

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
APRIL 20, 2021**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Triolo at 8:00 p.m. and Ms. Garvey read the following statement:

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT**

“Adequate notice of this meeting was provided as specified in the Open Meeting Act. Notices of this Meeting were sent to The RECORD, RIDGEWOOD NEWS, and to the Midland Park Borough Clerk for the 2021 elective year. A notice was also posted inside the office of the Midland Park Board of Education in a place reserved for such announcements. The Board announces that under its long-standing policy, it will not discuss in public any comments made by members of the public concerning individual staff members or students.”

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Christine Dell’Aglia	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Excused: Richard Formicola

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff:	Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools
	Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**Mission Statement**

**The Midland Park School District as part of a strong, dedicated community, provides its students with a comprehensive, adaptive education aligned to 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge and skills needed for success in college and career. The district maximizes all resources to empower students to realize their individual worth and responsibility, with the expectation they achieve the New Jersey state standards at all grade levels.**

It is with great sadness that we pause to remember retired art teacher Mrs. Joan Brennan, who has recently passed away.

Mrs. Brennan served our district for 46 years, teaching countless numbers of students...literally, thousands of students learned about the fine arts in her classroom during her decades of service at all three schools. While Mrs. Brennan loved art, she loved to read even more, and communicated this lifelong love of reading to her students.

Mrs. Brennan lived in Midland Park with her husband Kerry and daughter, Cate. All who knew her understood that Mrs. Brennan and her husband were not only husband and wife, but were best friends as well, spending as much time together as possible. Often, when asked what her plans were for the weekend or for the summer, Mrs. Brennan would reply, "Kerry and I will be going out on an adventure." They would often take road trips together, sometimes with no destination in mind, just to see new things and have a little adventure.

At the end of each class, Mrs. Brennan would waive goodbye to her students with her pinky and say "Toodaloo!" On the last day of school before her retirement, the students returned this gesture to her as an entire gym filled with students stood up to honor Mrs. Brennan for her service by waiving their pinkies and saying, "Toodaloo!"

Mrs. Brennan retired just over a year and a half ago, but retirement did not go the way we all wished it would for her. The past year, Mrs. Brennan was diagnosed with a serious illness and as always, she handled her battle privately with grace and dignity.

On behalf of all in our district, we extend our deepest sympathies to the Brennan family during this difficult time. Now, we ask that everyone stand and join the Board for a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Joan Brennan.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

- We are excited to announce that we have a proposed design of an outdoor classroom to be installed at Highland School. The tentative location will be in front of the school, to the right side when walking out of the building. The space will be composed of pavers with sitting walls, all in blue stone. The approximate size is 25 X 30 feet. The space will be hedged with trees/bushes for privacy and may include a canopy for weather protection. The anticipated cost is \$27K, which will be funded through Highland budget carryover, CARES Act funds and PTA fundraising efforts. The MPPEF has graciously granted the project \$6,500 and we sincerely thank them for their generosity. Highland raised \$7,881 last week with weeklong donation through Penny Wars. The winning grade will get an ice cream truck visit.

We are especially grateful to Highland parent Mr. Michael Tarleton of TLC Landscaping for his generous offer to donate his time in helping construct the outdoor classroom. Mr. Tarleton has constructed outdoor classrooms for the Ridgewood school district, which we have visited. The Board will move to accept donations for this purpose when the time is right and we will keep you posted as to progress as we move forward.

- The NJ School Performance Reports are available to the public and a letter from me was eblasted last week with information on how to access the data and guidance on how to review the information. We will be providing the Board and public a presentation on the school reports at the Board meeting on 5/4.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the way the NJDOE was able to measure school performance and student achievement in this year's reports. Some data is not available at all and other data may not look the same as it did in prior years. Notes are included throughout the reports to explain where data is missing or impacted by the pandemic.

The NJDOE believes it is still important to review available data. Toward that end, this year's reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback collected over the last several years and during the pandemic, including:

- *New report design with improved visuals and new navigational tools.*
- *Additional data about graduation cohorts to provide more information about students who do not graduate.*
- *New resources to help explain the impact of COVID-19 on the availability of data in the reports.*
- *A new narrative field, "Learning during COVID-19", to give districts an opportunity to share information on how they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Open to the Public: **COMMENTS** only for action items on the agenda.

There were no comments from the public.

#### BOARD MOTIONS

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings held on:
2. March 2, 2021  
March 16, 2021

Roll Call: All Yes

#### A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

APPENDIX

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2020-2021 school year will be on an emergency basis, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1, N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 and/or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13, as applicable.

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Ms. Dell'Aglia...

1. Approve the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs for the 2021 Marching Band Season, as per the attached appendix.

A-1

#### +2. **Approve the following stipend payments for curriculum writing:**

Teacher	Curriculum	No of Hours	Rate	Total
Julie Dorlon	Exploratory Art 7	4	\$50.00	\$200.00

<b>Susan Jensen</b>	<b>Culinary-Baking Essentials</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Susan Jensen</b>	<b>Culinary-Food Across America</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

- +3. **Approve the appointment of the following staff members to provide summer support for students who are in jeopardy of not graduating. They will work three days per week during July and be paid at the hourly rate of \$60.95 through ESSA Grant (Title I funds), as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract:**

**Emily Donovan      Math**  
**Maureen Kelley    English**  
**Kristen Sullivan    Math**  
**Jason Whelpley      Science**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion- Mr. Triolo, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...

- +4. **Accept with regret the retirement resignation, with regret, of Suzanne Esposito, Elementary School Teacher in the Godwin School, effective June 30, 2021.**
- +5. **Accept with regret the retirement resignation of Patricia Zarpaylic, Preschool Teacher in the Godwin School, effective June 30, 2021.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Dr. Thomas...

- +6. **Approve an unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 1589, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective July 23, 2021 through September 3, 2021.**

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of March 31, 2021, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate District officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, subject to the conditions of P.L. 1701.

2. Approve the following block motion:

- a. March 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$687,671.56.
- b. March 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$18,558.69.

- c. March 2021 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$22,737.89.
- d. Second March 2021 payroll in the amount of \$640,638.77.
- e. First April 2021 payroll in the amount of \$685,734.65.
- f. April 2021 claims in the amount of \$430,719.08.

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's report for the period March 1 – 31, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

4. Approve the transfers between accounts for the period March 1 – 31, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

+5. **Authorize the Business Administrator to execute the Agreement for Continuing Disclosure and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor Services between the Midland Park Borough School District and Phoenix Advisors, LLC for the 2021-2022 school year.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

+6. **Approve the use and rental of the Highland Field for Panther Sports LLC for a Summer Sports Camp for Midland Park students to be held on the following dates and times:**

**July 5 – 9; July 19 – 23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

+7. **Approve the use and rental of the Highland School Gym for a Youth Basketball Camp for Grades 3-8, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education on the following dates and times:**

**July 12 – 16, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Dr. Thomas...

+1. **Approve the new and revised curricula which is aligned to the NJ Student Learning Standards and new QSAC Regulations, as follows:**

**Exploratory Art-Grade 7  
Culinary Arts-Food Across America  
Culinary Arts-Baking Essentials**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Dr. Thomas...

- +2. **Approve Adam Sidrow as the Coach for Youth Basketball Camp, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education held the week of July 12 – 16, 2021.**

Roll Call: All Yes

D. Policy Committee – (P. Fantulin, Chairperson)

Ms. Fantulin reviewed the Mandated Policies for the public. She also stated that there was a committee meeting tonight on the facility use policy following up with another meeting in May.

Motion – Ms. Fantulin, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...

1. Approve the following Mandated Policies, as per the attached appendices:

- |   |           |                        |             |
|---|-----------|------------------------|-------------|
| a. Board Member Resignation and Removal                     | (revised) | Bylaws Section 0145    | <u>D-1a</u> |
| b. Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency | (new)     | Bylaws Section 0164.6  | <u>D-1b</u> |
| c. Family Leave   | (new)     | Policy Section 1643    | <u>D-1c</u> |
| d. Administration of Medical Cannabis                       | (revised) | Policy Section 5530.01 | <u>D-1d</u> |
| e. Lead Testing of Water in Schools                         | (revised) | Policy Section 7425    | <u>D-1e</u> |

2. Approve the abolishment of the following Mandated Policies:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| a. Family Leave (Teaching Staff Members)                              | Policy Section 3431.1 |
| b. Family Leave (Support Staff Members)                               | Policy Section 4431.1 |
| c. New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (Teaching Staff Members) | Policy Section 3431.2 |
| d. New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (Support Staff Members)  | Policy Section 4431.3 |
| e. School Safety  | Policy Section 7430   |

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, the New Jersey state legislature has put into law an act concerning diversity and inclusion instruction in school districts. The legislation reads: Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each school district shall incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The instruction shall:

1. Highlight and promote diversity, including economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance;
  2. Examine the impact that unconscious bias and economic disparities have at both an individual level and on society as a whole; and
  3. Encourage safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender identities, mental and physical disabilities, and religious beliefs.
- The Commissioner of Education shall provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources designed to promote diversity and inclusion. In addition to district-specific work, Bergen County districts came together earlier this year to collaborate on curriculum writing to meet the requirements of this legislation.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (C. Dell’Aglio, Chairperson)

- Met on 4/15 – minutes were sent out
- Working on setting up additional committees to discuss projects

G. Negotiations Committee - (N. Eliya, Chairperson)

No Report

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report

I. Town Council – (P. Triolo, B. McCourt)

- Reaching out to set up a meeting

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

- Parent Academies via zoom
- Open Board seats
- Looking for suggestions on topics

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- \$7,881 was raised through Penny Wars for the Outdoor classroom, the winning grade will get an ice cream visit
- Bandingo and Panther Prowl fundraisers

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

- Girls volleyball – State finals
- Spring sports started

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

- Into the Woods Fundraiser

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

- CPAC Parent Advisory Group – supporting students through COVID
- PowerPoint on school website – review of topics and programs

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Always looking for new Trustees
- Community cookbook – sales will start soon
- 4/12 – nominations of new slate of officers
- \$6,500 Grant @ Highland School for outside classroom
- Senior scholarships

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

- Looking for volunteers

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Virtual classes and outside in person classes have started
- Kindergarten readiness
- Coaches needed for track and BB clinic
- Before and After care is now offered
- Gem Show is on 5/1
- Summer camp registration is underway, there job postings for Coordinator & Counselors

Student Representative to the Board – (Samantha Padovano)

- NHS Ceremonies are on 4/29, Spanish and French at 2:00 and English at 7:00
- Spring track meet today, Bogota & HCA, Midland Park won
- Volleyball had the final round of states. We won the North Sectional Group State Sectional
- Wednesday 4/21 at 7:30 are the Winter Sports Awards
- AP exams in two weeks, students becoming ready and nervous

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

Mr. Triolo read the following announcement regarding email questions:

As Board of Education Meetings are now held in-person, which became effective on April 6, 2021, emailed comments or questions will no longer be provided to the Board at its meetings. Tonight is the last time we will be reading emailed questions at our meetings.



However, we want to emphasize that members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and address the Board with their comments. Two separate opportunities are provided to the public for this purpose. The first opportunity is provided early in the meeting for comments on agenda items only; the second is provided at the end of the meeting where comments may be made concerning other matters.

Please be reminded that we also provide a handout for the public titled, "Who do I contact with my questions?" which will help you in knowing who you should be contacting with your comments or questions. For example, for the business office, facilities, and the budget, contact the BA Ms. Stacy Garvey, for athletics, the athletic director, Mr. Glenn Stokes, for special education, the director Mrs. Ann Marie Bruder, and for Board Policy law, regulation, and other districtwide issues, contact the Superintendent Dr. Marie Cirasella.

Of course, for individual concerns about your child's education program or school experiences, please contact the teacher and/or building principal.

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of May 4, 2021, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, legal updates and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public - general **COMMENTS** only at this time are to be directed to the Board President.

Below are the list of the comments sent in to the Superintendent and the Board via email and in person at the meeting.

Megan Grillo inquired why substitute teachers are not being hired when teachers are out on leave, or are at Professional Development? Twice in the last two weeks my child has been left independent work to complete without a sub or a teacher to provide instruction. Thank you for the clarification.

Dr. Cirasella responded that she understands and as this is a school based matter, Ms. Bache has already provided detailed responses to you, which we will re-state here: If a substitute is needed, we contact the sub service immediately to secure a teacher. However, finding substitute teachers during a pandemic is a very difficult task, as there are very few available and willing to work during this health emergency.

If we cannot identify a substitute, the principal will try to arrange for in-house coverage. When Phase II began on March 8, we have not had substitute teachers cover classes in the afternoon, it was determined that it is more productive and effective to have asynchronous instruction in the afternoon. In addition, scheduled professional development for teachers was provided in the afternoon, so we could ensure that teachers would be present for in-person learning hours as this is more productive for instruction. Here are a few more reasons:

1. Substitute teachers do not have access to the Teacher's Google Classroom.

2. The substitute teacher's ability to teach virtually is unknown, and we all understand that this requires training and time on task.
3. The substitute teacher would need a streaming device to facilitate virtual instruction and if the district provided one, they would need a password and access the district network, which is not advisable according to our technology team.
4. With regard to in-house coverage, as other district staff members, such as basic skills teachers, content area specialists, and other grade level teachers, are already teaching or taking a prep period during this timeframe, it is extremely difficult to arrange for coverage.

Mrs. Grillo asked how did the district use the COVID Relief Funds we were allocated for Phase I and Phase II so far this year. Can you please provide specifics?

Ms. Garvey responded that the CARES and ESSER I funds were used to Personal Protective Equipment (faces masks, desk shields, protective gear for custodial and nursing staff), cleaning supplies and equipment, technology for staff and student to support at home learning, and emotional and mental supports.

Mrs. Grillo also asked how is the district planning on using the incoming COVID Relief Funds when they arrive. Can you please provide specifics? Will a survey be sent out to allow community input when prioritizing ways in which to spend these funds?

Ms. Garvey stated that administrative discussions are currently ongoing. We can share that there are requirements that funding be used for health supports and services as well as professional development. Also, learning acceleration, to include academic enrichment in STEM, ELA, and the arts, and funding to support the learning environment. There have been discussions on creating additional outdoor learning spaces as well as adding A/C to certain areas of the buildings to open up additional indoor spaces. We will continue to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies and technology necessary to continue to support our 1:1 Chromebook initiative. A parent survey is not being sent out at this time.

Tara Johnson asked, with two different organizations running full day instruction while following the CDC guidelines as well as the Health Department recommendations inside the elementary schools, when will there be full day instruction provided for the IEP children in need of such accommodations? Dr. Cirasella responded that at this time, all students, both special education and general education, are provided a full-day instructional program, one that combines in-person and virtual instruction. The administration, school safety teams and local board of health officials remain in ongoing discussions regarding possibly expanding our current Phase II schedule to a full day in-person program, which will include lunch.

This is a multi-faceted endeavor with many obstacles, including CDC recommendations and mandates for social distancing, staffing, regional risk matrix implications and local board of health advisement. The plan is for the team to continue deliberations and we will keep the district community advised of our progress in the days to come.

Sherry Sansone stated I realize that most of the school is out at 12:30 but the preschool and other portions of Godwin school are still in school till 2:50. Is it possible to get a crossing guard at the school and on Prospect during those times. It's very dangerous to cross Prospect and also with the buses and people leaving the school it's dangerous for teachers (who I see regularly trying to cross the road) and others for that matter to cross the road. What can be done about this?

Mr. Triolo responded that the School Resource Officer, Officer Jason Tillson has been monitoring this area at this time. He reports that students are dismissed on the school side of the street, with most students boarding the buses. Officer Tillson has not observed any student needing to cross the street or any person crossing the street. If he had, he would have assisted them. This is not an issue at this time and Officer Tillson will continue to monitor this area to ensure student safety.

Mrs. Sansone continued, I know the schools are making it possible for kids to get outside during the day but when will they be able to actually get outside and play together (even separately) outside during school hours. I see the lack of "socializing" with their peers during school hours taking a toll on kids.

Dr. Cirasella responded that your suggestion will be taken under advisement. However, the amount of in-person instructional minutes are precious and any change to this schedule is a serious consideration. As was stated earlier, the team will continue deliberations with key stakeholders regarding an expansion to the instructional day, which will include recess and keep the district community advised of progress in this regard.

Jill Mulder asked, what are the board policies for accepting bids from businesses owned by family members of current BOE members and administrators? If this is allowed, what are the systems in place to ensure the process is ethically sound? Ms. Garvey responded that according to code, a school district cannot be a party to a contract with a company that a board member or any member of his/her family has an interest, or ownership. In addition, a school district cannot be a party to a contract with a company that an administrator or member of the administrator's immediate family holds an interest of 10% or more. Protocols in place would be reviews by the board attorney and the auditor.

Mrs. Mulder asked, what is the process/evaluation tool to evaluate the Superintendent and was this in place when Dr. Cirasella's contract was renewed 2 years early in July 2020 instead of 2022? When will these closed session minutes become public since that negotiation was completed in July 2020?

Mr. Triolo answered that the Superintendent provides her self-evaluation on the identified evaluation tool, which is then submitted to the Board President for the next step in the process. This process was in place when the contract was renewed in July 2020 and has been each year. Closed session minutes are available to the public after they are approved by the Board and the information discussed has become a matter of public knowledge. We do not post closed session minutes on our website, but a copy may be obtained through an OPRA request.

Mrs. Mulder asked, how was the fee of \$4,342.00 charged to the NWBP Basketball League determined? Can you please provide a breakdown that explains all of the costs? Ms. Garvey responded that the amount charged was the hourly rate for the custodian plus a \$10/hr. charge for electric and heating costs.

Mrs. Mulder asked, will there be an investigation into all prior years of the room use forms for the NWBP Basketball League AND MP Basketball League and their corresponding schedules to ensure the school facilities were only used for games involving the Midland Park travel teams?

Mr. Triolo answered that an investigation was conducted and it was determined that, in the past, the facilities were used by the Midland Park team and their opponent.

Mrs. Mulder also asked, following the recent findings that BOE member Richard Formicola did not include all private business ventures on his Code of Ethics financial disclosure, will there be a review of all members' Code of Ethics? If so, what will that process look like? Mr. Triolo responded that it is not the responsibility of the district to review or challenge information listed on the financial disclosure forms submitted by a Board member to the Department of Education. We do however, check to see if the forms are complete and compare them to see if information is consistent from year to year.

Jill Barber asked who ran the investigation. Ms. Garvey answered it was run by her and the building principals. Mrs. Barber asked how was it conducted, did you get in touch with all the teams to see where the games were played? Ms. Garvey responded that we asked questions and prior to this year all the teams that played were Midland Park teams. Mrs. Barber stated my boys came in for basketball practice two years ago, we had to leave because the Montvale and Ridgewood girls had a game. If I did the investigation, I would find that teams that played here were not from Midland Park. Ms. Garvey thanked Mrs. Barber for this information, it was not shared with me.

Brian Marcus asked how the principals involved in the investigation because Mr. Galasso isn't aware of what goes on in his gym on the weekends. Also, the amount of \$4342, how was that determined? Ms. Garvey explained that the fee was determined by how much we pay the custodians hourly, plus a \$10 an hour charge for gas and electric. Mr. Marcus asked what the number of hours were based. Ms. Garvey answered the hours were based on the time the custodians worked.

Keith Deblasio asked about school returning to regular hours. This is a complex situation, but why would you have to hire additional teachers when we have staff from previous years, to have a full day? Dr. Cirasella answered additional staff would be needed when teachers are unavailable for things like quarantining and for lunches. May have to add additional lunch periods in order to accommodate social distancing. I also mentioned we need board of health support and we do not have it at this time. We continue to discuss and process is still ongoing. If we can, of course we will. It will be the expectation to open full day in September.

Jill Mulder asked who the Board President was at the time when the Superintendent's contract was renegotiated in 2020. Mr. Triolo answered, Richard Formicola. Mrs. Mulder asked if she needs to send an OPRA for the closed session minutes. Ms. Garvey answered that Mrs. Mulder could simply send an OPRA request through an email.

Jill Mulder asked if there are companies owned by family members of anyone on the board or administration that are awarded bids by our school. No money is being paid to companies that have interests held by family members? Ms. Garvey responded that yes, there is. It's my family member, but it's not an immediate family member. No one in my immediate household has an interest in a company that we do business with. Mrs. Mulder asked who is the family member. Ms. Garvey responded that it is her father-in-law. Mrs. Mulder continued, your father-in-law won a \$1.4 million dollar bid and your husband has no interest in the business, it's just your father-in-law? Ms. Garvey responded, correct.

Mrs. Mulder stated, I see on the invoices that you are the only one signing. Is anyone else involved in this procedure to make sure there's no conflict of interest? Mr. Triolo responded that

the bidding process is quite lengthy and run by the State of NJ. They are sealed bids and then those bids are given to the Board and the process is all run by the state. Ms. Garvey also responded that the bids were developed, distributed, collected, opened and reviewed all by the architect. Because this is a public bid anyone can bid on it. My father-in-law did bid and he won 2 of 3 bids. The Board attorney and auditor reviewed and the Board was given all of the information. It was up to them whether or not to award these bids. They decided to award because it saved the district \$350,000 compared to the next lowest bidders. All of the information was provided to the board and frankly they didn't care about perception, they wanted to do what was financially responsible for the district, community and tax payers.

Ms. Garvey continued, the purchase orders that you have are again through a bidding process. We belong to consortiums that bid on our behalf. Pennetta is the low bidder through the consortiums for service on the type of controls that are in the district. There are only 2 companies that service the controls that we have, Pennetta Industrial and Automated Logic. We have quoted Automated Logic and they charge 3 times the amount. A conservative estimate, we saved over \$100,000. This information was brought to the Board and it was their decision to make. They chose to be fiscally responsible and award the contract to the lowest bidder.

Mr. Canellas asked did you have any grounds to disqualify the bidder as they were the lowest bid. Ms. Garvey answered that we did not, so they could have challenged those bids and probably win that challenge.

Jill Mulder stated if I had faith in the integrity of the Board, I wouldn't be asking any of these questions, but with seeing the faulty application form that was accepted, it just doesn't add up that we would have an ethically superior Board. To hear that we have family members that are winning bids is concerning. Ms. Garvey responded that I took every step appropriate to ensure this was an ethically sound decision that was made by the Board.

Mrs. Mulder continued, two weeks ago I held up the improperly filled out application form that you signed off on so I don't have faith in your ethical standards.

Megan Grillo discussed phase 3 and how the Covid Care funds could be used in order to open full day. She stated that taking a parent survey could be beneficial in understanding what is important to parents and what is in the best interest of teachers and students.

Tryne Brenna thanked Jill Mulder for bringing this to the community. She then asked why are we not able to use microphones? Why are we struggling to hear what is going on. Mr. Triolo thanked her for her comment. We are working with what we have. Mrs. Brenna also stated when I was at home I could hear what was going on at the meeting when the meetings were still being broadcasted. Now I have to come here to hear what is going on. There are other towns that are still recording their meetings. Mr. Triolo stated we are currently holding our meetings in public so we are no longer need broadcasting.

Sherry Sansone – I have a question for Ms. Fantulin regarding her committee report regarding Special Education and the video on depression and recovery. Mrs. Fantulin answered that it is available on the website through the YMCA. It is a great video. They are doing a series on mental health. The best person to talk to is Mrs. Bruder. If you call her she will tell you everything you need to know.

Brian Marcus asked what the process is for the change orders for construction. Do you have to approve those or do they get approved by the Board? Ms. Garvey responded that they get approved by the Board. They come from the architect and get approved by the Board.

Keith Deblasio stated Mrs. Fantulin has a great resource and asked can you link any resource that come out of a meeting like this to the minutes so it's generally available to the public. Mr. Triolo answered that this information is already on the website.

Megan Grillo asked why there are two programs running in the school while children are still in the buildings but our children cannot be there all day. Dr. Cirsella stated that those two programs must be aftercare and hearing impaired program. The hearing impaired program is its own entity for which we cannot speak. They rent space in our buildings and their numbers are much smaller than ours. Same for the aftercare program. Mrs. Grillo also asked why special education student can't stay all day. Dr. Cirsella answered that is an individualized specific accommodation and based on student IEP. If you have specific concerns you should contact your building principal or Mrs. Bruder.

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Ms. Dell'Aglia...

Motion to go into closed session to discuss Board meeting procedures. No action will be taken at the conclusion of this session.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting resumed at 9:55 p.m. and immediately adjourned.

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Ms. Dell'Aglia...

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary