

**PARK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

*Date: May 3, 2021*

*Public Started: 7:00 P.M.*

*Public Ended: 7:40 P.M.*

*High School Little Theater*

**I. Roll Call**

N. Triano	J. Pierotti	N. Agoos	L. Sum	D. Clare	A. Wagner	D. Bradler
A	A	X	X	X	X	X

Also Present:

R. Gamper	R. Wright
X	X

**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 April 25, 2019 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 85 Pascack Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey and on April 25, 2019 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 April 25, 2019 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. 2021/2022 Budget Hearing**

*Dr. Gamper and Mr. Wright were introduced. Dr. Gamper began the presentation by reviewing the district enrollment history. He then spoke about the class sizes at the elementary schools. In discussing the budget, Dr. Gamper reviewed the steps involved in preparing it. He then recapped a history of the district's State Aid allocation commenting that this year the number is now \$1,044,843. Dr. Gamper then gave examples of what the budget funds have been used for in the past and what they will be used for moving forward. He highlighted such programs as Full Day Kindergarten, the Senior Internship program and the OWL House. Dr. Gamper also discussed the use of Technology in the district. Dr. Gamper also thanked the PTO's for the contributions they make throughout the year to financially supplement and support the schools. Dr. Gamper concluded by reviewing a list of programs and projects which the 2021/22 budget will fund.*

*Mr. Wright then gave a financial review of the Budget. He spoke about the use of funds being similar to prior years with Capital taking up a smaller percentage of the 2021/22 budget as compared to last year. This, Mr. Wright explained that was due to a 2.4 million dollar note payment made last year for the boiler replacement project. Mr. Wright then reviewed the main areas of increase in the 2021/22 budget. Capital expenses were down as previously pointed out. Additionally, Mr. Wright mentioned that any funds used in this area are set aside from previous years and do not impact the tax portion of the budget. In reviewing the Salary increase, Mr. Wright explained that the majority of the increase was a result of contractual obligations. Special Education increases were driven largely by related service needs including additional funds set aside for West Bergen's services. Operations for the district, which represent the maintenance of the buildings and Grounds, was also up slightly to address internal projects such as LED lighting upgrades. Mr. Wright explained that this was largely due to the successful efforts of the Facilities Director, Mr. Lepore, and his ability to do more projects in house. The final area of change was with school level supplies. Mr. Wright pointed out that this decrease was due to textbooks that were purchased last year that are no longer needed in this year's budget.*

*Mr. Wright then reviewed the Tax levy and explained that the district was keeping the increase at 2% and not utilizing a waiver. He then reviewed several areas of cost control that the district undertakes in order to save money and keep costs down. Examples of these efforts include, sharing services with other entities, receiving health benefit contributions from employees and running in-house special education programs. In recapping the budget, Mr. Wright stated that the average homeowner of a house assessed at \$475,000, would see an increase of \$219 in their taxes.*

*At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Bradler asked if there were any questions. There were none.*

**V. 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. The Park Ridge Board of Education approves the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR THE 2021/22 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET**

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$33,040,209
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 2,168,901
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$35,209,110</b>
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 489,452
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$35,698,562</b>
and	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$31,068,077 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$710,201 to support Debt Service, for the 2021/22 school year budget.

M: NA S: LS  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB  
A A Y Y Y Y Y

**VII. Adjournment – 7:40 PM**

M: LS S: AW  
NT JP NA LS DC AW DB  
A A Y Y Y Y Y

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Robert Wright  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary