Park Rapids Area School Board
Working Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 9th, 2026
7:30 AM
Park Rapids School Board Room

Chairperson Safratowich called the Meeting to order. Members present and order to vote was Morgan, Diekmann, Hoyt, Pike, Kocka & Safratowich. Principals Jeff Johnson & Mike LeMeir were present, as were Business Manager Kent Fritze, Superintendent Lance Bagstad along with staff and community members.

RECITED the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVED Agenda and Addendums as presented. Pike/Kocka

HEARD presentation District Finance Summary

HEARD Public Comment School Finance/Adjustments from Stephen Funk, Christine Sauer, Bryan Hirt, Leah Weaver, Gary Gauldin, and Jennifer Morrell

APPROVED Consent Items as follows: Morgan/Diekmann

a. Approve Minutes of the February 23rd, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
b. Approve donations made to the Park Rapids School District
c. Approve Resignation – Alicia Hillesland, JH Volleyball Coach
d. Approve leave of absence for up to 5 years without pay – Aarin Galzki, effective 2026-2027 school year
e. Approve leave of absence for up to 5 years without pay – TJ Erickson, effective 2026-2027 school year
f. Approve New Hire – Eric Hillesland, JH Softball Coach
g. Approve New Hire – Stephanie Hanson, Head Girls Volleyball Coach
h. Approve New Hire – Alicia Hillesland, C Team Girls Volleyball Coach

HEARD New Business:

i. Approve Second Reading Park Rapids Area High School 2026-2027 Panther Tracks Registration Book Morgan/Kocka
j. Approve 2025-2026 Teacher Early Retirement Incentive Memorandum of Agreement Morgan/Diekmann
k. Approve Retirement – Greg Kuehn – With regret and thanks for his combined 32 Year of Service to the Park Rapids School District Kocka/Pike
l. **Approve Retirement – Dawn Penning – With regret and thanks for her 33 Year of Service to the Park Rapids School District – ADDENDUM Diekmann/Morgan**
m. Approve recommendation for budget adjustment for 2026-27 school year.
    i. Finance Summary – Explanation of state and federal funding as well as enrollment dropping and budget adjustments. Looking at right sizing our classes and sections. Showed the phases of adjustments and how that will be effecting our district and community.
    ii. Approve Resolution Non-Renewals
        Ashley Hensel – Morgan/Hoyt All in favor with Diekmann voting no
        Lindsay Johnson – Morgan/Kocka All in favor with Diekmann voting no

Ryan Peterson – Kocka/Morgan All in favor with Diekmann voting no
Kayla Vitti – Morgan/Pike All in favor with Diekmann voting no
Christina Zimmerman – Kocka/Morgan All in favor with Diekmann voting no

iii. Approve Resolution proposing Unrequested Leave of Absence
Chris Kirchner – Kocka/Morgan All in favor with Diekmann voting no
Morgan Hagen – Morgan/Pike All in favor with Diekmann voting no
Jeb Sanford – Morgan/Hoyt All in favor with Diekmann voting no
Lee Skajewski – Morgan/Pike All in favor with Diekmann voting no

DONATIONS Received and Appreciated

TO	FROM	AMOUNT/ITEM
Park Rapids ECFE	Hugo's	5 Dozen Cookies
Park Rapids ECFE	Walmart	$50 Gift Card
Park Rapids School	Arvig	$6,750 School partnership program
Park Rapids ALC	Fargo Olive Garden	Corks

HEARD Monthly Board Committee Reports

ADJOURN at 8:50 Morgan/Kocka