

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

“Both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting were 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:	Sandra Criscenzo	Christine Dell’Aglia
	Nabil Eliya	Patricia Fantulin
	Richard Formicola	Brian McCourt
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Excused: James Canellas

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

***Midland Park Public School District 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.***

- There were 3 inductees for the Education Hall of Fame for 2020 that were postponed until this year. Margaret (Peggy) Behan, Rosemary Konde and Leon Varjian will be acknowledged by the Board of Education at a Board meeting later in this year.

- Margaret Behan was a Special Education and Resource Room teacher in Highland School, who retired in June 2015 after teaching in Midland Park for 16 years.
- Rosemary Konde was a Kindergarten teacher in Godwin School for 24 years. She retired in June 2010.
- Leon Varjian was a Calculus teacher in the High School, who passed away in September 2015 before he was able to retire. He taught in the High School for 27 years.

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

- Thank you to Scott Collins, his staff and the Borough for all the work they did to clear the snow the past two days.
- Highland and MPHS will return to the hybrid instructional schedule on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Early weather reports indicate more snow is headed to our region for Sunday, Feb. 7. We will be monitoring the forecast and may need to pivot to fully-remote instruction if necessary. We will keep families and staff informed of any changes to school schedules.
- Two Covid-19 reports have been eblasted to date and hope this information has been helpful to families and staff. Beginning with the weekly report of Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will no longer eblast this information, but will be posting these reports on the district website, updating the data weekly. For the first week, we will advise the community via eblast that the information may now be found on the homepage of the district website.
- Our sports update is as follows:
  - Boys and Girls Basketball practice/games will resume on Feb. 6. At this time, league games will be held on M-W-F and an occasional Saturday. This schedule will continue through the break.
  - Middle School Basketball will have a four-week season, with approx. 8-9 games scheduled at this time
  - Bowling will be held at Parkway Lanes on Tuesdays/Thursdays
  - Wrestling and Volleyball are also coming up
  - Winter Track & Field will not have any meets as there are no indoor stadiums to hold them in. There will be indoor and outdoor practices, and if possible, one outdoor meet may be held. More on this to come.
  - Travel Basketball will resume on Feb. 6 on Saturdays and Sundays at Highland only. There were questions about the air exchange rate in the Highland gym, which is 90 minutes, this will help ensure safety for this program.
  - There are three inductees for the Education Hall of Fame. They were for 2020 and were postponed to this year.

**Open to Public – COMMENTS only for action items on the February 2, 2021 agenda.**

There were no comments from the public.

## BOARD MOTIONS

### Action Items:

#### A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

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 – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

1. Approved the revised paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1882, effective February 8, 2021 through February 11, 2021; a paid child care leave, effective February 12, 2021 through March 12, 2021 and an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective March 15, 2021 through June 4, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the revised resignation date for Employee No. 1773 from January 22, 2021 to February 12, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the appointment of Mary Ann Blau as an Instructional Aide. She will be paid a salary of \$27,600.00 (Category V, Step 5 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide) prorated, effective February 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the appointment of Donna Matera as a maternity leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,000 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), prorated, effective February 22, 2021 through June 4, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/Review of February 23, 2021 agenda items**

#### B. Finance Committee- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

No Report

#### C. Curriculum Committee- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

- Workshops
- New course proposal
- OOD students for approval
- School calendar

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

No Report

E. Legislative Committee- (Administration)

- Governor Murphy has signed into law a measure which establishes the Bridge Year Pilot Program. The purpose of this program is to provide students in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 with the opportunity to offset disruptions to learning opportunities and participation in extracurricular activities that might have resulted from the closure of schools to in-person instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the Bridge Year Pilot Program, certain students in the classes of 2021 and 2022 who have met all their state and local graduation requirements may defer graduation from high school for one year to participate in an additional year of academic courses and extracurricular activities immediately following their senior year. The additional year will be known as the “Bridge Year.” During the student’s Bridge Year, the student must remain enrolled in the high school they attended as a junior.

Key components of the program include:

1. Each public high school in a school district will designate a Bridge Year Liaison to serve as the school’s central point of contact for students interested in pursuing a Bridge Year.
2. To participate, eligible students must notify their host high school’s Bridge Year Liaison of their intent to participate by February 15<sup>th</sup> of their senior year.
3. For more information, the NJDOE has designated a Bridge Year webpage on its site, which is easily found through any search engine.

F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)

- A huge thank you to the Buildings and Grounds crew for all their work cleaning the snow.

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)

No Report

J. Student Representative- (Samantha Padovano)

- Winter track starts on 2/8
- Basketball starts on 2/6
- NJ.com nominated band for Best Band Award

- In-person learning resumes on 2/8
- Sponsor a Senior event by PTA

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No Report

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglia...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of February 23, 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.

Mr. Triolo invited the public to address the Board.

No one chose to speak at this time.

Motion – Mr. Formicola, seconded – Mr. Eliya...  
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary