Park Rapids Area School Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday March 23rd, 2026
6:00PM
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 well as Business Manager Kent Fritze and Superintendent Lance Bagstad along with staff and community members.

RECITED the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVED Agenda and Addendums as presented. Morgan/Diekmann

RECOGNIZED State Wrestling Participants

RECOGNIZED State Swimming Participants

RECOGNIZED High School Student of the month for March – Carter Hirt

RECOGNIZED State & National BPA Participants

HEARD Public Comment

a. Budget Adjustments
   Ian Johnson
   Krystal Enger

APPROVED Consent Items as follows: Hoyt/Morgan

a. Approve payments Presented for March 2026
b. Approve Minutes of the March 9th, 2026 Working Board Meeting
c. Approve donations made to the Park Rapids School District
d. Approve Resignation – Jesse Bucholz, Assistant Football Coach
e. Approve New Hire – Randy Thompson, Assistant Football Coach
f. Approve New Hire – Walt Harrison, Head Boys Golf Coach
g. Approve Volunteer – Hunter Harrison, Boys Golf Coach
h. Approve Volunteer – T.J. Raden, Assistant Volleyball Coach
i. Approve Volunteer – Darrin Hoverson, Girls Basketball Coach
j. Approve Out of state travel for BPA students and staff traveling to Nashville, TN May 5th – 10th for participation at Nationals
k. **Approve Volunteer – Shannon Gartner, Girls Golf Coach - ADDENDUM**

HEARD Monthly Student Council Report Recognize cerebral palsy and downs syndrome this week. We will invite the 6th graders over for the staff vs senior's basketball game.

HEARD Monthly Superintendent Report- The governor released his budget publication. Looking for hold harmless for Compensatory which has not shown up. He is pushing a student support and safety mandate. They cut $300 million out of our Special Education Budget. These are big

factors that are affecting our decision making right now. Meeting with Freshwater tomorrow to combine with them for support of our special education students, staff and needs.

HEARD Monthly Business Manager Report- This last week we were told to anticipate a 40% decrease in our title funds. It's hard to plan for what may or may not be there in the coming weeks. We are not alone in this we are just trying to plan for the downfalls for what our state is throwing at us.

HEARD Monthly Principals' Report
Johnson – We have one foot in this year and one foot in next year. We met with all our students last week and told them about their options and how we can get these kids registered for next year. Planning end of the year things and getting those amped up as the year comes to a close.
LeMier – We opened our kindergarten and VPK enrollment earlier this month. We had conferences and that was very successful. Looking at our next staff development day and we will be completing the reading needs. We are looking at class lists and things for next year. We are hoping to meet our students needs and to create some gifted and talented needs as well as some interventions for our 4^{th} – 6^{th} grades.

HEARD Monthly Activities Directors Report – We have amazing participants and we are proud of our students who have made such great accomplishments. We are hoping for a rise in our JH level but the rest of our numbers are right in line with other districts. We have our banquet in May and we have several students that need to be in several places at once.

HEARD Monthly Community Education Report – School Readiness has opened for next year, which is filling up fast. The summer adventure program is ready for registration. The brochure should be out the end of April. Michelle is taking a bus of people to Washington DC.

HEARD Monthly Facilities Director Report- We are switching things around from winter to spring. The fields are looking nice as the weather is cooperating. We cleaned out a bunch of the stuff that was under the pool and that project is almost complete.

HEARD Monthly Director of Curriculum and Instruction Report – Parent teacher conferences for our families. Planning for our next staff development day and curriculum for the reading intervention will be discussed on that day.

HEARD Monthly Transportation Directors Report – We lost a great driver this last week. Gas prices are not helping with our driving but we are trying not to travel as much as with these prices. We are doing well with drivers

HEARD Monthly Special Education Directors Report- We are working on getting some things calibrated as getting those things up and running correctly. We received some free vision equipment by hosting the vision clinic this year. I am attending a legal law conference which will be nice to learn more about.

HEARD OLD BUSINESS

a. Approve recommendation for budget adjustment for 2026-2027 school year.
    i. Approve Rescinding Proposed Unrequested Leave of Absence Morgan/Hoyt Roll Call all in Favor
    ii. Approve Resolution placing Unrequested Leave of Absence Morgan Hagen – Morgan/Kocka

Chris Kirchner – Kocka/Morgan

DISSCUSSED Gifted and Talented – Interventions ADDENDUM – Recommending the addition of a teaching position for the 2026-2027 school year. We will strategically fund this with restricted funds out of a few of the general fund sources. This would Increase interventions, introduce gifted and talented instruction, enhance recruitment and retention opportunities and use some of our restricted funds. This is something that we could sustain as we have a healthy gifted and talented fund for something like this.

REVIEWED Enrollment

DONATIONS Received and Appreciated

TO	**FROM**	**AMOUNT/ITEM**
Park Rapids 5th – 8th Graders	Walmart	$50 for Pies for Pi Day
Park Rapids 5th -8th Graders	Hugo's	39 Pies @$4ea for Pi Day
Park Rapids Community Ed	Maurice Spangler	Community Garden $375

ADJOURN at 7:07pm Morgan/Hoyt.