

PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Date: December 15, 2025

Public Started: 7:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 8:15 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL LITTLE THEATER**I. Roll Call**

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

Amara Wagner was sworn in as a Board Member with a term to expire in the year 2026.

IV. Adjournment to Private Session – Not Applicable**V. Minutes for Approval**

Private Meeting	November 17, 2025	Board Approved
Monthly Meeting	November 17, 2025	Board Approved

M: RB	S: NA
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB	
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VI. Special Presentations to the Board

A. Auditor's Report – Jeffrey Bliss of Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP

Mr. Bliss gave a presentation on the annual audit. He stated that the major goal of the audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements and Federal and State grants. He remarked that the Financial Statements were fairly stated with no scope limitations and that there was sufficient documentation to support them. Additionally, the district complied in all material respects to Federal and State grants. The opinion given was unmodified. He noted that an unmodified opinion was a must. Anything less would mean there were issues. The firm also issues a report on internal controls. There were no material findings or significant deficiencies. Overall, Mr. Bliss commented the records are in excellent condition.

He directed the Board to Exhibit C-1 in the audit. He commented that this exhibit showed the district Revenues and Expenditures with comparison of Actual vs. Budget. He then turned to the summary of Fund Balances. Overall, he explained that Fund Balance went down one million dollars. He noted that this reduction was planned. He stated that money was used to fund the locker room renovation which was paid for by the Capital Reserve account. That account has 2.7 million left which is not earmarked for other projects. There is 1.3 million being used in the 25-26 budget. This money is to be spent on bridge repairs and HVAC projects. If the money is not spent on those projects, it will go back to the Capital Reserve account. He pointed out that these funds cannot be used for General Fund expenses. They can only be used for Capital projects. In June, the Board can transfer money into that account. Mr. Bliss then reviewed the remaining reserves that make up the Fund Balance. He explained that there is a maintenance reserve of 700K. These funds are used to repair and keep assets in working condition. The maximum this reserve can be is 706K. There is also Emergency reserve of 240K which is only used as a last resort. It can be appropriated when doing the budget but any other time, it would need the county's approval to use. Mr. Bliss explained that the district is only allowed to keep a 2% balance in unassigned Fund Balance. Any excess needs to be appropriated in a subsequent year budget as a revenue. The district had an excess of \$886K which compares to \$856K from the previous year. He explained that the reserve for encumbrances represented goods and services that were ordered but not received. They are rolled over into the current year budget and liquidated as the items are received. He pointed out that the Board does have funds from an extraordinary aid grant of \$509K which it can appropriate and use as it wishes during the 2025-26 year. He ended his report by stating that the district was in very good financial shape and that the Business Office does a great job. He added that the Health Benefit increase of 30% will present a challenge to Boards in the next year.

Mr. Bliss then reviewed the Management report. He stated that there were no recommendations, no findings and no corrective action was necessary. He did note that they had two management suggestions. They recommended updating the Comprehensive maintenance plan. Doing this could increase the amount allowed in the maintenance reserve. He also would like to see all Cooperative purchases be accompanied by a price list from the vendor. He concluded by saying it was a great report and the district had a stable fund balance.

Mr. Bliss was asked if having no recommendations was common. He indicated that it was rare and not the norm. He was asked if the 509K extraordinary aid money would expire by June 30th? He responded that it would be cycled back into Fund Balance and not available for use.

The Board President and Dr. Gamper thanked Mr. Wright for another exceptional audit. Dr. Gamper stated that he never had to worry about finances.

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

Mr. Zeman reported that the council is working on plans for event days. He also reported on the Jr./Sr. Prom. He stated that it would be in the same location as last year. The theme this year is "Under the Stars."

IX. President's Report

Mr. Bradler congratulated the student athletes. He also congratulated Jamie DeBenedictus for being named the PRHS service professional of the year. He then congratulated Ms. Ostrow from East Brook and Ms. O'Brien from West Ridge and Mr. Fogarty from the High School for being named "Teacher of the Year." He also praised the musical programs indicating that he attended three vocal and one band concert and they were excellent. He also reported that they are having a Superintendent search meeting on January 17th.

X. Superintendent's Report

HIB Update

Dr. Gamper reported that there was one HIB at West Ridge since the last meeting.

Dr. Gamper reported that the Theater renovations are moving forward and the district will be going out to bid after the new year. Construction is scheduled to start after school gets out in June. He also congratulated the teachers/service professionals of the year saying he attended two events that they were honored at. He concluded by wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

XI. BOE Committee Reports

Finance / Buildings and Grounds – Discussed school security and camera upgrades. The quotes came in a little high. They are looking at different vendors and trying to narrow the wish list. They also discussed the need to replace the turf blanket on the football field and resurface the track. The total project is estimated at 1.2 million. They also discussed adding a Handicap parking space at the tennis courts.

Negotiations – Reported that they met with the PREA.

XII. Supplemental Agenda - None

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

XIII. Consent Agenda

The Board asked to table motion P9

Ms. Wagner asked about item P7, which was a list of stipends paid to staff for teacher mentoring. Mr. Wright explained that the Board will be reimbursed for these costs.

The revised Consent agenda was voted on and based as follows:

M: CA S: NA
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB
Y Y Y A Y Y Y

XIV. Board Comments – New/Unfinished Business

Mr. Bradler welcomed Ms. Wagner back to the Board. He was grateful she decided to come back as a volunteer.

Ms. Browne thanked Mr. Pierotti and Dr. Monahan for their time on the Board and their input.

XV. 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.

XVI. Adjournment – 8:15 pm

M: NA S: RB
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB
Y Y Y A 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 November with (4) out of school suspensions, (1) in school suspension and no truanancies reported.

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- E2. 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>SUBJECTS</u>
2526 - 050	12/1/25 – 1/30/26	24 hours	Anatomy & Physiology
2526 - 050	12/12/25 – 1/30/26	13 hours	Pre-Calculus
2526 - 050	12/12/25 – 1/30/26	13 hours	US History II
2526 - 050	12/12/25 – 1/30/26	13 hours	Sociology
2526 - 050	12/12/25 – 1/30/26	13 hours	Themes of World Lit I
2526 - 050	12/8/25 – 1/30/26	5 hours	Physical Education

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- E3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the creation of the following Schedule E stipend club EmpowHerment Club, for the 2025/26 school year as follows:

- Trial Advisor position \$500.00

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- E4. 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>
1832 - 070	Sage Day Mahwah, NJ	12/1/25 - 6/30/26	\$54,598.75

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AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

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- E5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following students for IEP mandated services for the 2025-26 school year, provided by Bergen County Special Services as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>SESSIONS</u>	<u>RATE</u>
2025(c)-050	OT	1 (30 min) session per week	\$70 (30 min session) x 40 hrs.
2025(c)-050	Speech	2 (30 min) sessions per week	\$70 (30 min session) x 80 hrs.
1012 – 060	PT	1 (30 min) session per week	\$70 (30 min session) x 32 hrs.

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

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 I, certifies that the Board Secretary's November 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:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

F2. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the Cafeteria Report for the month of October 2025. **"F2"**

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

F3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Check Journal (List of Bills) containing Check # 052683 - 053181 in the total amount of \$2,684,104.46 and 911253 - 912252 (\$666,302.79), and EFTs using ACH technology #L60750 – L60912 in the amount of \$64,344.84. **"F3"**

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

F4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the payment of Athletic Vouchers #14358 – 14367 and #9000007 in the total amount of \$11,369.75. **"F4"**

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

F5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Varsity Athletic Club Voucher #1131 in the total amount of \$210.00. **"F5"**

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

F6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Unemployment Compensation Voucher #1022 in the total amount of \$2,075.78. **"F6"**

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

MO 121525

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

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

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

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB
F1.-F8– Backup attached if applicable.

F9. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the following donation for the 25/26 school year:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>TYPE OF DONATION</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Kerry Russo	Musical Instruments	East Brook School	Approx. \$375.00

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

F10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves contracts with Holy Name Hospital Occupational Health Services and Teen T.H.R.I.V.E. Program to provide student substance abuse testing as needed.

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

F11. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the 2024/25 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

BUILDING 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 following payments to LAN Architects for the following project: ***"BG1"***

<u>PROJECT NO.</u>	<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
20529.02	WR Unit Ventilator Replacement	\$270.00
20529.03	EB Unit Ventilator Replacement	\$405.00
20529.05	HS Little Theater Renovation Study	\$1,042.50

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

POLICY 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:

PO1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following Policies and Regulations for first read on December 15, 2025: **"PO1"**

Policy 1140	Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action
Policy 1523	Comprehensive Equity Plan
Policy 1530	Equal Employment Opportunities
Regulation 1530	Equal Employment Opportunities
Policy 1550	Equal Employment/ Anti-Discrimination Practices
Regulation 2200	Curriculum Content
Policy 2260	Equity in School and Classroom Practices
Regulation 2260	Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedure
Policy 2411	Guidance Counseling
Policy 2423	Bilingual Education
Regulation 2423	Bilingual Education
Policy 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries
Regulation 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries
Policy 5750	Equitable Educational Opportunity

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

PO2. The Park Ridge Board of Education reviews the following Abolished Policy for first reading and approval on December 15, 2025: **"PO2"**

Policy 5755	Equity in Educational Programs and Services
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M: S:
AW TM CA 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 2025/26 school year:

Custodians

Serna, Ruben*

Van Poznak, Theodore*

M: S:

AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

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

SCHEDULE "E" RESCINDS 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND/RATE</u>
Allen, Bill	Softball Assistant	\$6,232.00
Buscareno, Maureen	Musical Ass't Director	\$1,819.00
Centurione, Danielle	Spring Asst. Track Coach	\$6,204.00
Kelly, Sean	Baseball Assistant	\$6,232.00
Meisner, Brian	Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach	\$6,232.00
Wall, Heather	Head Coach Spring Track	\$11,290.00

SCHEDULE "E" APPOINTMENTS 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND/RATE</u>
Alepa, Chris	Spring Assistant Track Coach	\$5,717.00
Centurione, Danielle	Head Coach Spring Track	\$11,290.00
Cipolla, Kyle	Baseball Assistant Coach	\$5,745.00
Jarvis, Cole	Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach	\$5,745.00
Laurenzo, Chris	Girls Basketball Volunteer Coach	N/A
Ryan, Mike	Baseball Assistant Coach	\$6,232.00
Ostrow, Luke	Musical Ass't Director	\$1,819.00
Sansone, Alyssa	Girls Basketball Volunteer Coach	N/A

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/SERVICE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>RATE/SALARY</u>
Haggerty, Linda	Paraprofessional Transfer from EB to HS	12/1/2025	N/A
Mones, Araceli	Paraprofessional Transfer from HS to WR	12/1/2025	N/A

RESCINDS FOR 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/SERVICE</u>	<u>RATE/SALARY</u>
Jaffe, Molly	Home Instructor (Student 2526-050) 11/11/25 – 12/12/25	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:

AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

MO 121525

- 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 NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Brako Bismarck, Mimi	Institute for Educational Development (Virtual)	2/5/2026	\$295.00
Brown, Chris	DAANJ Convention Atlantic City, NJ	3/9 – 3/13/26	\$800.00
Fliesser, Emily	NJASPERD Princeton, NJ	2/23/2026	\$500.00
Misciagna, Desiree	NJTESOL Virtual	6/26/2026	\$350.00
Moffit, Francoise	NVCC Demarest, NJ	3/30/2026	\$230.00
Moffit, Francoise	NVCC Demarest, NJ	2/10/2026	\$230.00
Potkulski, Alexis	NVCC Demarest, NJ	3/26/2026	\$230.00

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- P4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff member for a professional development workshop on December 1, 2025, as indicated below: (prep and presentation @ \$86.00/hr.):

<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>HOURS PRESENTING</u>	<u>HOURS PLANNING</u>
Harrington, Megan	Present Levels of Academic Achievement & Functional Performance	1	2

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- P5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following substitute paraprofessional for additional hours as follows:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>NOT TO EXCEED</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Reiff, Peter	Student support for HS Winter Concert	4 hrs.	\$17.00/hr.

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- P6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff member as home instructor for Student 2526-050, December 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Kane, Tara	Anatomy & Physiology	24	\$65.00/hr.

MO 121525

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- P7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members as district liaison for the student teacher mentorship program. Payments for the 2025/26 school year as per the agreement with Ramapo College are as follows:

<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>DUTY</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Brown, Chris	Clinical Supervisor	\$1,500.00
Casatelli, Stacy	Clinical Supervisor	\$1,500.00
Conforti, Lisa	Clinical Supervisor	\$4,500.00
Conforti, Lisa	District Liaison	\$1,500.00
Dennis, Ryan	Mentor	\$400.00
Diomedes, John	Mentor	\$400.00
Epstein, Kelly	Clinical Supervisor	\$1,500.00
Gagliano, April	Mentor	\$400.00
Gavzy, Meredith	Mentor	\$400.00
Houston, Pam	Mentor	\$400.00
Kent, Dyana	Clinical Supervisor	\$3,000.00
Kovacs, Chuck	Mentor	\$200.00 (shared)
Mazzacca, Joseph	Mentor	\$400.00
McCallister, Christy	Mentor	\$400.00
McClair, Patricia	Mentor	\$200.00 (shared)
O'Brien, Erin	Mentor	\$400.00
Papadopoulos, Maria	Clinical Supervisor	\$1,500.00
Powers, Jillian	Mentor	\$400.00
Yates, Karen	Clinical Supervisor	\$1,500.00

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

- P8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members as home instructors for Student 2526-050, December 13, 2025 – January 31, 2026:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>APPROX. HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Albano, Kassie	US History II	13	\$65.00/hr.
Fernley, Mellanie	Pre-Calculus	13	\$65.00/hr.
Kovacs, Chuck	Themes of World Lit I	13	\$65.00/hr.
Schwartz, Tomasina	Sociology	13	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

TABLED

- P9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Park Ridge Education Association (PREA) for the 2026-2031 school years, on file in the Superintendent's Office. **"P9"**

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB

MO 121525

P10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff member as home instructor for Student 2526-050, December 8, 2025 – January 31, 2026:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Centurione, Danielle	Physical Education	5 hours	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:
AW TM CA JP NA RB DB