

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 16, 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:

“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’Aglio	Patricia Fantulin
	Richard Formicola	Maryalice Thomas

Peter Triolo

Excused:	Nabil Eliya
	Brian McCourt

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.

- We are planning to have our next Board meeting on April 6 in person. The location of the meeting will be in the HS Gymnasium, the public will use the front entrance of the school to enter the building. If the HS Gym is not available, the meeting will be held in the Highland School Gymnasium.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

- Basketball games are being played in our schools and district custodians remain on site and proper cleaning protocols are being followed.
- The PK-8 component of our Phase II re-opening plan began this week and went very well in all schools. The implementation of Phase II for students in grades 11-12 began yesterday and students in grade 9-10 will begin on Monday, March 22.
- On March 9, we received notification that the County of Bergen, in conjunction with Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, is rolling out a preliminary plan to vaccinate school employees. The County is offering 800 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on Saturday March 13, to a group of pre-determined school employees, from districts in Bergen County.
- Working with MPEA leadership, all district employees were contacted to ascertain interest in receiving the vaccine. A random selection process, using a computerized program. This process was videotaped. The administrative team is working to support all staff members in getting vaccine appointments. Thank you to several MPEA colleagues who have been very helpful, working from their homes, to find appointments for district staff. The following was eblasted to district staff:

Valley Health System is proud to announce that next week, dependent upon supply, its Vaccination Center, located at 599 Valley Health Plaza in Paramus, will dedicate vaccines to all personnel who are employed by area schools, as well as licensed childcare providers.

Presentation of the 2019-2020 Annual Audit by Gary Higgins, School Auditor, of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins.

- Mr. Gary Higgins thanked the Board for employing his firm and allowing us to do the audit for the year end of June 30, 2020 for the district.
- Mr. Gary Higgins reviewed the CAFR, Management Reports and one audit finding. He answered questions to the satisfaction of the Board.

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

There were no comments from the public.

BOARD MOTIONS

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

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

February 2, 2021

February 23, 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 – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglione...

- +1. Approve the following appointments for the 2020-2021 High School Musical:

		<u>Stipend</u>
Add: Donna Halliwell	Musical Director	\$1,217
Donna Halliwell	Musical Assistant Director – Choral	\$ 616
Donna Halliwell	Musical Producer	\$ 450
Donna Halliwell	Musical Stage Crew (1/2 of \$1,667 stipend)	\$ 833
Steven Bartosik	Musical Assistant Director – Instrumental	\$ 616
Joanne Cannata	Musical Assistant Director – Choreography	\$ 616
Terry Alnor	Musical Rehearsal Accompanist	\$ 916

- +2. Approve the addition of the list of Spring Coaches at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the attached appendix.

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- +3. Approve the following Coaches for the Summer Track Clinic, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, effective June 14 – 17, 2021:

Nicole Marino
Shawn Savage

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglione...

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of February 28, 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:

- February 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$559,226.66.
- February 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$16,098.37.
- February 2021 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$12,733.98.
- Second February 2021 payroll in the amount of \$664,624.69.
- First March 2021 payroll in the amount of \$650,595.75.
- March 2021 claims in the amount of \$371,932.39.

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s report for the period February 1 – 28, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

4. Approve the transfers between accounts for the period February 1 – 28, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +5. **Approve the agreement with NJSBA ACES CPS (#E8801) for continued participation in the cooperative pricing system and purchasing services.**
- +6 **Accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 and the recommendation contained therein.**
- +7 **Approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Auditor's recommendations, as contained in The Annual Audit for the Fiscal Year 2019-20.**
- +8. **Approve the Midland Park Continuing Education Summer Camp to be held in the High School Cafeterias and Specialty camps and other activities to be held in approved facilities in the building Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with options for Before Care from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. and After Care from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., from June 28 – August 6, 2021.**
- +9. **Approve the Summer Track Clinic, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, for students in Grades 3-8 to be held on the High School Track from June 14 – 17, 2021 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas made a statement regarding the audit. He referred to Mr. Higgins report and that their finding is correct but he stated that the auditors tested the internal controls and those controls ensure that contracts and awards are properly encumbered. The funds that were not encumbered was an isolated incident that happened at the very end of the fiscal year and at the end of an unprecedented year when COVID caused the staff to be in and out of the office. Mr. Higgins was remiss in giving the background and there were mitigating circumstances to this finding. I would like to thank Ms. Garvey and her staff, I can't imagine doing an audit after these circumstances.

Ms. Garvey added that the Business Office brought this to the attention of the auditors to ensure the district had the money available for us in the following school year for building projects slated to be done over the summer and it didn't fall into surplus or go back to capital reserve. Ms. Garvey also thanked the Business office staff.

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

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

- +1. **Approve the decommissioning of the following textbooks:**

**27 Copies of Grades 11 & 12 AP Psychology, Myers Psychology for AP
(ISBN: 978-1-4292-4436-7)**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- Review of policies:
 - Board Member Resignation and Removal
 - Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency
 - Family Leave
 - Administration of Medical Cannabis
 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- We are beginning preparations for meeting the mandate of NJ State Assembly Bill No. 4454, which requires school districts to include instruction on diversity and inclusion as part of implementation of NJ Student Learning Standards for grades K-12, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. (The previous format included grades 9-12 only.) The bill is designed to “Promote economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities and religious tolerance. These standards will be woven throughout the curriculum in grade appropriate ways, resources have been purchased for the elementary media center, social studies will include references to the contributions of these individuals, etc. We understand this is a controversial topic, at this time there are no provisions for requesting children be excluded from receiving this content.
- On June 3, 2020, the NJDOE adopted new learning standards for teaching Health/PE. Part of these revised standards for 8th grade include 2.1.8.SSH.9: Define vaginal, oral and anal sex. We anticipate additional concerns being raised with regard to these NJSLs revisions and will closely monitoring information from the county office, communicating as much as we know about this issue to school families.
- On February 22, Governor Murphy made history when he signed a bill into law making marijuana legal in NJ. There was an outcry to one of the provisions in the law which states that parents will not be notified if their child is found by police with marijuana or alcohol for a first violation; but will be notified on the second violation. On March 15, the Governor said he agreed with making changes to NJ’s new marijuana law, particularly on the issue of when police can notify parents if their underage child is found with marijuana or alcohol, the Governor supports the parent notification at the first violation.

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, B. McCourt)

- Next meeting on 3/23

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- General meeting last night, Q & A with Principals
- Amaya Family – many donations, venmo account still open
- Successful Bandingo Night

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

- This year's Spring musical is Into the Woods

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

- Meeting next week

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Looking for recipes for community cookbook
- Looking for new Trustees
- Senior scholarships, 3/18 deadline

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

- Sports proceeding with precautions in place
- No opening day

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell'Aglia)

- Spring brochure is out for registration
- Summer camps are approved for K-5 students

Student Representative to the Board – (Samantha Padovano)

No Report

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of April 6, 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.

Anthony Grieco submitted a comment to be read at the Board meeting.

I have 3 children that attend the Midland Park Public Schools, and I would also like to mention that I also work as a public school educator in Bergen County.

I am thoroughly impressed at how the district has handled the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank you and the Business Office for overseeing the purchase of all the necessary PPE/supplies required, as well as many of the corresponding procedures that needed to be put into place. Also; Dr. Cirasella has done an amazing job of creating a solid schedule, keeping parents and staff informed of everything going on, making the safety of students/staff a top priority, and increasing in-person instruction when it could be safely done.

Ms. Bache and Mr. Galasso have given parents frequent updates throughout this ongoing and always difficult process. They have both gone above and beyond in providing a positive and upbeat outlook to the school/district community, as we have all been in such a difficult place at various times. I truly thank them for their leadership and hands-on approach to learning.

The Midland Park teachers/certificated support staff are physically/mentally working harder than ever. Who would have ever thought that they would have to adapt to an entirely new educational philosophy in less than a year?

Lastly, to all of the non-certificated support staff (custodians, maintenance staff, administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, and anybody else I am missing)....they are always the pulse of any successful school district, but now they are more than ever before. I thank them for all of their extra hard work in navigating through situations and protocols we never would have expected.

The Board of Education should be truly proud of appointing such a fabulous crew.

Thank you.

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

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary