

PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 18, 2026

Public Started: 6:00 P.M.

Private Started: 6:03 P.M.

Public Started: 7:04 P.M.

Public Ended: 7:46 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL LITTLE THEATER

I. Roll Call

A. Wagner	R. Malloy	N. Agoos	M. Rozzi	R. Browne	D. Bradler
A	X	X	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 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 6:03 pm.

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

The Regular Session of the Board of Education was recalled at 7:04 pm.

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

V. Minutes for Approval

Special Meeting	April 1, 2026	Board Approved
Private Meeting	April 1, 2026	Board Approved
Special Meeting	April 20, 2026	Board Approved
Private Meeting	April 20, 2026	Board Approved
Monthly Meeting	April 27, 2026	Board Approved
Private Meeting	April 27, 2026	Board Approved

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

VI. Special Presentations to the Board

- A. Bergen County Teacher/Educational Services Professionals Recognition Program
 - Erin O'Brien – West Ridge
 - Luke Ostrow – East Brook
 - John Fogarty & Jaime DeBenedictus – High School
- B. Student Ambassador Recognition
- C. National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students – Mr. Lederman
 - Nicholas Underwood - Semi Finalist
 - Tanvee Sethi, Alexander Vidlov – Commended Students

Dr. Gamper and Mr. Bradler presented the Teacher of the Year recognitions. The first staff member honored was Erin O'Brien from West Ridge Elementary school. Dr. Gamper commented that she always goes above and beyond and has high expectations for her students. She is engaging and fun in her classroom. He mentioned her role as a Lacrosse coach and commented that she always has a positive outlook. Ms. O'Brien was then called up to receive a certificate of appreciation.

Next, Dr. Gamper spoke about Mr. Ostrow, the East Brook Elementary Teacher of the Year. He mentioned that he is the music teacher and has brought Broadway caliber performances to the elementary schools. He makes music fun and creates opportunities for students to connect through music. Dr. Gamper mentioned some of the recent themes he has incorporated into his shows including an Outer Space and a 70's theme. He concluded by stating that Park Ridge is lucky to have him. Mr. Ostrow was then called up to receive a certificate of appreciation.

Dr. Gamper then spoke about the High School teacher of the Year, Mr. Fogarty. He commented that Mr. Fogarty, a Social Studies teacher since 2002, was always professional, calm and patient. He is an advocate for students. He is flexible with a positive outlook. He is a true leader and a winner in the classroom and on the tennis courts. Mr. Fogarty was then called up to receive a certificate of appreciation.

Dr. Gamper then spoke about the Service Professional of the year recipient. This year it is Jamie DeBenedictus, the athletic trainer. Dr. Gamper mentioned that she has been with the district since 2016. She is a trusted advocate and leader in the building. She has a calm and reassuring presence and works hand in hand with the coaches. She never hesitates to act when needed. Ms. DeBenedictus was then called up to receive a certificate of appreciation.

Dr. Gamper reported that he would be attending a luncheon with all the Bergen County Teacher of the Year recipients.

Mr. Lederman introduced two students, Tanvee Sethi and Alexander Videlov, who were named as Commended National Merit scholarship recipients. He mentioned that only 5% of the students who took the test received this honor. He congratulated the two students and presented them with an award certificate.

Mr. Lederman then spoke about the sole scholarship winner, Nicholas Underwood. He mentioned that he was only the 4th student in 15 years to receive this award at Park Ridge. He mentioned that this award was only given to the top 16,000 highest scorers across the nation and that only 1% of those tested qualify. He congratulated the student and presented him with an award certificate.

Ms. Kane and Ms. Erdman spoke about the Student Ambassador project that helps new 7th grade students transition to the High School. This year, there were 27 students who participated in the program. Ms. Erdman mentioned that this was the 10th year of this very successful program. She said that the 7th grade students really appreciate the program and are grateful for the student volunteers. She explained how the students receive guidance on how to navigate the challenges they will face in their new surroundings. They conduct learning infused with personal experiences. They focus on creating a culture of kindness. The student ambassadors go through an application process. Those selected, meet at 7:00 am. The students in the program are among the leaders of the school being involved with many activities. Ms. Erdman thanked the students for their dedication and said they all did a great job. She then thanked Dr. Gamper for his support of the program over the years. Ms. Kane then came up and called each student up to receive their award.

Mr. Bradler congratulated everyone on their achievements. He then called for a five-minute recess for pictures in the hallway.

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

Ryan mentioned that Prom was only a few weeks away. The final payments for the location have been made. He then mentioned that elections for student government started last week.

IX. President's Report

Mr. Bradler reported that Mr. Amitrano had resigned and that the Board will be starting the process of filling the vacancy. The vacancy will last through the end of the year, and the seat will be on the ballot as a one year term. He encouraged residents to submit a letter of interest to the Board office. The deadline to submit their letter of interest is Wednesday, May 27th at 4:00 pm. Interviews will be conducted on June 3rd.

Mr. Bradler reported that the Bid for the Little Theater project will go out on May 21st.

Mr. Bradler reported that the Board is in the final stages of the Superintendent search. He thanked his fellow board members for all the hours they spent and sacrifices made.

Mr. Bradler commented that spring sports are winding down. He wished all the teams success. He then spoke about upcoming events at the schools including the Jr. Sr. Prom and the 6th grade trip to Frost Valley.

X. Superintendent's Report

HIB Update

Dr. Gamper reported that there were no new HIB since the last meeting.

Dr. Gamper mentioned that the Renaissance dinner was tomorrow night at Seasons. There would be a grand opening of the new Playground at West Ridge on Thursday at 2:30 pm. The Senior awards ceremony will be held on June 2nd.

Mr. Bradler mentioned that Thursday is signing day.

XI. BOE Committee Reports

Personnel committee reported that they met with Local 68 to start contract negotiations.

Policy committee met on April 23rd and 30th to discuss Policy 9130 and 2535. The Board is looking to align with the current law "Freedom to read" act. They are hopeful to have revisions adopted in June.

XII. Supplemental Agenda - None

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

XIII. Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the consent agenda.

Ms. Malloy asked to abstain from all the Education resolutions.

Ms. Browne asked to abstain from motion F10.

The agenda was voted on and passed as follows:

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

XIV. Board Comments – New/Unfinished Business - None

XV. Hearing of Citizens

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.

Ms. Svenson thanked the Board for their donation of \$25K. The PTO will be hosting a ceremony on Thursday. She invited the Board members to attend. She then mentioned her concerns about security gaps with the current security camera setup. She knows the Board was talking about addressing this at the beginning of the year and would like them to consider moving forward on that project.

Ms. Demartino spoke about concerns she had on large class sizes in some grades. She asked the Board to consider splitting the first-grade class and adding a third section. She mentioned research that shows that class sizes are important in grades K-2. She felt it was very challenging to teachers with these class sizes. She also thought it was not good for the town to have large class sizes as people may speak negatively about it. She understood that finance is a concern and thanked the Board for their consideration.

Dr. Gamper mentioned that has spoken with Ms. Ballaera. They planned to meet and have an answer by the middle of June. He promised to do their best to rectify the situation. He mentioned that the Paraprofessionals have done a wonderful job and splitting a class is not a reflection on them. He agreed that smaller is better and is part of the district's philosophy.

Another resident echoed their support for splitting the class into another section. She urged the Board to approve the new section. She felt it was more amenable to young learners. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

Ms. Turner, a current Kindergarten mom, also voiced her support for splitting the class. She also felt it was something to keep in mind as the 1st grade moves up to 2nd and 3rd grade.

XVI. Adjournment – 7:46 pm

M:	RM		S:	RB	
AW	RM	NA	MR	RB	DB
A	Y	Y	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 April with 1 out-of-school suspension, no in-school suspension, and no truanies to report.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves eight 3-year-old students and ten 4-year-old students for the Integrated Pre-School Program for the 2026/27 school year, on file in the Superintendent's Office.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following students on home instruction, as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>SUBJECTS</u>
1810 - 050	4/30/26 – 6/25/26	30 hours	English & Study Skills
1810 - 050	4/30/26 – 6/25/26	25 hours	Math
1810 - 050	4/30/26 – 6/25/26	3 hours	Art
2629 - 050	4/30/26 – 6/25/26	1 hr./week	English
2629 - 050	4/30/26 – 6/25/26	1 hr./week	Math
2629 - 050	4/30/26 – 6/25/26	1 hr./week	History
1217(a) -050	5/13/26 – 6/25/26	4 hrs.	Science
1217(a) -050	5/13/26 – 6/25/26	4 hrs.	Social Studies
1217(a) -050	5/13/26 – 6/25/26	4 hrs.	Math
1217(a) -050	5/13/26 – 6/25/26	4 hrs.	English

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as provided for the Chapter 172 Laws 1979 (N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3, et. Seq.), herewith enrolls Park Ridge High School as a member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to participate in the approved inter-school athletic program sponsored by the NJSIAA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Park Ridge Board of Education approves the NJSIAA Membership expenditure of \$2,725.00 for the 2026/27 school year. This resolution to continue in effect until or unless rescinded by the Board of Education and shall be included among those

policies adopted annually by the Board. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 in adopting this resolution, the Board of Education adopts as its own policy and agrees to be governed by the Constitution Bylaws and Rules and Regulation of the NJSIAA.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the tuition for the following students for the 2026/27 Summer:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COST</u>
820(e)-060	6/29 - 8/7/2026	Summit Camp Honesdale, PA.	\$8,552.00

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E6. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights for the 2024-25 school year.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Hearing Kids to provide IEP mandated services for the 2025-26 school year, as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>VENDOR NAME</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Hearing Kids	Misophonia Assessment	\$730.00

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the tuition for the following student for the 2026/27 school year:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
1219(b) - 070	Sage Day Mahwah, NJ	9/2/26 – 6/30/27	\$82, 553.31
1714(a) – 050	ECLC Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ	9/3/26 – 6/30/27	\$92,737.80

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- E9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves an extension for the following student on home instruction, as indicated below, subject to revision:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>SUBJECTS</u>
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MO 051826

189(b) - 050	5/23/26 – 6/25/26	1 hr./week	English
189(b) - 050	5/23/26 – 6/25/26	1 hr./week	Math
189(b) - 050	5/23/26 – 6/25/26	1 hr./week	Art
189(b) - 050	5/23/26 – 6/25/26	1 hr./week	Science

M: S:
AW RM NA 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 I, certifies that the Board Secretary's April 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. 620 – 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 MR RB DB

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

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

F3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Check Journal (List of Bills) containing Check #052842-053751 (\$2,784,100.63) and 904264-905266 (\$793,974.19), and EFTs using ACH technology #L61607-L61614 (\$47,129.28) in the total amount of \$3,625,204.10. **"F3"**

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

F4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the payment of Athletic Vouchers #14409 – 14418 and #900014 - 900015 in the total amount of \$11,644.85. **"F4"**

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

F5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Varsity Athletic Club Voucher #N/A in the total amount of \$N/A.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

F6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Unemployment Compensation Vouchers #1025 in the total amount of \$6,125.00.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the April 2026 "Report of the Secretary" and the "Report of the Treasurer" to the Board of Education. **"F7"**

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

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

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the cancellation of outstanding checks, as per attached listing, from the Operating and Athletic Accounts. **"F9"**

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves payment of the Scholarship Vouchers #053627 – through #053651 in the total amount of \$37,950.00.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F11. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of The Vozza Agency as insurance advisor for the Park Ridge School District for the 2026/27 school year.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F12. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the report of the School Business Administrator in compliance with PL 2015, Chapter 47, on contracts, which are intended to be renewed, awarded or to expire. These contracts have been and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations, in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18 et seq., NJAC Chapter 23, and Federal Procurement Regulations 2CFR Part 200.317 et seq.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F13. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the following donations for the 25/26 school year:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>TYPE OF DONATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Extra Innings 1624 Inc.	#16 # 24 Extra Innings Scholarship	Monetary	\$2,000.00
The Anzilotti Group, LLC	Anzilotti Group Scholarship	Monetary	\$1,000.00
Henry Cenicola	Barry Cohen Memorial Scholarship	Monetary	\$1,000.00
Jura Inc.	East Brook 6 th Grade Activity Account	Monetary	\$500.00

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F14. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following Resolution for Park Ridge Board of Education's Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System:

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)* authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and
WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency", has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2018, the governing body of the Park Ridge Board of Education, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Park Ridge Board of Education.

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(15)*, the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F15. The Park Ridge Board of Educational approves the renewal of its participation in a cooperative pricing system with Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ), formerly Middlesex Regional Cooperative, for the purchase of goods and services for the 2026/27 school year.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F16. WHEREAS, NEW JERSEY P.L., 2011 Chapter 139 permits school districts to "use contracts awarded by national or regional cooperatives or other states that were competitively bid," and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Purchasing Network meets the criteria as defined under this law, and
WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Education feels that by joining the Keystone Purchasing Network, there will be a significant benefit to the taxpayers due to anticipated savings, and

WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Education is not obligated to use the program once a member, nor will it be assessed any fees for participating;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Park Ridge Board of Education authorizes Robert Wright, School Business Administrator, to sign and deliver any and all necessary documents in connection with the enrollment of the district in this program.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F17. WHEREAS, the amount of district taxes needed to meet the obligations of the Park Ridge Board of Education for the 2026/2027 school year is \$38,197,084.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Park Ridge Board of Education and in accordance with RS54:44-75, that the Secretary be authorized to request the Borough of Park Ridge to place in the hands of the Superintendent of Schools said amount, same to be paid as follows:

<u>2026</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
July	\$3,153,614
August	\$3,153,614
September	\$3,153,614
October	\$3,153,614
November	\$3,153,614
December	\$3,153,614
Subtotal	<u>\$18,921,684</u>

<u>2027</u>	
January	\$3,153,614
February	\$3,153,614
March	\$3,153,614
April	\$3,153,614
May	\$3,153,614
June	\$3,153,613
Subtotal	<u>\$18,921,683</u>
Total	<u>\$37,843,367</u>

<u>Debt Service</u>	
<u>Date Payable</u>	<u>Amount</u>
8/1/26	\$176,859
2/1/27	\$176,858
Total	<u>\$353,717</u>

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F18. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the continuation of its participation in the NJSBA ACES Cooperative Pricing System.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F19. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves EnviroVision as environmental consultant for the Park Ridge School District.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F20. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appropriation of 2024-25 Extraordinary Aid funds in the amount of \$20,000.00, to be used in the 2025 – 26 Budget as follows:

11-000-230-332-000-16-92 \$20,000.00

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F21. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the purchase of approximately 173 tests for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in an amount to be estimated at \$16,954.00 (\$98/test) (students pay \$49.00 per test for a total of \$8,477.00).

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F22. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the contract with Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP, school auditor for the 2026/27 school year, at a contracted amount of \$40,900.00.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F23. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the purchase of technical support and equipment, and maintenance, repair and operational supplies through State Contract/Cooperative pricing. Listed below are expenses anticipated to exceed the threshold (cumulatively):

<u>ITEMS PURCHASED FROM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Eastern DataComm	\$24,3000.00	Proprietary Equipment

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F24. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the purchase of 6 ASUS Chromebooks, totaling \$1,863.84 as part of the Non-Public Technology Initiative between the Park Ridge Public Schools and Our Lady of Mercy for the 2025/26 school year.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- F25. WHEREAS, at a time of continued fiscal uncertainty and mounting challenges, local boards of education from across the state of New Jersey continue to suffer under the growing crisis posed by the rising cost of health benefits and are desperate for relief; and

WHEREAS, despite record levels of state investments in public education, these school districts are facing fiscal pressures similar to those confronting the state budget, including the unsustainable growth in health-care premiums and the mounting insolvency of the state's public employee's health benefits programs; and

WHEREAS, both within the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) and the private market, year-over-year double-digit increases are placing tremendous strain on district budgets and local taxpayers alike; and

WHEREAS, Governor Sherrill and legislative leadership have publicly acknowledged the urgent need to address rising health-care costs and the challenges facing the state's health benefits plans, including both the state and local portions of the State Health Benefits Program and the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, the seriousness of this issue is underscored by the mid-year SEHBP analysis released by the Treasury Department in March 2026, which concluded that "based on these projected losses and building in future trends, active premium rate increases for 2027 are likely to be in the double digits;" and

WHEREAS, these projected increases would follow the 31.9 percent premium increase that took effect in January 2026, further exacerbating an overall premium increase of nearly 74 percent in the preceding five years; and

WHEREAS, this growth in health-care costs far exceeds inflation, state aid increases and the fiscal capacity of local communities; and

WHEREAS, rising health-care premiums are consuming an ever-larger portion of already constrained school district budgets, forcing difficult decisions that directly affect students, staff and educational quality; and

WHEREAS, these cost pressures also have significant consequences for taxpayers, as districts are often compelled to utilize the full extent of their available tax levy, even after which many districts remain unable to fully offset these increases due to the constraints of the property tax levy cap, despite the limited health-care exception; and

WHEREAS, for the families and students these districts serve, the downstream consequences — including district deficits, program cuts and school closures — mean the loss of community stability, continuity of services, and in many cases, access to the specialized supports that our most vulnerable students depend on; and

WHEREAS, these are also precisely the conditions that erode student achievement and weaken the family engagement that is central to strengthening New Jersey's public schools; and

WHEREAS, implementing real, sustainable solutions to the rising cost of health benefits and reforming how benefits are delivered through the SEHBP would demonstrate the Governor's and Legislature's leadership and continued commitment to New Jersey's students, educators and families, which directly advances our shared goal of affordability and effective, efficient government for all New Jerseyans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education in the county of Bergen calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to provide immediate, short-term relief from the unsustainable increased health-care costs experienced by school districts in recent years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education in the county of Bergen urges the Governor to engage in meaningful engagement with all affected stakeholders to develop and implement practical long-term reforms to the state's system of delivering health care to its public employees in order to generate meaningful, long-term savings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Mikie Sherrill, State Treasurer Aaron Binder, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senator Holly T. Schepisi, Assemblyman Robert Auth, Assemblyman John V. Azzariti, Jr. M.D., and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

F26. The Park Ridge Board of Education accepts the award of the Local Recreation Grant in the amount of \$60,000.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

F27. WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Education has received their projection of 40 students eligible for participation in the SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) program and,

WHEREAS, the State permits a school district to elect a waiver to participate in SEMI should their projections fall lower than 41 and,

WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Education is desirous of continuing to receive grant funding under the SEMI program,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Ridge Board of Education elects to participate in the SEMI program for the 2026-27 school year despite being eligible for a waiver.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

BUILDING & 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 Use of the Building Facilities Application by AEDE, for use of the HS Little Theater, as per Board Policy #7510 "Use of School Facilities," on May 30, 2026, as per attached. **"BG1"**

M: S:

AW RM NA 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 Policies and Regulations for first read on May 18, 2026: ***"PO1"***

Policy 2530	Resource Materials
Regulation 2530	Resource Materials
Policy 2535	Library Material
Regulation 2535	Library Material
Policy 9130	Public Complaints
Regulation 9130	Public Complaints

M: S:

AW RM NA 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 substitute teachers for the 2025/26 school year:
None

M: S:
 AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P2. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointments of the following, as indicated in the areas listed, and for the amounts cited for the 2025/26 school year and or the 2026/27 summer, or unless otherwise indicated:

APPOINTMENTS 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Elsmore, Caelan	FT EB Paraprofessional Step 1	7 hours/day	\$25,242.00 *

**Prorated to start date*

APPOINTMENTS 2026/27 SUMMER:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Yates, Karen	Summer Coordinator for ESY and Hoot Camp	86 hrs. @\$96.87
Yates, Karen	West Ridge Kindergarten Scoring	15 hrs. @ \$96.87

APPOINTMENTS 2026/27 SCHOOL YEAR:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Baldino, Alyssa	East Brook Lunch Aide	\$20.27/hr.
Eramo, Jean	Substitute Paraprofessional	\$17.00/hr.
Purcell, Carolyn	East Brook Lunch Aide	\$20.87/hr.

M: S:
 AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P3. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the reimbursement of anticipated/conference/seminar expenses, for the following staff member(s):

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON/LOCATION FOR CONFERENCE/SEMINAR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Patrick Bernardo	NJSBA Convention Atlantic City, NJ	10/19 – 10/22/26	\$1,000.00
David Bradler	NJSBA Convention Atlantic City, NJ	10/19 – 10/22/26	\$1,000.00
Krista Kersting	NJSBA Convention Atlantic City, NJ	10/19 – 10/22/26	\$1,000.00
Brian Morgan	NJSBA Convention	10/19 – 10/22/26	\$1,000.00

	Atlantic City, NJ		
Robert Wright	NJSBA Convention Atlantic City, NJ	10/19 – 10/22/26	\$1,000.00

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P4. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following revised rates for the following Guidance Counselor for the summer at the per diem rates indicated:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR</u>	<u>2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Dawn Huffman	\$640.56 X 1 day = \$640.56	\$658.62 x 7 days = \$4,610.34	8 days =\$5,250.90

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P5. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members to provide IEP mandated speech and behavioral services during the Extended School Year. The program will run from July 6 to July 31, 2026.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>Hourly</u>	<u>MAXIMUM HOURS</u>
Cariddi, Nicole	Speech Therapist	As per PREA Contract	80
Corrigan, Kelleen	Behavioralist	As per PREA Contract	80
Wagreich, Kim	Speech Therapist	As per PREA Contract	80

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P6. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves all District Paraprofessionals, hired at any time for the 2026/27 school year, as substitute classroom, lunch, and office staff paraprofessionals.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P7. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Desiree Misciagna to review ELL criteria and place our ESL students for the 2026/27 school year, from June 29 – August 28, 2026:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>2025-26 PER HOURLY RATE</u>	<u>2026-27 HOURLY RATE</u>
21 hours	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P8. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members for the Hoot Camp program at West Ridge Elementary School from July 6 – July 31, 2026, in addition, the teachers in the Hoot Camp are approved for up to three hours of curriculum time, reimbursed at their hourly rate for planning and meetings prior to the summer program.

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Delucia Kvopka, Rita	\$25.00/hour	60	Paraprofessional
Donnelly, Melissa	\$25.00/hour	60	Paraprofessional
O'Connor, Shannon	As per PREA Contract	63	Teacher
Ostrowski, Jennifer	As per PREA Contract	63	Teacher
Palagano, Laurie	\$25.00/hour	60	Paraprofessional
Twomey, Monica	As per PREA Contract	63	Teacher

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P9. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members for the Extended School Year Program (ESY) from July 6 to July 31, 2026:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
An, Jamie	As per PREA Contract	80	ESY Elementary Special Education Teacher LLD 4-6
Boenigk, Annette	As per PREA Contract	80	ESY Elementary Special Education Teacher LLD K-3
Brimigion, Lynsey	As per PREA Contract	As needed	ESY Substitute Teacher
Corcoran-McPartland, Kari	As per PREA Contract	40	ESY PSD Teacher
DeSimone, Joanne	As per PREA Contract	50	ESY Elementary Special Education Teacher
Dunay, Christine	As per PREA Contract	50	ESY Elementary Special Education Teacher
Finnerty, Karen	As per PREA Contract	As needed	ESY Elementary Special Education Teacher
Horgan, Sandra	As per PREA Contract	110	ESY Job Coach (Owl House)
Loll, Heather	As per PREA Contract	80	ESY Middle School LLD Teacher
Mellish, Alexandra	\$25.00	40	ESY Paraprofessional (PSD)
Panagi, Maureen	\$25.00	80	ESY Paraprofessional (Lower LLD)
Perry, Jennifer	\$25.00	80	ESY Paraprofessional (Lower LLD)
Potkulski, Alexis	As per PREA Contract	80	ESY Multisensory Reading Teacher
Reiff, Lynn	\$25.00	80	ESY Paraprofessional (Middle School LLD)
Scheer, Christine	As per PREA Contract	As needed	ESY Substitute Teacher
Silverman, Andrea	\$25.00	80	ESY Paraprofessional (Upper LLD)
Zukatus, Samantha	As per PREA Contract	110	ESY Owl House Teacher

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P10. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following West Ridge staff members to complete kindergarten screening for incoming students on 7/1 – 7/8/26:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>APPROX. HOURS/RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED</u>
Burchell, Jennifer	15 hours @ \$95.68/hour	\$1,435.20
Tobin, Kristin	15 hours @ \$95.68/hour	\$1,435.20

Wagreich, Kim	15 hours @ \$92.90/hour	\$1,393.50
Yates, Karen	15 hours @ \$96.87/hour	\$1,431.72

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AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P11. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following appointments for Summer Child Study Team evaluations, report writing, team meetings, case management from June 26 - August 26, 2026 (work done in June will be paid at the 25/26 school rate):

STAFF MEMBER	2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR	2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR	TOTAL HOURS
Cariddi, Nicole	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Conrad, Lauren	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Corrigan, Kelleen	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
DeLucca, Shane	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Goldstein, Diane	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Gonzales, Tatum	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Greenwood, Melanie	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Porta, Nicole	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Slipiec, Barbara	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Wagreich, Kim	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70
Zigman, Isabella	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	70

M: S:

AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P12. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members as home instructors for Student 189(b)-050, from May 23, 2026 – June 25, 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 MR RB DB

- P13. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members as home instructors for Student 1810-050, April 30, 2026 – June 25, 2026:

STAFF MEMBER	SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED	APPROX. HOURS	HOURLY RATE
Caine, Dana	Math	25	\$65.00/hr.
Falkoff, Jennifer	English & Study Skills	30	\$65.00/hr.
Lynn, Raina	Art	3	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P14. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members as home instructors for Student 1217(a)-050, from May 13, 2026 – June 25, 2026:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>APPROX. HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Hampson Avery, Rachel	Social Studies	4 hrs.	\$65.00/hr.
Kane, Tara	Science	4 hrs.	\$65.00/hr.
Kovacs, Charles	English	4 hrs.	\$65.00/hr.
Maskin, Sarah Kate	Math	4 hrs.	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P15. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the Employment Contract of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, as approved by the County Superintendent. ***"P15"***

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P16. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members for IEP planning and eligibility meetings, from June 26 – August 28, 2026, to be used on a as needed basis:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>6/26-6/30/26 RATE</u>	<u>7/1 - 8/28/26 RATE</u>	<u>ESY HOURS</u>
Albano, Kassandra	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Allen, Nicole	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
An, Jamie	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Borsinger, Jessie	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Burchell, Jennifer	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
DeSimone, Joanne	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Dunay, Christine	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Evans, Dylan	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Falkoff, Jennifer	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Finnerty, Karen	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Hegybeli, James	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Kane, Tara	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Klos, Janelle	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Kovacs, Chuck	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Krenek, Michael	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Loll, Heather	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Manzella, Melissa	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Maskin, Sarah-Kate	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
McClair, Patricia	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5

O'Brien, Erin	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
O'Connor, Shannon	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Potkulski, Alexis	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Racanelli, Georgia	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Sgambati, Martha Elena	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Tobin, Kristin	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5
Twomey, Monica	As per PREA Contract	As per PREA Contract	5

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P17. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following staff members as home instructors for Student 2629-050, for the hours noted below:

<u>STAFF MEMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED</u>	<u>APPROX. HOURS</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Falkoff, Jennifer	History (5/13/26 – 6/25/26)	1 hr./week	\$65.00/hr.
McClair, Patricia	English(4/30, 26 – 6/25/26)	1 hr./week	\$65.00/hr.
Melen, Daniella	Math (4/30/26 – 6/25/26)	1 hr./week	\$65.00/hr.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P18. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the renewal of the paraprofessionals listed on the attached, for the 2026/27 school year. ***"P18"***

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P19. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Marlene Kanter as East Brook Elementary teacher, for the 2026-27 school year on Step 4-5 of the MA Guide, at an annual salary of \$69,914.00.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P20. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the appointment of Caelan Elsmore as East Brook Elementary teacher, for the 2026-27 school year, on Step 1 of the BA Guide, at an annual salary of \$63,500.00.

M: S:
AW RM NA MR RB DB

- P21. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves a Leave-of-Absence for Julie Worgul, Supervisor of Special Education as follows:

- Disability Leave-of-Absence from September 9, 2026, through October 7, 2026, with pay and with benefits.

- A Federal Family Leave from October 8, 2026, through October 23, 2026, without pay but with benefits.
- A New Jersey State Family Leave-of-Absence effective October 26, 2026, through January 22, 2027 without pay but with benefits.

The dates listed above are based on current attendance and are subject to change.

M: S:

AW RM NA MR RB DB

P22. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves Eleni Bubalo as West Ridge Elementary teacher, for the 2026-27 school year on Step 2 of the MA Guide, at an annual salary of \$67,514.00.

M: S:

AW RM NA MR RB DB