

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Formicola 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 2020 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	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Richard Formicola

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.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Jim Newman. He was a beloved past employee of our district for many years.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

Dr. Cirasella wished everyone health and safety during this unprecedented time.

Dr. Cirasella's report contains the following:

Covid-19 Incidents

- We have had several COVID related quarantine issues in our district in recent weeks related to groups of students and individuals. We conduct thorough investigations in each case, then consult with the local Board of Health for further guidance and recommendations. At this point we feel confident that our decisions have been made with the best interests of students and staff in mind. We will continue to keep the mantra of, "out of an abundance of caution," as a primary guide point in these determinations.

School Re-opening Plan – Phase II Update

- Phase II Reopening Plan determinations are ongoing. Thank you to the parents who responded to our recent survey, their input was very helpful. Also, thank you to the MPEA Leadership and members for their valuable input. Phase II decisions will be predicated on the rising COVID transmission rates and recent CDC advisements. We must recognize that Nov. 11 marked the third time in five days public health officials reported at least 3000 additional COVID cases statewide. Governor Murphy noted, "Our positivity rates are up dramatically, we're getting into a neighborhood that is extremely concerning." At this time, the Governor has not indicated that a mandate for all schools to move to full virtual learning is being considered, but he has not ruled it out in the future.

State Police and Face Mask Donation

- The NJ Dept. of Education was given 2.4 million masks from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. These masks will be allocated based on a priority distribution to low-income or high needs populations in public, non-public and private schools for students with disabilities. Toward that end, the DOE in coordination with NJ State Police identified schools to receive an allocation of reusable and washable cloth face masks based on identified need. We are scheduled to receive approximately 650 masks in two sizes, youth and adult. Once we receive the masks we will distribute them in a process that complies with the federal guidance.

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

There were no comments from the public.

BOARD MOTIONS

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

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

October 6, 2020

October 20, 2020

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 – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

1. Approve the following appointments to provide supplemental instruction for students who are at risk for the Academic Support Lab at the High School. They will be paid at the rate of \$43.26 per hour through ESSA Title I funds during the 2020-2021 school year:

Paul Marino
Deborah Marks
Teresa Wecht

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the appointment and stipends for the Winter Coaches at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the attached appendix. (Stipends will be prorated in the event that there is an emergency closing situation.)

A-2

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the request to extend the unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 0150, from February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.
4. Approve the extended appointment of Ashley-Rose Sherman as a first grade leave replacement in the Godwin School. Her salary will be \$52,250 (MA Step 3 on the MPEA salary guide), prorated from February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.
5. Approve a Longevity stipend for Carol Weaver, Secretary to the High School Assistant Principal, for twenty years of service in the amount of \$1,500, retroactive to October 16, 2020.
6. Approve the appointment of Amanda Valcarcel as an Instructional Aide in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$25,000 (Category V, Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide) prorated, effective November 18, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of October 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. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

2. Approve the following block motion:

- a. October 2020 direct pays in the amount of \$433,607.77.
- b. October 2020 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$20,414.88.
- c. October 2020 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$17,895.36.
- d. Second October 2020 payroll in the amount of \$638,467.75.
- e. First November 2020 payroll in the amount of \$664,870.84.
- f. November 2020 claims in the amount of \$733,750.50.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's report for the period October 1 – 31, 2020, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

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

B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- 5. Approve the Silvergate Prep Homebound Instruction Agreement to provide homebound instruction to a middle school student at the rate of \$34 per hour for a total of 10 hours per week for approximately 30 days.
- 6. Approve the submission of the School Security Grant Application for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$50,392. The security project this grant would reimburse has been completed using local funding.
- 7. Approve Richard Hahn, MD, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry to provide services during the 2020-2021 school @ \$1,000 per session.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. Approve the use and rental of the High School Robert Schiffer Field to the NFL Alumni Youth Camp (Pro-Sports Experience), sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, for summer camps during the following weeks from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.:

Monday, July 12, 2021 through Friday, July 16, 2021

Monday, July 26, 2021 through Friday, July 30, 2021

Roll Call: All Yes

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
Catherine Prinsell	School Law: Handling Mental Health Issues	On line	\$359.00	11/20/2020

2. Approve the recommendation for a non-classified middle school student to be placed on home instruction, effective retroactive from October 19, 2020 through November 20, 2020.
3. Approve the extended winter 2021 Adult Virtual Programs and extended Winter After School Virtual Programs for Midland Park Continuing Education, as per the attached appendix.

C-3

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a non-classified middle school student on bedside instruction for a maximum of 10 hours per week at The Learning Center/Four Winds Hospital, retroactive from October 22, 2020 through approximately December 12, 2020.

Roll Call: All Yes

D. Policy Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the first reading of the following revised Policies, as per the attached appendices:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| a. Religion in Schools | Policy Section 2270 | <u>D-1a</u> |
| b. Immunization | Policy Section 5320 | <u>D-1b</u> |

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the reading of the following new/revised Mandated Policies, as per the attached appendices:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|
| a. Administrative Employment Contracts | Policy Section 1620 | <u>D-2a</u> |
| b. Restart and Recovery Plan | Policy Section 1648 | <u>D-2b</u> |
| c. Remote Learning Options for Families | Policy Section 1648.02 | <u>D-2c</u> |

- | | | | |
|----|--|------------------------|-------------|
| d. | Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction | Policy Section 1648.03 | <u>D-2d</u> |
| e. | Athletic Competition | Policy Section 2431 | <u>D-2e</u> |
| f. | Gifted and Talented Students | Policy Section 2464 | <u>D-2f</u> |
| g. | Seizure Action Plan | Policy Section 5330.05 | <u>D-2g</u> |

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- Virtual Instruction on Inclement Weather Days
 - The amendments to NJSA relative to A3904 permits the use of virtual instruction to meet the 180 day school year requirement. We plan to use its three school closing days as planned. Should additional days be required, we will change to all virtual learning.
- Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Legislation
 - ABR/HIB Legislation is nearing its 10th anniversary, and state officials have begun to discuss if anything needs to be changed. During this time of COVID, social media bullying is on the rise and this is a major concern.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (P. Fantulin, Chairperson)

No Report

G. Negotiations Committee - (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

No Report

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)

- Dr. Cirasella is working on a video on the buildings and how we are keeping staff & students safe. It is delayed due to other pressing issues.
- Dr. Cirasella commended the Administration for their continued use of social media to let the community know about all the good things that are happening.

I. Town Council – (R. Formicola, P. Triolo)

- Great meeting, very positive conversation
- Looking at the possibility to join with the town to turf our fields. Full support of the town council. A sub-committee will be reviewing and bring information to the Board. We are looking at two fields. Mr. Canellas asked on how the Board will fund our share. Mr. Formicola stated that Ms. Garvey is getting numbers and will report back to the full Board and will be looking at funding. Mr. Eliya asked what two fields. Mr. Formicola said the back field and not sure of the other one at this point.

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (J. Canellas)

- Mr. Canellas thanked the PTA for the breakfast goody bags, there are more goodies to come.
- Cultural Awareness Week
- NPTA reflections are program
- Parent academy program

Elementary School PTA- (C. Dell'Aglio)

- Membership is still open
- Lunch for Teachers
- Covered Teacher membership this year
- Read a Thon
- Book Fair

Booster Club – (N. Eliya)

- Presale for MP Flags

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Fantulin)

- NY State field band performance was virtual. Jocelyn Triolo placed 5th place in flute competition
- The drama is The Help Desk
- Membership is still open
- Holiday plant sale
- Kings discount cards
- Looking at ways to still stage a musical production
- Left over candy from Halloween sales

Special Education – (P. Triolo)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Looking for a student liaison for next year
- Spring event being planned

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (M. Thomas)

- Winter sessions are continuing virtually

Student Representative to the Board – (Samantha Padovano)

- As of today, it is the 50th day of in person learning
- Marching Band is officially over. We were one of the only bands that was able to produce a show

- The drama this year is Help Desk. It was filmed in the tent outside
- The football team has been doing amazing, they are in the championships this Friday, 11/27 vs. Beckton at Beckton at 6 p.m.
- The boys soccer team is in the State G1-3 tournament.
- The outside tent has been a nice change of scenery and it gives the students a break from wearing the masks
- National Honors Society, the Interact Club and the Senate Teamed up to run a food drive. We were able to collect tons of food to donate

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of December 1, 2020, 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.

There were no comments submitted.

Mr. Formicola thanked Dr. Cirasella, the Administration & Teachers for doing a great job in keeping us going. Wish everyone a safe & healthy Thanksgiving.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary