

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
JUNE 15, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Triolo at 8:00 p.m. and Ms. Garvey read the following 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	Richard Formicola
	Brian McCourt	Peter Triolo

Excused: Maryalice Thomas

**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.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE – A moment of silence for the passing of Nicholas Moquete.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

- An eblast was sent out on June 8 with regard to wearing facemasks in school, indicating that masks would no longer be required per the Governor's allowance of "discretion" to districts in the event of "extreme heat." Following the eblast, additional discussions occurred, which included consideration of information from the state department of health, internal stakeholders, other districts, the school physician and more. Other Bergen county districts were contacted to review their protocols and learned many of them were moving in the direction we were, others were not. In additions, all districts were provided with clarification from the NJDOE on the afternoon of June 8.

The Governor has clarified that this indoor masking exception could be applied to situations in which a district determines, at its discretion and based on its assessment of the individual circumstances, that a period of extreme heat warrants students and staff to remove their masks while indoors. Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks while participating in activities that include that include sustained contact with others.

On June 9 a decision was then made, (within 24 hours of the original determination) to clarify the face mask protocol and ensure understanding that this decision was more in alignment with the Governor's recommendation for identifying the variable of "extreme heat" as the indicator which allows districts to apply discretion in masking practices. In cases where classroom temperatures fell into the extreme heat category, the wearing of masks will be optional.

We are fortunate that all our classrooms are air-conditioned and the new HVAC systems monitor classroom temperatures and it is reviewed by the building principal and supervisor of buildings and grounds as needed. It is understandable how disconcerting it is when decisions are revisited and changed and apologize for any confusion that may have occurred. During a global pandemic, it is reasonable to expect there will be decisions that require revision as guidance is clarified and discussions continue, it would be naïve not to naïve not to recognize this.

I understand the serious responsibilities of my position, which include remaining open to continued discussions with regard to issues of safety and health for staff and students, to remain in compliance with state mandate, then taking direct action in determinations when warranted.

Please be assured we understand how difficult it is when safety practices must swiftly be altered, these revisions impact district operations for all of us. Acting to keep everyone safe and well must remain the primary goal, and I promise you that it will.

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

## BOARD MOTIONS

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

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

May 4, 2021  
May 18, 2021

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Authorize the Superintendent to hire staff over the summer months with retroactive Board approval.

Roll Call: All Yes

### A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2021-2022 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. McCourt, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...

1. Approve a paid sick leave of absence for Employee No. 0089, effective approximately June 21, 2021 through approximately August 18, 2021.
2. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 1954, effective June 30, 2021.
3. Approve the employment contracts for the following employees for the 2021-2022 school year:

a. Eurico Antunes	District Technology & Data Coordinator
b. Trina Bradley	Confidential Secretary to the Director of Special Education & Child Study Team
c. Virginia Calero	Payroll & Benefits Coordinator
d. Scott Collins	Buildings & Grounds Supervisor
e. Lisa Green	Confidential Secretary to Business Administrator
f. Eileen Pomianek	Assistant to the Business Administrator
g. Anne Schaper	Confidential Secretary to Superintendent of Schools
h. Ristem Sela	Computer Technician
i. Zachary Spadaccini	Computer Media Technician

4. Approve the summer hours for the following Child Study Team members to work up to 10 days each during the months of July and August 2021. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:

Christy Kearney	Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant
Jennifer Liss	School Social Worker

Catherine Prinsell	School Psychologist
Emily Trent	School Psychologist
Pamela Vermaas	Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant

Roll Call: All Yes

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

5. Approve the summer hours for Craig Rush, Student Assistance Counselor, for up to 24 hours during the months of July and August 2021. He will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA Agreement
6. Approve the summer hours for Carole Treta, Technology Coordinator, for up to 60 additional hours. She will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract.
7. Approve the summer hours for the following Guidance Counselors. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:
 

Kelly Scala	up to 1 additional day for 7 hours per day
Margaret Owens	up to 8 additional days for 7 hours per day
Elizabeth Wall	up to 8 additional days for 7 hours per day
8. Approve the summer hours for the following Certified School Nurses to review student records to ensure that required immunizations are complete prior to the start of school. They will each work for two additional days, not to exceed 15 hours, and will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:
 

Karen Corcoran
Lauren Fenning
Alexandra Kulesha
9. Approve the summer hours for the following Secretaries, for up to 20 additional days each:
 

Michele Callesano	Highland Secretary to the Principal
Marie Pantina	High School Guidance Secretary
Barbara Rasmussen	High School Secretary to the Principal
Christina Scott	Godwin Secretary to the Principal
Carol Weaver	High School Secretary to the Assistant Principal
10. Approve the summer hours for the following Midland Park Continuing Education program staff:
 

Jo Ann Francolino	Bookkeeper for up to 120 additional hours
Beth Kasbarian	Clerk for up to 120 additional hours
11. Approve the appointment of Danielle Bache as the Affirmative Action & Title IX Officer, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
12. Approve the appointment and stipend in the amount of \$2,000 for Nicholas Capuano as the School Security Specialist for the 2021-2022 school year.

13. Approve a paid child care leave for Employee No. 1640, effective September 1, 2021 through approximately September 30, 2021 and an unpaid child care leave, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
14. Approve the appointment of the following HIB positions for the 2021-2022 school year. They will be paid a stipend of \$595.00, as per Schedule F of the MPEA contract:

Craig Rush	District Anti Bullying Coordinator
Margaret Owens	Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School Anti Bullying Specialist
Elizabeth Wall	Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School Anti Bullying Specialist
Kelly Scala	Godwin/Highland Elementary School Anti Bullying Specialist

15. Approve the appointment of Teresa Wecht as the Option II Coordinator at the high school for the 2021-2022 school year. She will be paid a stipend of \$1,688.00, as per Schedule F of the MPEA contract.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +16. **Accept the resignation of Employee No. 1772, effective June 30, 2021.**
- +17. **Accept the resignation of Employee No. 0524, effective June 22, 2021.**
- +18. **Approve the tenured reappointment and employment contract for Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2021-2022 school year, as approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.**
- +19. **Approve the following teachers to instruct during the SOAR Academy (Summer Opportunities for Acceleration and Remediation). They will be paid at the rate of \$60.95 per hour, as per the MPEA contract, through Title I and/or ESSER funds, as needed, not to exceed 52.5 hours each:**

Jenna Abballe	Grades 5 and 6
Traci Audino	Grade 4
Christine Carr	Grade 3
Deborah Lelinho	Grade 4
Alyssa Maimone	Grades 3 and 6
Stephanie Mont	Grade 5

- +20. **Approve the following elementary school teachers to receive Professional Development in the area of Mathematics, during the summer, to provide support to at-risk students. They will be paid at the rate of \$60.95 per hour, through Title I and/or ESSER funds, not to exceed 4 hours each:**

Allison Kilgallen	Maureen O'Hara
Danielle Kirsch	Lori Thiemann

- +21. **Approve the following middle and high school teachers to receive Professional Development in the area of Mathematics, during the summer, to provide support to**

at-risk students. They will be paid at the rate of \$60.95 per hour, through Title I and/or ESSER funds, as follows:

Rosemary Filev	3 hours	Therese Seiders	3 hours
Katherine Kuperus	6 hours	Lawry Stein	6 hours
Tarra Lawlor	3 hours	Kristen Sullivan	3 hours

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

- +22. **Approve the appointment of Lisa McNerney as a substitute Athletic Trainer for the 2021-2022 preseason and school year.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +23. **Approve the following appointments as Summer Custodial/Maintenance workers, pending criminal history review. They will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective June 23, 2021 through August 31, 2021:**

Christopher Canellas	Michael Feuilly	Dylan Zikos
Matthew Canellas	Nicholas Fiore	Tyler Zikos
Ryan Clark	Sean Peterson	

Roll Call: Yes (6), Abstain (2)

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglio...

- +24. **Approve the appointment of the following Counselors for the Midland Park Continuing Education Summer Camp 2021, held at the High School, effective June 28 – August 6, 2021:**

Julia Calderone	Sophie Mahoney
Anthony Cornetta	Carolyn McCourt
Sara Fonticoba	Toby Reicher
Clare Kearney	Paige Tuozzo
Dan Kearney	Vinnette Komjian (Adult Counselor)

Roll Call: Yes (6), Abstain (2)

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

- +25. **Approve the appointment of Vinnette Komjian as an Aide for the Midland Park Continuing Education Kindergarten Readiness program, held at Godwin School, effective July 19 – 23, 2021.**

- +26. **Approve the appointment of Jaclyn Kelly as a collaborative Special Education Kindergarten teacher in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,600 (BA Step 2 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.**

- +27. Approve the appointment of the following Website Liaisons for the 2021-2022 school year. They will be paid a stipend of \$450.00 each:

Nicole Marino	Highland School
Ashley-Rose Sherman	Godwin School
Danielle Vandenberghe	High School

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +28. Approve the list of Fall Coaches at the High School for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix:

A-28

Roll Call: Yes (7), Abstain (1)

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglio...

- +29. Approve the placement of Holly Neville, Western Governors University student, to fulfill her requirement for her senior level internship, in the Godwin School, effective September 1, 2021 through November 19, 2021.

- +30. Approve the appointment of the following Aides for the Midland Park Continuing Education Before and After School Child Care program, held at Godwin School, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

Vinnette Komjian	Loree Ranges
Joan Papapietro	Marie Theodorides

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

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 May 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. May 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$412,884.15
- b. May 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$22,337.16
- c. May 2021 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$23,693.46

d. Second May 2021 payroll in the amount of \$638,428.47

e. First June 2021 payroll in the amount of \$714,355.04

f. June 2021 claims in the amount of \$327,769.15

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

B-3

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

B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

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

5. Authorize the Business Administrator to cancel outstanding checks in the various accounts, in accordance with the Auditor's recommendations, as per the attached appendix.

B-5

6. Approve the following resolution for the transfer of current year surplus to reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a Board of Education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by Board resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Midland Park Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into a Capital Reserve account at year end, and

WHEREAS, the Midland Park Board of Education has determined to retain as yearend unreserved undesignated fund balance for the year end June 30, 2021 an amount not-to-exceed the state mandated 2% cap plus an additional \$275,000.00; with the excess above this amount, in an amount not to exceed the maximum allowable amount defined by the district's Long Range Facility Plan is to be transferred to the Capital Reserve Account subject to the verification upon completion of the Audit;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Midland Park Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

7. Approve the decommissioning of surplus Technology inventory, as per the attached appendix.

B-7

Roll Call: All Yes



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

- +8. Approve the list of scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the attached appendix.

B-8

- +9. Approve the submission of the application for Toilet Room Facilities for Early Intervention, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Classrooms in the Godwin School to the NJ Department of Education, as per the attached appendix.

B-9

- +10. Approve the clinical staffing agreement between Home Care Therapies LLC dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing and the Midland Park Board of Education to provide a full range of staffing services on an as-needed basis, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

- +11. Approve the proposal with Accu Scan Digital Archival Solutions for sorting and scanning of records, in the amount of \$19,712.40.

- +12. Approve the award of Waste and Recycling Removal and Disposal contract to Interstate Waste Services of NJ, Inc., effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

- +13. Approve TGA Premier Sports, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, to hold Youth Camps at the High School (Lower Sunset Field), effective August 16 – 20, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, as follows:

Youth Golf – Grades K – 5  
Cheerleading Camp – Grades K-5

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Accept the proposal from ESS to provide Substitute Staffing Services for the 2021-22 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

- +1. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Griselda Valdeón	AP Spanish Language & Culture	On-line	\$700.00	6/28/- 7/1/2021
Kristen DiPaola	Orton Gillingham Practicum for Certification	On-line	\$1,975	Fall 2021 (6-month program)

- +2. Approve the list of curricula revisions as per state implementation timelines, to meet the new state mandates and NJSLs by September 2022. The following curricula will

be rewritten at a rate of \$50 per hour, as per the MPEA contract: Visual and Performing Arts, Science, and World Language, as per the attached appendices:

- |                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| a. High School curricula     | <u>C-2a</u> |
| b. Highland School curricula | <u>C-2b</u> |
| c. Godwin School curricula   | <u>C-2c</u> |

- +3. Approve the college and university partnerships and course offerings for dual enrollment credit, as per the attached appendix. C-3

- +4. Approve the following new textbooks for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade World Cultures:

- a. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba & Ryan Mealer
- b. A Long Walk to Water by Susan Park

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +5. Approve the proposed overnight trip for the Marching Band students, Grades 7 – 12, to the New York State Field Band Championships at the Carrier Dome, Syracuse, NY from October 29 – 31, 2021.

Mr. Canellas asked if the trip is in compliance with travel restrictions. Mrs. Criscenzo replied that it is, and can be cancelled.

- +6. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a classified student in the Hearing Impaired program in the Godwin School, effective retroactive from May 26, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

- +7. Approve the following Summer Midland Park Continuing Education programs, effective July 5 – August 20, 2021, to be held virtually or in the High School:

Barre	Oil Painting
Pilates	Zumba

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +8. Approve the start date of August 9, 2021 for preseason athletics for all sports including football, in order to comply with the State mandated heat acclimatization period for athletes.

- +9. Approve the membership resolution in the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association for the 2021-2022 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following revised Mandated Policy, as per the attached appendix:

- a. Use of School Facilities Policy Section 7510 D-1a  
with noted changes “community religious groups”

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No Report

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

On-going discussion with MP Soccer Association on Lower Sunset and possibility of a referendum for turf on district fields.

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

No Report

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

Discussed broadcasting meetings live starting September.

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

No Report

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

- MPHS Class 2020 hosting Market Place on 6/19
- Class of 2022 Raffle- will be drawn at Market Place.

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- Staff appreciation luncheon
- Panther Prowl
- Need chair people for various committees

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

- Sports are winding down
- Jason Ballen-shot put champion. Competing in the All Group Championship
- Senior Awards
- Sports Awards

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

- Successful plant sale
- Madrigals concert was on 5/30
- Marching band rehearsals have begun
- Into the Woods musical is next week, tickets are on sale now

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Cookbook Sale was a success
- No 5-K this year
- Smaller fund raisers in the fall
- Big Spring event being planned

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

No Report

Student Representative to the Board – (Sophia Rosenthal)

- There is only a few more days left for most of us. Things are winding down.
- Last day for Seniors/Senior Parade
- Graduation is on Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Student elections
- Into the Woods musical opens on Monday.

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of July 20, 2021, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, legal updates and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas spoke about the Senior Parade and how the Highland teachers watched and looked at pictures of students. Dedication to their students, reason why I moved to

Midland Parl. Graduation is Friday. Best event of the year. Looking forward to it and hope parents and family members enjoy.

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

Krissy Leckie – I am speaking to you as a fellow educator and public school teacher. I am asking that you to strongly reconsider your mask policy for the remainder of the school year and if given the choice of the upcoming school year. I work as a teacher at a district right down the road in a neighboring town and our school is mask optional. If it safe for my students to be mask less, it is safe for my children. We stand by anyone who is immune compromised and we support your decision to continue masking. For the rest of our children, 10 months on continual masking can be more harmful than the threat of the virus itself. I have seen the physical, social, emotional and academic effects that long term masking can cause for our children. Children need an adequate supply of oxygen to support their developing brains in any temperature. Lastly, I see the academic effects. The obvious is the constant distraction and disconnect that masks cause when children are trying to learn.

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglia...  
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary