

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

Date: March 2, 2026

Private Started: 6:00 P.M.

Public Started: 7:00 P.M.

Public Ended: 7:13 P.M.

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

A.Wagner	R. Malloy	N. Agoos	C. Amitrano	M. Rozzi	R. Browne	D. Bradler
X	A	X	A	A	X	X

Also Present:

R. Gamper R. Wright S. Eveland

II. 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 February 26, 2026 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on February 26, 2026 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 February 26, 2026 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.

III. 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 6:00 pm.

M: AW S: NA

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

Y A Y A A Y Y

Private Session Agenda

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

M: AW S: NA
 AW RM NA CA MR RB DB
 Y A Y A A Y Y

IV. Pledge of Allegiance – was led by Board President, David Bradler.
V. Minutes for Approval

Reorganization Meeting	January 5, 2026	Board Approved
Private Session Meeting	January 29, 2026	Board Approved
Monthly Meeting	January 29, 2026	Board Approved

M: RM S: RB
 AW RM NA CA MR RB DB
 Y Y Y A A Y Y

VI. Special Presentations to the Board - None
VII. Hearing of Citizens- None

Agenda Items Only

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 -None
IX. President's Report

Mr. Bradler spoke how proud he was of the Boys' basketball season and how they were 18-8 on the season. He also mentioned that the Bowling team was having a good season. He spoke about the Wrestling team winning the State sectional title for the 12th time with the last wrestler scoring a pin. He concluded by mentioning the International dinner and Awards dinner would be happening soon.

X. Superintendent's Report

 **HIB Update**

Dr. Gamper mentioned that there was one HIB investigation at the High School which was founded but none at the Elementary schools.

Dr. Gamper then mentioned that the Theater renovations are progressing with bids expected to go out in either March or April. He also wished all the Winter sports the best of luck. He then spoke about the snow days that have been used and thanked teachers for their patience.

XI. BOE Committee Reports

Ms. Wagner reported that the Finance committee met twice and spent a lot of time reviewing the budget. They discussed the different types of expenses, those that were within their control and those that were not. Of the items with the Board's control, the increase was about 3 %. Health care costs, which represented the largest increase, were out of the Board's control. The district tried to find cheaper options, but no other vendors were interested. The Board is currently anticipating a need for a \$43 million budget but are waiting on the State aid numbers.

The Education committee met and discussed AP courses. Of interest was the AP Business and Cyber security classes. They reviewed the new college placement textbooks for science and discussed the implementation for the cursive writing mandate. They also reviewed extending the grammar and phonics program to more grades.

The Policy committee met and reviewed their policy on Visa students. They also discussed the new law on student cell phone usage. The Board still has not received formal guidance on how this will be implemented but will amend the district policy as necessary.

XII. Supplemental Agenda

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

XIII. Consent Agenda

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

M: NA S: RB

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

Y Y Y A A Y Y

XIV. Board Comments – New/Unfinished Business

Mr. Bradler gave an update on the Superintendent search. He mentioned that School Boards has compiled a list of candidates for the Board to review. Interviews will be starting on March 22nd. He commented that while they are near the finish line, there is still lot of work left.

Ms. Agoos commented that they received a very strong pool of candidates.

XV. Hearing of Citizens -None

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.

XVI. Adjournment – 7:13 pm

M: RM S: RB

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

Y Y Y A A 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 1 (one) out of school suspension, 1 (one) in school suspension, and no truanancies to report.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E2. The Park Ridge Board of Education reviews and approves the submission of the January 2026 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, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E3. 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	1/30/26 – 2/13/26	5 hours	Pre Calculus

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the revised tuition for the following student for the 2025/26 school year:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
1030(a)	Fusion Academy Englewood, NJ	7/1/25 - 6/30/26	\$85,025.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following student on home instruction, as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>REVISED DATES</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECTS</u>
2526 - 050	12/1/25 – 3/1/26	24 hours	Anatomy & Physiology

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the list of field trips for the EXTRAS Summer 2026 Program, as attached. **“E6”**

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E7. 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. **“E7”**

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the adoption of the following basic textbooks for the 2026/2027 school year:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>COPYRIGHT</u>
Biology	Biology	Miller & Levine	\$6,180.00	2019
Chemistry Honors	Introductory Chemistry, 7 th Edition	Nivaldo J. Tro	\$2,128.25	2023

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following new course High School Courses of Study for the school years cited:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>GRADE LEVELS</u>	<u>SCHOOL YEAR</u>
Guitar II	9-12	2026/27
Advanced Placement Business with Personal Finance	10, 11, 12	2027/28
AP Cybersecurity	10-12	2027/28

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR 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 €, certifies that the Board Secretary's January 2026 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 RM NA CA MR RB DB

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

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Check Journal (List of Bills) containing Check #052558-0053384 in the total amount of \$2,830,736.16 and 901264-902264 (\$817,311.96), and EFTs using ACH technology #L61120-L61121 in the amount of \$21,712.88. **"F3"**

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the payment of Athletic Vouchers #014383 - 014396 and #900011 in the total amount of \$13,693.00. **"F4"**

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Varsity Athletic Club Vouchers #1134 - #1135 in the total amount of \$443.50. **"F5"**

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Unemployment Compensation Vouchers #1024 in the total amount of \$12,471.48. **"F6"**

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the January 2026 “Report of the Secretary” and the “Report of the Treasurer” to the Board of Education. **“F7”**

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following 2025/26 General Fund Transfers for the month of January 2026 in the amount indicated per Appendix A. **“F8”**

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- 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 2025-26 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:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following tuition rates for the 2026/27 school year:

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

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F11. 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 prebudget year 2025-2026 as \$50,000.00; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has expended \$8,340.90 of the maximum amount for the prebudget 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 2024-2025 was -0-; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that the total amount of travel expenditures supported by federal funds for the school year 2025-2026 is \$-0-,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Park Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2026-2027 school year as \$50,000.00.

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F12. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following tuition and transportation contracts, in which the Park Ridge Board of Education is the receiving school district, for the period February 2, 2026 - June 30, 2026:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
228(a) - 070	Rivervale Board of Education	Tuition and Speech	\$5,000.00

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F13. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Joint Transportation Agreement with Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education, for twelve (12) students attending the Bergen County Academies in Hackensack, for the 2025/26 school year, at an estimated amount of \$17,000.00.

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F14. 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 \$77.50 an hour.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F15. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the following donations for the 25/26 school year:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>TYPE OF DONATION</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
East Brook PTO	Monetary	East Brook Student Activity Account	\$988.38
Therese Cresanti	Monetary	The Marie L. lafrate Scholarship	\$2,000.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F16. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following revised amount to be charged to 2025/26 ESEA Grants as follows:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEXCEED</u>
Jennifer Ostrowski	Basic Skills Teacher	Title I-A	\$40,507.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F17. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the contract with Bergen County Special Services to provide Title IV services to Our Lady of Mercy Academy not to exceed \$1,060.00. This contract is funded through the 2025/2026 ESEA grant.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

FINANCE DISCUSSION

A. 2026-2027 Budget discussion

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:

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 Policy for first read and on March 2, 2026: ***"PO1"***

Policy 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Pupils

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR 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:

Teachers

None

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

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

SCHEDULE "E" APPOINTMENTS 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Buscareno, Maureen	Musical Director – Acting	\$5,263.00
Epstein, Kelly	Psychology Club Advisor	\$500.00

SCHEDULE "E" RESCINDS 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Dow, Christine	Musical Director – Acting	\$5,263.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR 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:

APPROVE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON/LOCATION FOR CONFERENCE/SEMINAR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNTS NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Centurione, Danielle	Lifesavers, Inc. Fairfield, NJ	3/20/2026	\$400.00
DeSimone, Joanne	Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Virtual	3/9- 3/13/2026	\$1,500.00
Nieves, Corinne	DTS of NJ Atlantic City, NJ	3/25 – 3/27/2026	\$1,100.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR 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:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff member as home instructor for Student 2526-050, January 30, 2026 – February 13, 2026:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>APPROX. HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Koch, Keri	Algebra	5	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff member as home instructor for Student 2526-050, for the *revised* dates of December 1, 2025 – February 27, 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.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves a Leave-of-Absence for Alyssa Velazquez, West Ridge Elementary Teacher as follows:

- A Disability Leave-of-Absence from April 20, 2026 through May 8, 2026 with pay and with benefits.
- A Federal Family Leave from May 11, 2026 through June 12, 2026 without pay but with benefits.
- A New Jersey State Family Leave-of-Absence effective June 15, 2026 through November 6, 2026 without pay but with benefits.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P8. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the resignation of Kaitlyn Jacobus, East Brook Elementary School Teacher, effective July 1, 2026.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves payment for staff for creating/teaching an after-school enrichment program for the 2025-26 school year. Payment is set at an amount not to exceed \$125/session per class.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members for an additional stipend for teaching a 6th period, effective February 23, 2026, through April 17, 2026 or sooner:

STAFF MEMBER	ASSIGNMENT	STIPEND
Avery, Rachel	Period 9/10 Financial Literacy	Per Contract
Kopelman, Steve*	Period 16/17 Principles of Business	Per Contract
Meisner, Brian	Period 14/15 Accounting 1A/1B	Per Contract
Strammiello, Debbie	Period 12/13 Financial Literacy	Per Contract

*Supervisor

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P11. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves additional hours for the following staff member for the 2025/26 school year:

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	TIME
Sum, Susan	Paraprofessional for LLD Class Community Trip	4 hours @ \$ 24.75/hr.
Sum, Susan	Paraprofessional for LLD Class Life Town Field Trip	4 hours @ \$ 24.75/hr.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB