

PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 15, 2025

Public Started: 6:00 P.M.

Private Started: 6:05 P.M.

Public Started: 7:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 7:17 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL LITTLE THEATER

I. Roll Call

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

Also Present:

R. Gamper R. Wright S. Eveland R. Zeman

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 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: CA S: JB
 TM CA RF JP NA RB DB
 A Y Y Y Y Y Y

Private Session Agenda

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

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

V. Minutes for Approval

Private Meeting	August 25, 2025	Board Approved
Monthly Meeting	August 25, 2025	Board Approved

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

VI. Special Presentations to the Board - None

VII. Hearing of Citizens- None

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.

VIII. Student Representative's Report

Ryan was introduced as the Student Representative. He did not have anything to report at this time.

IX. President's Report

Mr. Bradler thanked the school custodial staff for getting the buildings ready and the teachers and administration for a strong start to the school year. He stated that their dedication is setting a tone for success. He wished the athletes good luck. He then congratulated Dr. Gamper on his retirement. He commented that the school district was better and stronger because of him.

X. Superintendent's Report

HIB Update

Dr. Gamper reported that since their last meeting, there was one HIB at West Ridge which was founded. There were none at the other schools.

Dr. Gamper commented that it was a great opening to the school year. The teachers and administration did a great job welcoming students back. He then mentioned that the back-to-school nights at East Brook and West Ridge were well attended, and he was looking forward to the High School and Middle School back to school nights later in the month.

Dr. Gamper then gave an update on the Litter Theater renovation. He reported that there was a meeting with the architects where they provided several different options which varied in scope and price. He is hopeful that the district will begin working on one of these options by the end of the school year.

Dr. Gamper stated that it was an honor to serve as superintendent over the past several years. He commented that he has been in education for 34 years. The last 16 at Park Ridge were the highlight of his career. He noted that it is unusual for a Superintendent to serve in one district for that long. He thanked the Board of Education both past and present for their support. He has had a great run and is proud of what has been accomplished in his time. His notice is meant to give the Board plenty of time so that the Board and community could conduct a proper search. In conclusion, he stated that Park Ridge will always hold a special place in his heart.

XI. BOE Committee Reports

The Buildings and Grounds committee met with the West Ridge PTO and the district architects. The Board of education agreed to participate financially in the playground project. The Architect will review their plans for compliance with state standards. The Board agreed to implement a temporary fix for the bleachers by replacing the damaged section. The West Ridge classroom floors were evaluated and deemed to be safe. Additional investigative work still needs to be done in order to determine how best to repair the damage. The cul de sac behind West Ridge has been paved. The district passed the impact test on the artificial turf. The Board discussed replacing school roofs and security upgrades.

The Education / Technology committee met and discussed personnel appointments. They also discussed class sizes at East Brook and West Ridge. They discussed the current construction at the Sony property. They are concerned about the impact the construction will have on the schools. The committee discussed the new state assessment testing recently introduced. Park Ridge is doing a field test in an effort to prepare for it. The Board conducted interviews for the Elementary Education position. They have identified a strong candidate being recommended for appointment tonight. They also discussed changes to next summer's extended music lessons. They mentioned that teacher contract negotiations will start soon.

XII. Supplemental Agenda

Supplemental resolutions, if any, will be available the night of the meeting.

Mr. Wright read the Supplemental agenda appointing Ms. Conforti to the Supervisor of Elementary Education position. The motion was added to the Personnel section of the consent agenda.

XIII. Consent Agenda

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

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

XIV. Board Comments – New/Unfinished Business - None

XV. Hearing of Citizens

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.

Ms. Svensson introduced herself as the President of the West Ridge PTO. She thanked the Board for their participation in the Playground project. She stated that the reason for the project was that there were over 100 students who need appropriate playground equipment to use. She thanked the Board for their understanding.

Mr. Hechme inquired about doing a fundraiser for school security. He felt there was a need to get parents involved and improve the security in the district. Can there be parent interaction on fund raising. The Board suggested that he email Mr. Wright for more information, and the Education committee would review the request.

The Board discussed changing the October meeting since it conflicted with School Boards. After reviewing, the Board meeting date was changed to October 14th at 6:30 pm.

XVI. Adjournment – 7:17 pm

M: RF S: CA
 TM CA RF JP NA RB DB
 A Y Y 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 opening of schools with (0) Out of school suspensions, (0) In School suspension, and no truanacies.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the tuition for the following students for the 2025/26 school year:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
1223-050	Windsor Prep Paramus, NJ	9/2/25 – 6/30/26	\$59,842.83
1711A-050	Windsor Prep Paramus, NJ	9/2/25 – 6/30/26	\$59,842.83

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E3. The Park Ridge Board of Education has reviewed and approves the District's Substance Abuse Program and its implementation for the 2025/26 school year. A copy is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the community-based instruction trips, as part of our Pathways to Success Life and Social Skills curriculum, throughout the 2025-26 school year.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following students for IEP mandated services for the 2025-26 school year, through Northern Valley as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>SESSIONS</u>	<u>RATE</u>
2311-070	OT	2 sessions per week	\$62.00/session
2311-070	PT	1 session per week	\$62.00/session

2511-070	OT Consult	1 session per month	\$62.00/session
1330-060	OT	2 sessions per week	\$62.00/session
820 (e)-050	OT	1 session per week	\$62.00/session

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following student on home instruction, as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
2526-050	6/9/2025 – 8/20/2025	8 hours	American Lit

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Above and Beyond Learning Group to provide IEP mandated services for the 2025-26 school year, as indicated below, as revised:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>SESSION RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
1832-070	Paraprofessional Support	\$45.00/hr.	\$53,000.00

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- E8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following students for IEP mandated services for the 2025-26 school year, through the River Edge School District as indicated below, subject to revision not to exceed \$15,540.00:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>SESSIONS</u>	<u>RATE</u>
918-070	OT	2 sessions per week	\$52.50/session
918-070	Speech Therapy	1 session per week	\$52.50/session
823(e)-070	OT	2 sessions per week	\$52.50/session
823(e)-070	PT	1 session per week	\$52.50/session
823(e)-070	Speech Therapy	1 session per week	\$52.50/session

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

EDUCATION DISCUSSION

- A. The Board reviewed the Graduation Pathways Profile report as reported to NJ SMART for the four-year cohort of 2025.

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 (e), certifies that the Board Secretary's August 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:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

F2. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the Cafeteria Report for the month of __N/A__ 2025.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

F3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Check Journal (List of Bills) containing Check #052476-052743 in the total amount of \$1,969,690.54 and 908255-909254 (\$624,014.07), and EFTs using ACH technology #L60345-L60346 in the amount of \$6,000.33. ***“F3”***

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

F4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the payment of Athletic Vouchers #014323-014330 in the total amount of \$5,820.00. ***“F4”***

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

F5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Varsity Athletic Club Vouchers #1129 in the total amount of \$3,679.99. ***“F5”***

M: S:
TM 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:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the August 2025 "Report of the Secretary to the Board of Education" and the "Report of the Treasurer" to the Board of Education. **"F7"**

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following 2025/26 General Fund Transfers for the month of August 2025 in the amount indicated per Appendix A. **"F8"**

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves participation in a Title III Consortium with the Hoboken School District in the amount of \$3,658.00 for the 2025/26 school year.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F10. WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Camden County Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024 the governing body of the Park Ridge Board of Education County of Bergen, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Park Ridge Board of Education

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- F11. WHEREAS, excess funds existed in the Payroll Agency bank account and the funds have been identified as not being needed in the following classifications: Miscellaneous and Prudential;

IT IS THEREFORE determined that the total excess funds of \$2,779.97 will be transferred from the Payroll Agency bank account to the Operating bank account.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

F12. WHEREAS, excess funds existed in the Wrestling and Lacrosse Enterprise funds and the funds have been identified as not being needed:

IT IS THEREFORE determined that the total excess funds of \$792.50 will be transferred from the Wrestling and Lacrosse funds to the General Fund and the Wrestling and Lacrosse funds will be cancelled.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

F13. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the policy for the Home Depot store card maintained at the board office. ***"F13"***

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

BUILDINGS & 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 following payments to LAN Architects for the following projects: ***"BG1"***

<u>PROJECT NO.</u>	<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
20529.04	Footbridge Evaluation	\$257.00
20529.05	PRHS Auditorium Renovation Study	\$4,517.50

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

BG2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Use of the Building Facilities Application by the Park Ridge Girl Scouts, for use of West Ridge Room #2 on various Thursdays from 10/9/25 - 6/4/26, as per Board Policy #7510 "Use of School Facilities," as attached. ***"BG2"***

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

BG3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Use of the Building Facilities Application by the Park Ridge Girl Scouts, for use of West Ridge Room #10 on various Tuesdays from 9/30/25 – 6/16/26, as per Board Policy #7510 "Use of School Facilities," as attached. ***"BG3"***

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

BG4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Use of the Building Facilities Application by the Bible Study Club, for use of East Brook Room A4/6 on Thursdays from 9/18/25 – 6/11/26, as per Board Policy #7510 "Use of School Facilities," as attached. ***"B4"***

M: S:
TM 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 substitute for the 2025/26 school year:

SUBSTITUTE NURSE

Acevedo, Annalise*

M: S:

TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

**pending completion of state mandated paperwork*

- P2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves and acknowledges the appointments of the following, as indicated in the areas and amounts listed, for the 2025/26 school year or as indicated:

SCHEDULE "E" APPOINTMENTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Brody, Morgan	Soccer Girls Asst. Coach (Step 1)	\$5,745.00
O'Connor, Shannon	EB Co-Test Coordinator	\$1,329.50
Ostrowski, Jennifer	EB Co-Test Coordinator	\$1,329.50

SCHEDULE "E" RESCINDS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Brody, Morgan	Co- Soccer Girls Asst. Coach	\$2,872.50
Jaffe, Molly	Co-Soccer Girls Asst. Coach	\$3,116.00
Jaffe, Molly	Track Asst. Winter Coach	\$5,595.00
Twomey, Monica	EB Test Coordinator	\$2,659.00

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2025/26 YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Gray, Matthew	Volunteer Athletic Asst.	N/A
Grzybek, Kevin	Summer Music Instructor	\$5,116.00
Rosado, Gladys	Substitute Bus Aide	\$29.86/hr.
Weissman, Alyssa	Volunteer MS Volleyball Coach	N/A

M: S:

TM 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 members for the 2025/26 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON/LOCATION FOR CONFERENCE/SEMINAR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT(S) NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Allen, Nicole	NVCC	1/16/2026	\$230.00

	Demarest, NJ		
Avery, Rachel	NVCC Demarest, NJ New York, NY	3/24/2026 4/22/2026	\$550.00
Boenigk, Annette	NVCC Demarest, NJ	10/29/2025	\$230.00
Boenigk, Annette	NVCC Demarest, NJ	3/17/2026	\$230.00
Boenigk, Annette	NVCC Demarest, NJ	2/10/202	\$230.00
Borsinger, Jessie	NVCC Demarest, NJ	11/19/2025	\$230.00
Borsinger, Jessie	NVCC Demarest, NJ	1/16/2026	\$230.00
Kovacs, Charles	NVCC Demarest, NJ	10/1/2025	\$230.00
Kovacs, Charles	NVCC Demarest, NJ	12/12/2025	\$230.00
Sheehy, Jacqueline	NVCC Demarest, NJ	12/3/2025	\$230.00
Wall, Heather	NVCC Demarest, NJ	10/14/2025	\$230.00
Wall, Heather	NVCC Demarest, NJ	11/25/2025	\$230.00
Walsh, Brigitte	NVCC Demarest, NJ	11/19/2025	\$230.00
Walsh, Brigitte	NVCC Demarest, NJ	12/3/2025	\$230.00

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves additional hours for the following staff member for the summer 2025/26:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Loll, Heather	As per contract	2 hours	Summer IEP meetings

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves additional hours for the following staff members for the 2025/26 year:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Perry, Jennifer	As per contract	15 minutes per day	Bus Monitor
Tracy, Heather	As per contract	15 minutes per day	Bus Monitor

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Stacy Casatelli as the District Title IX Coordinator, for the 2025-26 school year.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff member as home instructor for Student 2526-050, from June 6, 2025, to August 20, 2025:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECT TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Christine Dow	American Lit	8	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Elda Alvarez as school bus driver for the 2025/26 school year.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the updated placement on the salary guide for Jacqueline Sheehy as High School Special Education teacher for the 2025-26 school year, on Step 3-4 of the MA + 30 Guide, at an annual salary of \$71,337.00.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the updated Substitute Teacher and Nurse Rosters for the 2025-26 school year. ***"P10"***

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P11. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the resignation of Dr. Robert Gamper, Superintendent, due to retirement, effective July 1, 2026.

M: S:
TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

- P12. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following after school Enrichment programs which will run from September – December 2025:

<u>School</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Fee</u>
East Brook	Dungeons & Dragons	Mr. Gzrybek / Ms. Borgensen	\$200
East Brook	Intro to Kid Friendly Websites	Ms. Omland	\$190
East Brook	Sports Club	Mr. Annese	\$190
East Brook	Arts & Crafts	Ms. Houston	\$200
East Brook	Fun with Storytime Character Friends	Ms. Omland	\$200
East Brook	Basic Cooking Skills Class	Ms. Moffit	\$200
East Brook	Nature Makers Club	Ms. Sgambati	\$200
West Ridge	Calligraphy & Crafts	Ms. Almedia	\$205
West Ridge	Storytime	Ms. Brickman and Ms. Mellish	\$200
West Ridge	Science Club	Ms. Hemmer	\$195
West Ridge	Jazz Dance	Ms. Hong	\$200
West Ridge	Books and Bites	Ms. Velazquez	\$200
West Ridge	Dungeons & Dragons	Mr. Gzrybek	\$200
West Ridge	Nature Makers Club	Ms. Sgambati	\$200

M: S:

TM CA RF JP NA RB DB

P13. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Lisa Conforti as the 12-month Supervisor of
(S1.) Elementary Education at an annual salary of \$145,000 (pro-rated), effective September 16, 2025.

M: S:

TM CA RF JP NA RB DB