started: 6:00 P.M.

Public Started: 7:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 7:11 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL LITTLE THEATER

I. Roll Call

C. Amitrano	R. Fisher	J. Pierotti	N. Agoos	R. Browne	D. Bradler
X	A	X	X	X	X

Also Present:

R. Gamper R. Wright J. Kamath A. Zartarian

II. Pledge of Allegiance – was led by Board President, David Bradler.

III. Open Public Meetings Statement – was read by Board President, David Bradler.

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 7, 2025 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on January 7, 2025 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 7, 2025 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. Adjournment to Private Session

Private Closed Session was read by *President Bradler*.

The Park Ridge Board of Education will adjourn into private session to discuss item(s), which fall within specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential due to the nature of pending or anticipated litigation, attorney client privilege and personnel – employment matters affecting a specific, prospective or current employee privilege. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality

no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified (RICED – in accordance with Policy #0162, Notice of Board Meetings by the Board Secretary/Business Administrator).

Motion, second and vote to enter into private session at 6:05 pm.

M: RB S: CA
CA RF JP NA RB DB
Y A Y Y Y Y

Private Session Agenda

The Regular Session of the Board of Education was recalled at 7:00 pm.

M: CA S: RB
CA RF JP NA RB DB
Y A Y Y Y Y

V. Minutes for Approval

Monthly Meeting
Private Meeting Session

January 27, 2025
January 27, 2025

Board Approved
Board Approved

M: CA S: JP
CA RF JP NA RB DB
Y A Y Y Y Y

VI. Hearing of Citizens - None

Agenda Items Only the

Hearing of Citizens will be restricted to three minutes per person for a total of fifteen minutes for comments on agenda items only. The Board bears no responsibility, nor will it be liable for any comments made by the public. Please be advised that all comments are maintained as a matter of public record.

VII. Student Representative's Report - None

VIII. President's Report

Mr. Bradler reported that the Girls Basketball Team beat Secaucus and finished the season with a 16-6 record. Next, they will play New Milford in the first round of the State tournament. The Boys Basketball team finished with a 15-10 record and will also be in the State Tournament.

He mentioned that he attended the play Goldilocks on Trial and felt it was excellent. He commented on what a talented group of students they had in the Park Ridge community.

IX. Superintendent's Report



HIB Update

Dr. Gamper reported that there were no new HIB investigations from the last meeting.

He then presented the student safety data system report for the period 9/1/2024 to 12/31/2024. During this period there were 6 HIB confirmed HIB incidents at the High School, 1 at East Brook and none at West Ridge. The next report will be in August.

Park Ridge students participated in a Mock Trial competition against Demarest at the Bergen County courthouse. He commented that it was a wonderful experience and was impressed by both the school's participants. The Trial itself was presided over by an actual Judge. In the end, Park Ridge prevailed. The next step is for Park Ridge to go up against the Passaic County champs. He then mentioned that the State playoffs were starting for Basketball and wished the Park Ridge teams luck. He commented that he hoped everyone had a nice break.

X. BOE Committee Reports

The Finance Committee reported that they met on 1/29 and 2/12 and worked on the budget and reviewed several different options. They are waiting for final State aid numbers to come in.

XI. Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the Consent agenda. The agenda passed as follows:

M: JP S: RB
CA RF JP NA RB DB
P A Y Y Y Y

XII. Hearing of Citizens

Hearing of Citizens will be restricted to three minutes per person for a total of thirty minutes for comments on non-agenda items only. The Board bears no responsibility, nor will it be liable for any comments made by the public. Please be advised that all comments are maintained as a matter of public record.

Melissa Stevens stated that she was disappointed with the Board of Education in their handling of her concerns about the West Ridge graduation time. She indicated that she followed the chain of command and came to the Board to be heard but nothing was ever done. She then stated that at the January meeting, she felt that certain residents attacked her position and made inaccurate statements. With Dr. Gamper issuing a statement that the time and date would not be changed, she felt the Board was not showing fairness to all those involved.

A resident inquired why there were so many Enrichment programs scheduled on the same day. She indicated that it resulted in some people not being able to participate due to conflicts. She asked if the Board could spread the programs more evenly throughout the week.

XIII. Adjournment – 7:11 pm

M: CA S: JP
CA RF JP NA RB DB
Y A Y Y Y Y

Robert Wright
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSENT AGENDA (XIII)

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 accepts the suspension, truancy, and HIB reports from the Superintendent for the month of January with 2 (two) out of school suspension, and no truanies to report.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E2. The Park Ridge Board of Education reviews and approves the submission of the January 2025 SSDS, (Student Safety Data System) which summarizes the incidents of violence; vandalism; harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB); weapons offenses; substance offenses; and any other incident leading to student removal from school; and HIB trainings and programs, and Restraint and Seclusion data for the Park Ridge School District, East Brook, West Ridge and the High School for the time period of September 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following student teacher for the 2024/25 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COLLEGE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PR TEACHER</u>
Raymond Rama	Ramapo College	February 2025 – June 2025	Rachel Avery/Joseph Manzo (HS)

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the extension of Michael Gorrin, St. Thomas Aquinas Student, to complete 14 hours of observation in a Special Education classroom, from 2/25/25 – 6/30/25.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Christopher Laurenzo to complete 40 hours of unpaid clinical fieldwork, in the area of Physical Education, for the 2024/25 school year, pending completion of state-mandated paperwork.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the tuition for the following student for the 2024/25 school year:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
1030(a)-050	Fusion Academy Englewood, NJ	3/10/25 - 6/30/25	\$18,500.00

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

EDUCATION DISCUSSION

A. Student Safety Data System (SSDS)

(See Superintendent's report)

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. Certification Resolution: The Park Ridge Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 €, certifies that the Board Secretary's January 2025 monthly financial report (appropriations section) did not reflect an over-expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, has not been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20 – 2.13(b), and based on the advice of the district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Park Ridge Board of Education also certifies that the financial records are in compliance with Park Ridge Policy numbers 0171, 1320, 4413 and 6510. **"F1"**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F2. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the Cafeteria Report for the month N/A.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Check Journal (List of Bills) containing Check #51754-51845 in the total amount of \$2,924,543.58 and 901255-02254 (\$722,660.64), and EFTs using ACH technology #L59194 in the amount of \$6,776.77. **"F3"**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the payment of Athletic Vouchers #11-12 and #14214 - #14258 in the total amount of \$15,919.00. **"F4"**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Varsity Athletic Club Vouchers #1119 – 1121 in the total amount of \$856.75. **"F5"**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Unemployment Compensation Vouchers # _____ N/A _____ in the total amount of \$ _____ N/A _____.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the January 2025 “Report of the Secretary” and the “Report of the Treasurer” to the Board of Education. **“F7”**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following 2024/25 General Fund Transfers for the month of January 2025 in the amount indicated per Appendix A. **“F8”**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F1.-F8– Backup attached if required

- F9. WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Education recognizes that the actual legal costs for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year exceeded 130% of the Statewide per pupil average and

WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Education has undertaken steps to reduce these costs by restricting access to the Board Attorney to only authorized personnel and having the Superintendent and Business Administrator review every legal bill before payment and

WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Education has determined that implementation of further procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)(3) beyond the aforementioned procedures already implemented would not significantly reduce legal costs, as evidenced by the fact that the excess legal costs incurred are the result of a litigation, grievances, protracted negotiations, and/or due process hearings initiated against the District, which the District has been compelled to defend and over which the District has no control;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Park Ridge Board of Education hereby accepts the 2024-25 legal costs as meeting the criteria for controlling legal costs and

BE IT FURTHER Resolved that the Board will look for more ways to reduce these costs should the opportunity present itself.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F11. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following tuition rates for the 2025/26 school year:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Integrated Pre-school (Reg. Ed.)	\$ 3,100.00

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F12. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following:

MAXIMUM TRAVEL EXPENDITURE

WHEREAS, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, in each pre-budget year, the Park Ridge Board of Education is required to establish a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year which may not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount includes all travel that is supported by State and local funds; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education had previously established a maximum amount for the pre-budget year 2024-2025 as \$50,000.00; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has expended \$7,748.51 of the maximum amount for the pre-budget year to date; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has elected to exclude travel expenditures supported by federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has determined that the total amount of travel expenditures supported by federal funds from the school year 2023-2024 was -0-; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that the total amount of travel expenditures supported by federal funds for the school year 2024-2025 is \$-0-,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Park Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2025-2026 school year as \$50,000.00.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F13. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the 2023/24 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and approves the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the 2023/24 audit recommendation as per attached. ***"F13"***

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F14. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the following donations for the 24/25 school year:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>TYPE OF DONATION</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Teddy Gunther Memorial Scholarship	Monetary	Weight Room/Sound System and Branding	\$5,000.00

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F15. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the contract with AX9 Security, Inc. to provide security services to Our Lady of Mercy Academy for the 2024/2025 school year. The contract will be funded through nonpublic security aid totaling \$27,265.00.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F16. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Atlantic Health to provide athletic training services for the 2025 – 2026 school year at an hourly rate of \$75.00 an hour.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

F17. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the attached Corrective Action Plan for SEMI.
"F17"

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

FINANCE DISCUSSION

A. 2025-2026 Budget discussion

(See Committee reports)

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS 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:

BG1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Use of the Building Facilities Application by TGA Athletics, for use of East Brook Multipurpose room, as per Board Policy #7510 "Use of School Facilities," Wednesday s from 3/26/2025 – 6/4/2025, as listed on the attached. **"BG1"**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

BG2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Use of the Building Facilities Application by Park Ridge Girl Scouts, for use of West Ridge room #20, as per Board Policy #7510 "Use of School Facilities," Mondays from 3/21/2025 – 5/12/2025, as listed on the attached. **"BG2"**

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

PERSONNEL 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:

- P1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of the following substitutes for the 2024/25 school year:

Teachers

None

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointments/rescinds/resignation of the following in the area listed, for the 2024/25 school year, or as indicated:

SCHEDULE "E" APPOINTMENTS 2024/25 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Dow, Christine	Costume/Props Coord Spring Musical	\$985.00
Dow, Christine	Musical Director – Acting	\$5,086.00
Dow, Christine	Set Construction Musical	\$1,917.00
Maskin, Sarah Kate	Crochet Club Advisor	\$500.00

APPOINTMENTS

Allen, William	Frost Valley Overnight Chaperone	1 night @ \$428/night
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M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the reimbursement of anticipated conference/seminar expenses for the following staff member for the 2024/25 school year:

APPROVE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON/LOCATION FOR CONFERENCE/SEMINAR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNTS NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Nieves, Corinne	NJ Pupil Transportation Conf. Atlantic City, NJ	3/26-3/28/25	\$1,100.00

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Dr. Robert Gamper as the school district liaison to law enforcement authorities, to act as the primary contact person between the school district and the law enforcement authorities.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves additional hours for the following staff member for the 2024/25 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sum, Susan	1:1 Paraprofessional for EB Van Saun Park Field Trip	2 hours @ \$22.77 hr.
Sum, Susan	1:1 Paraprofessional for EB 4 th Grade Field Trip	4 hours @ \$22.77 hr.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members for an additional stipend for teaching a 6th period, effective February 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, or sooner:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Loll, Heather	Period 3/4 Science 8 Collaborative	\$4,069.84
Maskin, Sarah-Kate	Period 12/13 Skills for School Success 9/10	\$3,331.04
Schoenkopf, Ann Marie	Period 9/10 LLD Science 9/10	\$4,195.84
Strammiello, Debbie	Period 16/17 Fundamentals Environmental Science	\$4,195.84
Wall, Heather	Period 14/15 Science 8 Collaborative	\$2,632.28

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves student teacher mentorship payments for the 2024/25 school year as per the agreement with Ramapo College as follows:

<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>DUTY</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Dunay, Christine	Mentor	\$200.00
Epstein, Kelly	Clinical Supervisor	\$1,000.00
Hampson Avery, Rachel	Mentor	\$200.00
Kent, Dyana	Clinical Supervisor	\$1,000.00
Manzo, Joseph	Mentor	\$200.00
McCallister, Christy	Mentor	\$200.00

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Kelleen Corrigan as district Behavior Specialist for the 2024-25 school year, on Step 16 of the MA guide, at an annual salary of \$92,306.00, prorated to her start date, pending completion of state mandated paperwork.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB

P9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the resignation of Joshua Lim, Data Systems Analyst leave replacement, effective March 17, 2025.

M: S:
CA RF JP NA RB DB