

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 19, 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	Patricia Fantulin
	Richard Formicola	Brian McCourt
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Excused: Nabil Eliya

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

- Dr. Cirasella reported on an update for the Midland Park Education Hall of Fame. A hold was place on announcing the Hall of Fame honorees last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This group of honorees will be moved to this year for induction and recognition and we will honor them properly in June. The honorees will be notified this week and the Board President Peter Triolo will announce their names and provide a brief bio for each at the next Board meeting.
- On Jan. 19th the decision was made for Highland School and MPHS to pivot to fully-remote learning beginning Jan. 20th and continuing through Feb. 5th. Letters to the school families were eblasted, and a robo-call to the entire district community. The decision was made in conjunction with local Board of Health officials and a careful review of COVID related data at each school. Issues impacting this decision included a spike in positive cases, a significant number of quarantined individuals, and concerns with regard to adequate staffing at MPHS. At this time, the Godwin School will continue with the Hybrid Instructional schedule. We are closely monitoring COVID data relative to Godwin School and will advise families of any changes to that program as soon as possible.
- It is very important to closely monitor your children for signs and symptoms of COVID and do not hesitate to seek medical attention if you have any concerns.
- With regard to our varsity sports programs, high school administration will be sending families of our student athletes more information on Jan 20th about the date for a return to practices and games.

Report of Student Safety Data System (SSDS) District Violence & Vandalism and Incidents of Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) for Reporting Period 1, 2020-2021.

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

There were no comments from the public.

BOARD MOTIONS

APPENDIX

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

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

December 1, 2020

December 15, 2020

Roll Call: All Yes

A correction was needed to the Jan 7th reorganization meeting resolution Y. The resolution stated to approve the authorization to award contracts up to a bid threshold of \$40,000 and to set the quote threshold at \$6,000. The amounts should have been \$44,000 and \$6,600 respectively. The change will be reflected in the Jan 7th meeting minutes.

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

- +2. **Approve the revised 2020-2021 Budget Preparation Calendar, as per the attached appendix.**

BM-2

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +3. **Approve the list of Board of Education Standing Committees for the 2021 elective year, as per the attached appendix.**

BM-3

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 – Ms. Dell’Aglia...

- +1. **Approve the following additions to the list of Coaches at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year:**

		<u>Stipend</u>
Add: Christian Lawlor	Middle School Boys Basketball Coach	\$2,875.00
Lisa McNerney	Middle School Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,875.00

- +2. **Accept the resignation of Employee No. 1773, effective January 22, 2021.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +3. **Approve the increase in salary for the following teachers, effective February 1, 2021:**

Emily Cooper	BA Step 6	(\$51,500.00) to MA Step 6 (\$54,999.00)
Tarra Lawlor	MA Step 15	(\$75,500.00) to MA +30 Step 15 (\$82,800.00)
Nicole Marino	BA Step 4	(\$50,500.00) to MA Step 4 (\$53,250.00)
Stephanie Mont	BA Step 4	(\$50,500.00) to MA Step 4 (\$53,250.00)
Shawn Savage	MA Step 6	(\$54,999.00) to MA +30 Step 6 (\$59,500.00)

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Dell’Aglia, seconded – Mr. Formicola...

- +4. **Approve the revised paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1310, effective approximately February 22, 2021 through March 17, 2021; a paid child care leave, effective approximately March 18, 2021 through April 14, 2021 and an unpaid child care leave, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately April 15, 2021 through September 10, 2021.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +5. **Approve the following sixth period teaching assignments at the High School. The teachers will be paid a prorated salary as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, effective approximately February 22, 2021 through June 30, 2021, as follows:**

Rosemary Filev	Study Skills	\$3,937.50
Tarra Lawlor	English 9/10 RC	\$4,140.00
Marina Lenihan	English III CPC	\$2,942.50
Kori Smith	English I CPC	\$2,550.00

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the extension in the unpaid leave of absence for Employee No. 1772, effective March 1, 2021 through June 30, 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 December 31, 2020, 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.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the following block motion:
- December 2020 direct pays in the amount of \$441,853.51.
 - December 2020 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$23,284.51.
 - December 2020 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$13,188.20.
 - First December 2020 payroll in the amount of \$634,870.28.
 - Second December 2020 payroll in the amount of \$649,493.23.
 - First January 2021 payroll in the amount of \$622,700.19.
 - January 2021 claims in the amount of \$445,341.38.
3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's report for the period December 1 – 31, 2020, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

4. Approve the transfers between accounts for the period December 1 – 31, 2020, as per the attached appendix.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +5. **Approve the Carryover funds for the ESSA Grant from FY 2019-2020, as follows:**

Title I, Part A	\$ 5,662.00
Title II, Part A	\$13,537.00
Title III	\$ 138.00
Title IV, A	\$ 7,889.00

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

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

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

1. Approve the second reading of the following revised Board policies:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------|
| a. | Notice of Board Meetings | Bylaws Section 0162 |
| b. | Conduct of Board Meeting | Bylaws Section 0164 |

Roll Call: All Yes

- E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

- I. Town Council – (P. Triolo)

- Will look to schedule a meeting

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

No Report

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Performing Arts Parents – (Dr. Thomas)

No Report

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

No Report

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

No Report

Student Representative to the Board – (Samantha Padovano)

No Report

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of February 2, 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.

Mrs. Wasilenko submitted two questions/statements for the Board and Superintendent.

1. *I know everyone is doing their best during this unprecedented time. However, in other districts, parents are receiving email notifications about every case within the school/district, regardless of whether or not it is considered a close contact. I know there are HIPPA laws, and medical information is sensitive, but other districts are doing it. With cases rising state wide, parents should be able to make informed decisions about whether or not they want to send their children to school or keep them virtual. I think this level of transparency would go a long way with parents, especially those who are caring for health-compromised and vulnerable family members.*

Dr. Cirasella responded that protocol mirrors that of other districts. Because of our size, we are sensitive to share that type of information. We do over inform via calls and letters to those effected. We do not want the information to be alarming. We want to make sure the information is meaningful and informative. We are taking these concerns into consideration. Beginning tomorrow, 1/20, we will be sending out notifications.

Mr. Triolo added that parents need to share information with principals. This information helps Administration in making decisions on a daily basis. It is a group effort.

2. *As a follow up, if these are so many cases that Highland and the High School shut down, why is Godwin still open? There are so many staff and sibling cross overs, it doesn't really seem to make sense.*

Dr. Cirasella responded that all data available is vetted by Administration and Board of Health. We will be looking at information over the next few days. We may need to pivot to remote learning and we will let the parents know as soon as possible.

Mr. Triolo stated that the Board of Health is doing a great job. It is a two way street with the Board of Health and Administration. We work together very well.

Dr. Cirasella wanted to inform everyone that the Administration has been outstanding and collaborating with the MPEA and nurses. Want to acknowledge one person, the High School nurse, Karen Corcoran. She has been a rockstar, absolutely amazing. Outstanding efforts during the pandemic.

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

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary