

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 23, 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:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Christine Dell’Aglia	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin	Richard Formicola
	Brian McCourt	Maryalice Thomas

Peter Triolo

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 21st 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.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

In my experience, one of the most interesting aspects of education is revealed during times of disagreement. What often occurs is that those with different opinions actually want exactly the same thing.

As a professional educator for many years, I know full well that the more we provide in-person learning hours for students, the better the results will be. Parents want more hours in school, I want it, my administrators want it, the teachers want it, and this wonderful Board of Education wants it, too.

But, the challenges come in defining the process to follow in getting to this goal. We have heard the community's feelings on implementing Phase II of the district's re-opening plan and know that there are differences of opinions among our families. At the onset, I want to thank each and every parent who has contacted me with a question or concern...it is truly appreciated. I'm always so happy when those with confidence in their own convictions reach out to get the best answer.

As you may be aware, we eblasted the Phase II Re-Opening Plan this afternoon at 3 pm and will implement it beginning March 8th. This plan accomplishes our goal of increasing in-person learning hours for students.

At this time, the plan addresses students in grades PK-8 only; please be assured we are working on bringing students in grades 9-12 back to school for more in-person learning hours very, very soon. Also, know that families may elect to opt-out of in-person instruction during Phase II and an opt-out form was provided in the eblast for your use if you need one.

I want to take a moment to provide some information that may be helpful and is reflective of some of the questions we have received.

We have been asked why we delayed the start date. While administration, local health officials, and other key stakeholders had been collaborating on plan development for months, we had to successfully overcome significant obstacles during the process.

In planning for Phase II, maintaining six feet of social distancing was a mitigating factor and a concern expressed by our teachers, many families, and local health officials.

Most recently, contradictory language with regard to social distancing requirements in the February 12th CDC guidance document was a substantial concern. Necessary clarification was needed, and it was obtained just yesterday, which enabled us to finalize plan details and announce the start date.

Now, to help understand information which contributed to our determinations, I want to share a graphic which illustrates the extreme spike in COVID-related cases in our community (share the graphic.)

As you can see, we experienced a tremendous spike in COVID cases beginning in November with 80, December with 113, and January with 139. As of February 9th, the numbers appear to be decreasing, with approximately 19 cases so far in this month.

You will also remember that Highland and MPHS had to recently pivot to fully remote learning due to spikes in COVID cases. So, as you can see, these variables greatly influence our decision-making for implementing a new plan, and it is easy to understand why it was recommended that we remain with our hybrid plan during this timeframe.

Now, it's a new day. Numbers are moving in the right direction, the transmission rate is dropping, the vaccination rate is moving up, and the guidance indicates we can social distance in our classrooms to the greatest extent possible, and not remain at six feet.

All of these factors led us to the decision to implement Phase II on March 8th, just one week after the tentative start date we had previously announced.

As I shared in my eblast this afternoon, I cannot begin to express my gratitude to the administrative team, local health officials, the Executive County Superintendent, the MPEA leadership, and our amazing staff of teachers. Each has gone above-and-beyond during the most challenging of times and their commitment to our students is without peer.

I also want to acknowledge our Board of Education trustees, and I meant it when I said they are often the unsung heroes of public education. Each trustee volunteers their time and energy to serving our children, schools, and community, taking time away from their own families to do so. They are truly deserving of our sincere gratitude.

I know there will be more questions and concerns in days to come, as this is a new and turbulent public education landscape we are all travelling.

In the future, if and when we may disagree, please pause and remember, we likely want the same thing, as all good people do.

I hope that you will continue to contact me, or any member of the administrative team with your questions or concerns. As always, thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support.

Mr. Triolo made the following statement:

- The Phase II plan outlined here tonight is the culmination of months of work by our Superintendent, School Administration, Principals, Teachers and partners in the MPEA, Midland Park Board of Health and our Buildings and Grounds staff. We thank you for all your work.
- From the first eblast mention of Phase II to the meeting this evening, that the date for launching this plan has changed by exactly one week. It was impossible to propose a final plan when the safety guidelines were unclear and only clarified yesterday. Patience is in short supply these days, but that is what is required.
- I would like to remind everyone, there is no guarantee that these guidelines may not change again at any time.
- Between Covid fatigue and being weary of winter, these factors cannot influence what must be done, which is putting an in-person learning expansion in place, first for K-8 and subsequently for 9-12, that adheres to County and CDC guidelines and keeps our students, staff and community safe.
- Our schools were opened for hybrid learning earlier than most other districts and had to shut down when Bergen County went red. We are only orange now and could be red again at any moment. When the County eventually goes yellow, new guidelines will be issued and new plans will have to be developed, which will take time. The safety of our students, staff and community is paramount which is why we needed clarification before we could proceed. We would not put forth any plan that did not meet the requirements.
- It is the responsibility of our parents to make sure they follow guidelines on stopping the spread of Covid. If your child is sick, someone in your household has been exposed or for any other reason, you must not send your child to school. If not, this plan will come to a swift end. Also, I would like to remind parents, you do not have to send your child to school no matter what plan is in place. The Governor made it clear that for the remainder of the school year no child can be forced to attend under any circumstances. Do not hesitate to use this option.
- The Board fully supports our Superintendent. She has the leadership, experience and compassion required to navigate this situation. The majority of questions submitted to the Superintendent have been courteous but unfortunately some have not. If you believe, not

think, that the Administration or the Board is deliberately working against the education of our children, there is nothing I can say to change your belief. The Board of volunteers' sole purpose is to assist the administration in educating our children, with the newly added responsibility of community safety. Nothing will deter us from this mission.

- Understand, each district is unique, battling the same issues we are, they are coming to conclusions that only work for them, as we have for us. No amount of outside belligerence has impacted the timeline in any way or will ever influence the Board.
- Some members of our town have lost their livelihoods some have lost loved ones and some have lost their lives to the pandemic. Covid has taken a terrible toll on all of us, do not let it shatter our community.

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

There were no comments from the public.

BOARD MOTIONS

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

1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings held on:

January 5, 2021

January 19, 2021

Roll Call: All Yes

- 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. **Amend Board motion S-1 on the February 2, 2021 Agenda, to extend Donna Materia's last day of employment, as a maternity leave replacement in Godwin School, through June 30, 2021.**
- +2. **Approve the appointment of Kelly Fischer as an English teacher maternity leave replacement in the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,000 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective March 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021.**
- +3. **Approve the following addition to the list of Coaches at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year:**

		<u>Stipend</u>
Add:	Timothy Hamilton	7/8 Grade Volleyball Coach
		\$2,875

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Formicola...

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of January 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. January 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$386,901.40
- b. January 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$22,905.73
- c. January 2021 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$25,452.42
- d. Second January 2021 payroll in the amount of \$655,821.21
- e. First February 2021 payroll in the amount of \$633,450.37
- f. February 2021 claims in the amount of \$492,602.42

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

B-3

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

B-4

5. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education does hereby approve an agreement with the Region 1/Mahwah Board of Education, a Coordinated Transportation Services Agency, for the purpose of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 for the 2021-2022 school year. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, the coordinated transportation of public, nonpublic and special education students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education agrees to abide by the Transportation Services Agreement as published by the Region 1/Mahwah Board of Education and attached to this resolution.

+6. Approve the Agreement for Consultant Services between the Midland Park School District and Gravity Goldberg, LLC for ½ day of balanced literacy professional development for an amount not to exceed \$900, effective February 5, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

- +7. **Approve TGA Premier Sports to offer the following children's programs, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, to be held at Highland School Field on the following dates and times:**

Youth Golf – Mondays, April 12 – May 17, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Youth LaCrosse – Thursdays, April 15 – May 20, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- +8. **Approve the Kindergarten Readiness Program 2021, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, to be held in Godwin School on the following dates and times:**

July 19-23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas reported that the committee reviewed the 2021-22 Tentative Budget which will be on the next agenda for board approval. He thanked the committee and administration for their work.

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

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Marina Lenihan	Co-Teaching Strategies	Virtual	\$479.00	3/22-3/23/2021

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the non-resident enrollment of the children of Employee No. 0115, in the 3rd and 6th grade classes in the Highland School, for September 2021 as per Board Policy 5111.
3. Approve the non-resident enrollment of the child of Employee No. 1296, in the 6th grade class in the Highland School, for September 2021 as per Board Policy 5111.
4. Approve the non-resident enrollment of the child of Employee No. 0439, in the Kindergarten class in the Godwin School, for September 2021, as per Board Policy 5111.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +5. **Approve the proposed Academic Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix.**

C-5

- +6. **Approve the following new course proposal at the High School:**

Intermediate Algebra

- +7. **Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) Waiver from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for the 2021-2022 school year, due to the fact that there are forty or fewer Medicaid eligible students in the Midland Park School District.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

- E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No Report

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

- Productive meeting
- Review cost analysis & plans on Turf Fields
- Preliminary discussions with borough

- 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)

- Will be taking information from Buildings & Grounds meeting in late March
- Continue positive discussion with Council

- J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

- Louis Vuitton raffle
- Give Back fundraiser
- Adopt a H.S. Senior
- Meal trains
- Spread the Love Brigade
- Next meeting is 3/8

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- Please refer to website, there are a lot of good things going on
- Mr. Triolo stated there is a fundraiser for a student’s family that was affected by a fire, appreciate the support

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

- Senior scholarship applications
- Girls and Boys High School games are livestreamed on website
- Winter season starts on 3/1
- Flag fundraisers
- Middle School home games are broadcasted

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Community cookbook – submit recipes

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Eblast the listing of Spring Brochure
- Class remain virtual and outdoors

Student Representative to the Board – (Samantha Padovano)

- Winter track practices
- Girls basketball team has 4-2 record
- Winter sports pictures
- Cap & Gown pictures

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of March 2, 2021, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, legal updates and confidential student HIB case reviews.

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

- Maureen Fister, President of the MPEA asked that this statement be read on behalf of the Midland Park Education Association.

MPEA would like to thank the Administration for keeping us involved in the discussions of how to move forward with Phase II. Together, we have all spent countless extra hours on finding paths forward at each crossroad of this pandemic. We understand that the district is following the guidance of the local board of health and the State Department of Education. We are concerned that those two entities are not advising the district, with regards to social distancing, in the current CDC guidelines. Our members have and will continue to provide the best instruction possible. The lack of adherence to 6 feet social distancing does cause many of our members' great stress and anxiety. We look forward to continuing to work with administration to find solutions to those situations collaboratively and relieve the anxiety whenever possible. We hope that all involved understand that it would be much easier for teachers to do things the way we did in 2019. This current climate of teaching is much more complex and time consuming than any of us could have imagined. The bottom line is that we have put the health and safety of the entire school community at the forefront of all decisions throughout this crisis.

The following questions/comments were presented to the Superintendent and the Board:

Frank Kalata asked, *With many private schools conducting full time classes five days per week; what is our district's current target date for resuming a full time five days per week educational schedule?* Dr. Cirasella responded the plan sent out today explains the phase II plan, but as far as a full day with a lunch period, there is no target date as of yet until we can determine how that can be safely done. Mr. Triolo added private schools do not have to follow the same guidance as public schools.

Lauren Sikora - *Can you please explain, in clear detail, what is holding us back so we can all understand? It is just the CDC guideline?* Mr. Triolo answered the main obstacle was not having information we needed to move forward.

What exactly is Phase 2? Can you please share details of how it will work? Parents need more than a weekend to plan for any changes and this transparency would mean a lot to the community. The previous plan was very vague and doesn't allow anyone to plan for childcare changes. Mr. Triolo answered this was explained in the eblast. We will be increase in-person learning.

How do we stack up to neighboring towns who are in-school more than MP so that our community understands our unique challenges? Mr. Triolo answered what fits one town does not fit another towns. We had to do what fit Midland Park and cannot speak to what other towns do.

Godwin school has had MINIMAL cases since the start. Given virtual learning is extremely difficult for these ages, can nothing be done to get at least Godwin back to increased in-classroom hours for K-2? Is the issue of am / pm schedule for Godwin due to lack of custodial staff or the ability to properly disinfect? Can you please clarify why this is not an option to get kids in for five days a week of learning We understand the lunch issue, but surely something could be figured out. How will the school board support families like ours in working to get the kids back in school, safely for more hours so they can at least be at grade level for the year? Dr. Cirasella answered with the new

plan we did increase in person learning. The custodial staff was not an obstacle. They are able to do the cleaning and disinfecting.

If we will remain Hybrid for EOY, can the virtual days for Kindergarten be 100% synchronous. We do some of it now with our teacher, but it is only about an hour, max. Can we also ensure the specials pivot to synchronous in some way? The optional office hours do not work, since there is no set "agenda." Dr. Cirasella answered in the plan for Kindergarten, they will have academics and specials.

We know the future is unknown, but it seems prudent to plan two paths now for what might happen next year, so everyone is prepared. What is the plan for 2021/2022? Will the school board commit now to figuring out a plan to ensure all kids are in school five days a week even if this is still going on? What can we do as a community do to support having a working plan in place before July? Mr. Triolo answered we will work on plans based on all different contingencies. The plan now is based on the Orange designation. This is a changing process and we attempt to get back to normal as soon as possible.

Katarina Gizzi – As many other parents I'm very disappointed that Midland Park Board of Education made a decision to postpone the Phase II plan, which would increase in-person learning. My daughter is suffering with virtual learning both emotionally and academically, and we're concerned about her social and mental well-being. As a second grader, she should be learning in school instead of spending countless hours in front of computer screen. A current hybrid setting is not sufficient enough and our children deserve better education. She misses her old school and her friends.

With only 2 Covid cases in Godwin School since September - why can't you bring at least Godwin students back for more in-person learning? What is the reasoning behind your decision to keep all the schools on the same hybrid schedule? It shouldn't be a one size fits all solution. My second question, why some surrounding towns that are also in an orange zone are able to implement 5 half days in-person schedules since September? If Wyckoff (much bigger district than our town) is following CDC guidelines and is allowed to be 5 days why can't Midland Park? Mr. Triolo stated we all understand the situation and it does make any of us happy. Understand the difficulties the parents and students are having. We need to provide a safe place for our students and staff to return to. A decision could be made, we needed clarification on the guidelines. The delay was one week. Again, cannot speak to what other districts are doing.

Sal Falciglia – *I would like to understand what the BOE plan is as it relates to the unsafe conditions of both lower Sunset and Highland fields. Watching these kids play sports on these fields each week and the terrible and unsafe conditions they are in, it's only a matter of time before a child has an injury and town and board faced with a lawsuit for lack of maintenance. With the amount of property taxes we pay its time for the BOE, Town and rec departments to work together to address the field and their safety including now that our sports programs are growing and the demand for outside activities continue to increase as Covid goes on.* Mrs. Dell'Aglio answered we are doing an analysis and reviewing the cost to put down synthetic turf fields. The fields are inspected yearly by our insurance company for safety. The Board allocates approximately \$30,000 for the maintenance of the fields. We look forward to working together with the town and moving toward synthetic fields. Mr. Triolo added there are many groups that want to use the limited amount of fields that require rest in order to be maintained. We try to

schedule as much use as possible. Synthetic fields would allow for the amount of use needed by all of the groups.

I have to say it was extremely disappointing that the BOE has delayed Phase#2 reopening even after the CDC gave guidelines how to do it, also after reading the CDC outline the revised email from the town this morning about social distancing doesn't stand up based on the recommendation for social distancing set out by the CDC it wasn't a mandate. The town has spent money on plexiglass and other measures that can be used as part of the district's plan to open up to 5 half day's but continues not to do it, with no clear reason why including with the latest Covid numbers in the town which are extremely low. There are over 83 school districts in the state that are full time with strict measures in place to combat the spread of Covid which I would expect MP would have gotten ahead of after a year of us dealing with this. At some point we need to recognize as a community the long term effect this hybrid learning is going to cause with these kids and the damage will last far longer than Coiv-19. It's time for MP to think out of the box and figure out how to get these kids back in the classroom all while keeping our children and staff safe which can be done. Mr. Triolo answered phase II is now underway. Dr. Cirasella explained the CDC guidance contained contradictory information, we moved forward once we received clarification. School specific information will be provided to families as we move on by the building prinicipals.

Stacey Reyes - *Can you clarify if we're categorized as "orange" - what this means for sports? Why is the district allowing out of town sports players in our schools when it has been determined that it is "unsafe" to send our own children in with masks for phase 2?* Dr Cirasella answered NJSIAA is the governing body for all school sports, we follow their guidelines. The Governor has allowed for indoor sports to occur and for there to be spectators.

Recommendations from Stacey Reyes - *To help mitigate the spread of covid, I'd like to recommend that the district mandate that whoever is walking into and staying in our school buildings, that masks are worn. This should be for school as well as sports. In private run facilities in this area, they've all taken precautions to mandate mask wearing inside the buildings. As part of the phase 2 rollout, has the district looked at rolling out a phased approach, starting with the younger grades, and then working up? For example:*

- *Could we do all students for half day for grades k-3?*
- *For grades 4-5, only have the teachers switch classrooms, instead of the students?*

Dr. Cirasella thanked Ms. Reyes for sharing her recommendations and responded we do require masks be worn in the buildings with the exception of sports which is governed by NJSIAA.

Dave & Erica Morgan – *What is the Phase II plan and why haven't the details of this plan been shared with us? What changed between February 8th and February 19th to change the course of action? All indications across the state and county are that Covid cases are declining. Why in almost March have we not changed our plan at all to provide more in-person opportunities? We are a rather small school district with extremely small cohort sizes which is why it is frustrating that our students can't pivot to an AM/PM 5 days a*

week model. I know that school mandated requirements are being met, but there needs to be more in-depth learning. If you aren't going to provide more in-person instruction, how will virtual instruction change and improve to provide more depth as well as live meets? Mr. Triolo replied in the presentation we previously covered all the topics and appreciate your input.

Gregory Gombas – *How is it that neighboring towns like Waldwick and Wyckoff have in-person school 5 days a week while Midland Park does not? Has Midland Park looked at alternate spaces for classrooms such as Gymnasiums, Cafeterias, Auditoriums etc.? Has Midland Park looked at providing both AM and PM classes similar to Allendale? Are 3-hour classes enough time for teachers to cover all the material required to meet Common Core Standards? Is Midland Park doing any standardized testing to ensure children are meeting those standards? Will there be PARCC testing this year?* Mr. Triolo answered we have covered most of these questions in previous statement. Dr. Cirasella stated as for the standardized testing, our Governor has suspended all testing but our President does not support that. We are waiting for further advisement.

Lauren Harmon – *Why are the high school students being left out of the phase II school plan? What is being done to get grades 9-12 back in school 5 days?* Dr. Cirasella responded it is not their time yet. Grades 7 & 8 are a pilot program, we will monitor it and learn from it. Grades 9-12 will be next. We will keep you informed of when we are moving ahead.

Corin Sonderfan - I have 4 children, 3 in midland park schools. 2 of my 3 children will be going back for phase 2 which was just announced, however my high schooler is not included. I would like to know why and what the plan is to get her back in 5 days. While I realize that young children pose problems for working parents and need to be in school, my high schooler needs to be in as well!! She is missing out on her entire high school experience, extra curricular activities and desperately needed learning time. I find it extremely disheartening that high schoolers are not just as important as the young children as well. Please give us a time line now as to how and when you plan to move forward. Transparency is if the utmost importance. Mr. Triolo responded we have addressed this in previous conversations. We cannot put forth anything that is not safe.

William Guarini –*Can you elaborate on why the high school is unable to move to Phase II? Will the middle school have virtual lessons in the afternoon? Will there be teachers available after students are dismissed at 12:30?* Dr. Cirasella answered we have covered the first question in previous conversations. Some teachers will have new lessons at the middle school. All will offer help to student who are struggling from 1:15 – 2:00., The teachers have lunch from 12:30 – 1:15.

Corinne McCombs – *Thank you so much for moving into the phase II for the younger grades! It is such a relief that they will be getting more in person learning. My question is, can you share your thoughts about phase II for the high school grades and give an estimated time for moving into this next phase? Also is there a way to have live communication, where we can call in and ask our questions, from the residents in these BOE meetings.* Dr. Cirasella answered we have covered this in previous conversations. Currently the Board is satisfied with the way the meetings are being held. Right now we are communicating more effectively and more thoroughly because we are able to address any

question to the entire community and not just one individual. Hopefully we will be getting back to live meetings.

Dana Aufiero – *Now that the district has announced their phase II reopening plans for March 8th, how many students will there be in each classroom for first grade? If you do not have this answer presently, when will parents be notified of the numbers?* Dr. Cirasella responded once we know how many parents have elected to opt their children out we will know how many students will be in each class. Recommend contacting the principal directly to find out the number of students in your child's class.

Tryne Brenna – *I am sitting here and listening to Mr Triolo speak to the community / audience of this meeting. I do not believe his tone to the public is necessary. He is speaking to grown adults putting their children in the schools he speaks of. I have not voiced concerns of the current phase 1/phase2 decisions. I am writing as a parent and adult. It is very possible for him to make his point without being belligerent to the community.* Mr. Triolo responded your comment is noted. During zoom meetings my tone is often louder. There was no insult intended, I ask for your forgiveness. Thank you for your comments.

Kerri Moylan – *Now that cohorts will be combined, and that 6ft social distancing may not always be possible, will the k-8 students be using desk shields?* Dr. Cirasella answered yes, absolutely.

Linda Eliya – *How long will they pilot grades 7-8 before grades 9-12 can return?* Dr. Cirasella replied we do not have an exact time, we don't anticipate it to go for a very long length of time. Our goal is to bring the 9-12 students back as soon as possible. Believe it will happen very soon.

Stephen Rupp – *Understanding that the post-Covid world will be forever different than what the pre-Covid world was, what steps if any are being discussed in facility and process upgrades to include but not limited to av broad casting, automatic doors, heppa filtration, etc...?* Mr. Triolo responded these are terrific questions, we will have to get back to you, we cannot answer them in this timeframe.

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

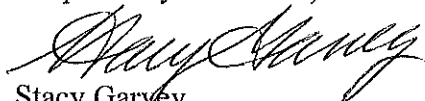
S-1. Approve the Phase II District Reopening Plan to be implemented on March 8, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garyey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary