

PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 16, 2026

Public Started: 6:00 P.M.

Private Started: 6:02 P.M.

Public Started: 7:02 P.M.

Public Ended: 7:34 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL LITTLE THEATER

I. Roll Call

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

X X (*) Y A X X X

Also Present:

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

(*) Arrived after executive session

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 6, 2026 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on January 6, 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 January 6, 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.

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 6:02 pm.

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

Private Session Agenda

The Regular Session of the Board of Education was recalled at 7:02 pm.

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

V. Minutes for Approval

Monthly Meeting	March 2, 2026	Board Approved
Private Session Meeting	March 2, 2026	Board Approved

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

VI. Special Presentations to the Board

- A. Sports - Presenter Chris Brown
 - a. Boys Football - NJIC Patriot Division Champions
 - b. Boys Soccer - NJIC Liberty Division Champions
 - c. Ryan Dennis - NJIC Liberty Division Boys Soccer Coach of the Year
 - d. Dylan Evans – NJIC Liberty Division Girls Soccer Coach of the Year

Mr. Brown thanked the Board for their support of the programs and athletes. He began by stating that they would be recognizing two Fall season teams who were league champions and two coaches for their accomplishments.

Mr. Brown then spoke about the Football Team who captured the NJIC Patriot division championship. Mr. Brown reported on the highlights of the season for the team and pointed out that there were several players who received individual honors from the league. He concluded by congratulating them and their coaches on their accomplishments. Each player and coach were called up individually to receive a championship sweatshirt.

Next, Mr. Brown spoke about the Boys Soccer team. He reported that they finished the year with a 12-8 record and captured the NJIC Patriot division championship. Of their many accomplishments, was their participation in

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the County and State tournaments. He wrapped up by congratulating the team and their coaches. Each player and coach were called up individually to receive a championship sweatshirt.

Mr. Brown then spoke about Coach Dennis, the Boys Soccer coach. He was named Coach of the Year. After reviewing some highlights of the season, he presented Mr. Dennis with a trophy that will be displayed in the school trophy case.

Mr. Brown then spoke about the Girls Soccer coach, Dylan Evans. He spoke about his 11-8-1 record and big win over Cresskill. He then presented Mr. Evans with a trophy for being named Coach of the Year.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Gamper thanked Mr. Brown for the great job he does with all the sports programs.

The Board then took a recess for pictures in the lobby.

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

Mr. Zeman reported that the Student Council is working on the spring pep rally. He also mentioned they are planning the Prom which he indicated would be at the same location as last year.

IX. President's Report

Mr. Bradler congratulated the athletes and coaches. He mentioned that the play, the Little Mermaid would be performed next weekend and that there would be a free Senior show. He gave a brief update on the Superintendent search stating that interviews would be conducted starting this Sunday.

X. Superintendent's Report

HIB Update

Dr. Gamper reported that there have been no HIB investigations since the last Board meeting.

He reiterated that there would be a play, The Little Mermaid, which would run from March 27th through the 29th. He indicated that since only two of the three scheduled snow days were used, the district may be closed the Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

XI. BOE Committee Reports

Finance Committee reported that while they did not meet, they did receive information that they had an increase of \$102K in State aid. However, they were also informed that there was a decrease in the Assessed Valuation for the town.

XII. Supplemental Agenda -None

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

XIII. Consent Agenda

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

XIV. Board Comments New/Unfinished Business

The Board spoke to the attorney. They informed him that due to Mr. Amitrano missing three consecutive public meetings, they wanted to move forward with removing him from the Board. The attorney indicated that they had the right to do this but needed to pass a motion to remove Mr. Amitrano and secondly give Mr. Amitrano notice 48 hours prior to the meeting where they will be taking action.

The Board then made a motion to move forward with the removal of Mr. Amitrano as a Board member due to missing three consecutive meetings as permitted under Board Policy.

The Motion was made by Ms. Wagner and seconded by Ms. Agoos. The motion passed as follows:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB
Y Y Y A Y Y Y

The attorney stated that a notice will be sent out from the District before the next meeting. The Board Secretary will send out notification to Mr. Amitrano who will then have the option of contacting the Board President with reasons for his absences.

XV. Adjournment – 7:34 pm

M: RM	S:RB
AW RM NA CA MR 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 February with no suspensions, and no truanancies to report.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR 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>
189(b) - 050	3/2/26 – 5/22/26	1 hr./week	English
189(b) - 050	3/2/26 – 5/22/26	1 hr./week	Math
189(b) - 050	3/2/26 – 5/22/26	1 hr./week	Art
189(b) - 050	3/2/26 – 5/22/26	1 hr./week	Science

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following school field trip for the 2025/26 school year:

<u>TEACHER'S NAME</u>	<u>DESTINATION FOR FIELD TRIP</u>	<u>DATE OF TRIP *</u>
<u>CLASS NAME/GROUP</u>		
Brian Meisner DECA Club	DECA International Career Development Conference & Competition Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, GA	April 25 – April 29, 2026

** Changes in dates will not require BOE action.*

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Ramapo College, to provide a program for Social Worker students to perform fieldwork in the district, at no cost to the District.
"E4"

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Carly Unger as an unpaid intern in the area of School Social Worker, for the 2026/27 school year, pending completion of state-mandated paperwork.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

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

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECTS</u>
2526 - 050	2/14/26 – 3/1/26	5 hours	Pre-Calculus

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- E7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves additional hours for the following outside consultants for services for the 2025/26 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Hillmar, LLC	Student Bilingual Educational/Psychological/Speech Evaluations	\$7,000.00
Hugh Bases, MD	Student Neurodevelopment Assessments	\$3,500.00

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 (e), certifies that the Board Secretary's February 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 of January 2026. ***"F2"***

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 #052911-053493 (\$3,047,035.23) and 902265-903265 (\$795,659.98) in the total amount of \$3,842,695.21 and EFTs using ACH technology #L61342-L6134 in the amount of \$58,805.72 . ***"F3"***

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the payment of Athletic Vouchers #14397-14401 in the total amount of \$1,215.00. ***"F4"***

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Varsity Athletic Club Vouchers #1136-1137 in the total amount of \$1,485.00. ***"F5"***

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Unemployment Compensation Voucher# N/A in the total amount of \$N/A.

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the February 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 February 2026 in the amount indicated per Appendix A. **“F8”**

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

F1. - F8. - Backup attached if required.

- F9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is required under State Law to participate in SEMI when the number of students identified is 40 or more, and

WHEREAS, the number identified for Park Ridge is 41;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Park Ridge Board of Education will participate in the SEMI program in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F10. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the following donations for the 2025/26 school year:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>TYPE OF DONATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Class of '75	Class of '75 Scholarship	Monetary	\$2,400.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F11. Be it resolved that the Park Ridge Board of Education “SFA” approves the renewal of the contract for Food Service Management with The Pomptonian, Inc. “FSMC” for the food service operation for 2026-2027.

1. FSMC Fee:

The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$22,994.00 to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be included as a cost of operation and billed in 10 monthly installments of \$2,299.40 per month. The SFA guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the FSMC.

2. There is no guaranteed financial performance

3. Total Estimated Cost of Contract:

Total estimated expenses (cost) include food, labor, supplies, other expenses, and FSMC management fee.

The Total Estimated Cost of Contract is \$229,613.06

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F12. Whereas the Park Ridge Board of Education has approved two capital projects, one under a previous Referendum in Capital Project Fund 34 and a second under a ROD grant in Capital Projects Fund 30;

Whereas, funds existed under a previous Referendum in Capital Projects Fund 34 and the funds have been identified as being eligible for expenditures under the current ROD grant in Capital Projects fund 30 and whereas the Board desires to transfer unexpended funds from Fund 34 to Fund 30;

Whereas N.J.A.C. 6A:26-4.2 allows for the transfer of funds between capital projects upon board approval;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transfer an amount not to exceed \$164,083.25 from the Referendum in Capital Project Fund 34 to the Rod Grant in Capital Project Fund 30.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F13. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the attached Corrective Action Plan for SEMI. ***"F13"***

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- F14. The Superintendent and the Park Ridge Board of Education recommends approval to adopt the Tentative Budget for FY 2026-2027:

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUE</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$ 43,154,272	\$ 480,926	\$ 535,936	\$44,171,134
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$ 5,310,905	\$ 480,926	\$ 182,219	\$ 5,974,050
Taxes to be Raised	\$37,843,367	- 0 -	\$ 353,717	\$38,197,084

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Record in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Park Ridge Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$1,990,946. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Park Ridge Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for Banked CAP in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$157,778 for the purpose of paying for goods and services needed in the 2026-27 budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations, budget line 620 is a withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Other Capital Projects in the amount of \$2,000,000 for other capital project costs. The total cost of these projects are \$2,000,000 which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Park Ridge High School Little Theater located at 2 Park Avenue on May 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

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:

BG1. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the custodial/maintenance calendar for 2026/27. ***"BG1"***

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

BG2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following payments to LAN Architects for the following projects: ***"BG2"***

<u>PROJECT NO.</u>	<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
20529.08	HS Little Theater Renovations	\$24,180.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR 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 Policy for second read and approval on March 16, 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 following substitute teachers for the 2025/26 school year:

None

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

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

APPOINTMENTS 2025/26:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Meisner, Brian	DECA Overnight Chaperone	4 nights @ \$266/night

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2026/27 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>
Eramo, Jean	EB Paraprofessional	06/30/26

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:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON/LOCATION FOR CONFERENCE/SEMINAR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT(S) NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Almeida, Sophia	NVCC Demarest, NJ	3/26/2026	\$230.00
Kersting, Krista	NJASBO 2026 Annual Conference Atlantic City, NJ	6/2-6/5/26	\$1,500.00
Morgan, Brian	NJSBGA Atlantic City, NJ	3/22 – 3/25 /26	\$1,100.00
Wright, Robert	NJASBO 2026 Annual Conference Atlantic City, NJ	6/2-6/5/26	\$1,500.00

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves additional hours for the following staff members as 1:1 paraprofessionals for student 2515-050, from March 9 - May 30, 2026, as needed for the 2025/26 Spring Track season:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Glynn, Caroline	HS Paraprofessional	\$33.76/hr.	1:1 Spring Track Paraprofessional
Hassan, Nadij	HS Paraprofessional	\$26.02/hr.	1:1 Spring Track Paraprofessional

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P5. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the resignation of Andrew Yeager, High School SAC, due to retirement, effective July 1, 2026.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves a Leave-of-Absence for Heather Wall, High School Teacher as follows:

- A Disability Leave-of-Absence from May 4, 2026, through June 30, 2026, with pay and with benefits.
- A New Jersey State Family Leave-of-Absence effective August 31, 2026, through November 20, 2026, without pay and with benefits.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following extension for home instruction for Student 2526-050, as follows February 14, 2026 – March 1, 2026:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>APPROX. HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Fernley, Mellanie	Pre-Calculus	5	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

Home instruction for special education student 2526-050, indicated above is due to medical issues.

- P8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Brian Morgan as the Integrated Pest Management Coordinator and the Indoor Air Quality Designee.

M: S:

AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following camps/clinics and coaches for the summer 2026, as outlined: **"P9"**

CLINIC	COACH	GRADE	DATES / TIMES	LOCATION	COST	REQUIREMENTS
BASEBALL CAMP	Dylan Evans	1-9	July 20 -23, 2026 9:00 am - 12:00pm	Sulak Field	\$195	Bring snack, glove, bat, helmet, cleats, sunscreen, water bottle and sneakers.
BOYS' BASKETBALL CAMP	Brian Koch	1-8	July 6 – 9, 2026 July 13 - 16, 2026 9:00 am – 2:30 pm	PRHS Main Gym	\$250 +\$20 registration fee	Sneakers required.
GIRLS' BASKETBALL CAMP	Ryan Dennis William Allen	1-8	June 29 – July 2, 2026 9:00 am – 2:00 pm	PRHS Main Gym	\$250	Sneakers required.
VOLLEYBALL CAMP	William Allen	2-8	July 6 – July 9, 2026 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm July 20 – July 23, 2026 9:00 am – 1:00 pm	PRHS Main Gym	\$225 \$260	Sneakers required.
FOOTBALL CAMP	Kurt Hommen	3-8	June 29 – July 2, 2026 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	PRHS Turf Field	\$200	Cleats, water bottle,

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members as home instructors for Student 189(b) - 050, March 2, 2026 – May 22, 2026:

STAFF MEMBER	SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED	APPROX. HOURS	HOURLY RATE
Brako Bismarck, Mimi	English	1 hr./ week	\$65.00/hr.
Caine, Dana	Math	1 hr./ week	\$65.00/hr.
Russo, Theresa	Art	1 hr./ week	\$65.00/hr.
Stuart, Eric	Science	1 hr./ week	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P11. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the 2026-27 Substitute Secretarial rate of \$25.00/hour.

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB

- P12. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the contract with the Park Ridge Education Association (PREA) from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031, on file in the Superintendent's Office. **"P12"**

M: S:
AW RM NA CA MR RB DB