

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 24, 2021**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. Triolo 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	Patricia Fantulin
	Maryalice Thomas	Brian McCourt

Peter Triolo

Excused:	Nabil Eliya
	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.

Mr. Triolo started the meeting with saying this is a trial run for September with the microphones, podium for the public, streaming on youtube and local channels. Information will be provided for the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

- Governor Murphy announced that all teachers and state workers must be fully vaccinated against COVID by Oct. 18 or submit to weekly testing. He is the fourth Governor to institute a vaccine mandate for school staff. The vaccine requirement applies to all personnel in public and private schools serving preschool through grade 12 and covers both full and part time teachers, administrators, and other support staff, including custodians, cafeteria workers and substitute teachers. The same policy applies to all state employees, including those at state agencies and public colleges and universities.
- On Aug. 6 Governor Murphy announced that all students, educators, staff and visitors will be required to wear facemasks indoors for the start of the 21-22 school year. This requirement is Executive Order 251, which mandates masking indoors of all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary and secondary school buildings with limited exceptions.
- There are some exceptions to this Order:
 - When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when there is extreme heat indoors
 - When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or is unable to remove the face covering without assistance
 - When a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Educational Plan precludes use of a face covering
 - When the individual is under 2 years of age
- NJ Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli stated the following, "Given the Delta variant's high transmissibility and the fact that the COVID vaccine is not yet available for children under 12, we must use all the prevention strategies we have to protect children in classrooms this fall. Children should wear masks, physically distance, wash their hands frequently, stay home when they are sick, get tested when they have symptoms and get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible." The wearing of facemasks is just one component of our district's multiple mitigation plan to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
- District Staff Vaccination Requirements – All teachers and state workers must be fully vaccinated against COVID by Oct. 18. Those who are not vaccinated will be tested a minimum of one to two times per week.
- The first day of school is eight days away and we are truly excited to welcome our students and staff back for full days of in-person instruction. We wanted to provide you with some health and safety information we know you will find helpful. Much of this information come from *The Road Forward*, a guidance document provided by the NJ Department of Health and NJ Department of Education. As will all public schools, our district will use this information to operationalize the goal of providing full-day, in-person instruction, including lunch, for the 21-22 school year. We will continue to provide families and staff with more information in days to come, especially with regard to school and grade-level specific information. We will do our best to keep you advised when we receive new information to share.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) mandate relative to the NJ Student Learning Standards. It is important to re-emphasize that this is not a curriculum. Instruction shall include diversity and inclusivity, while encouraging a safe and welcoming school environment for all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, and mental and physical disabilities.

- Topics relative to DEI have been in place in district curricula for quite a while. A couple of examples would be: Amistad and Holocaust Education comply with this mandate as does a woman in a high-ranking government position.
- There was confusion about DEI and the standards re-alignment process implementation dates. The first directive indicated a start date of 9/21 but due to the impact of COVID, the start date has been postponed to 9/22. In re-aligning the standards, specifically the political, economic, and social contributions of the LGBTQ+ and persons with disabilities, will only affect the 7-12 grades curriculum.
- The Critical Race Theory (CRT) is not required or part of the NJ learning standards. CRT is often inaccurately referenced in such discussions and it is sometimes difficult to separate these topics, because they are somewhat related.

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

APPENDIX

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

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

July 20, 2021

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the District Goals for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix.

BM-2

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglia...

3. Approve the District Organizational Chart for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix.

BM-3

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the submission of the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2021-2022 school year to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

5. Approve the submission of the Professional Development Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2021-2022 school year to the New Jersey Department of Education.

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. Canellas, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

1. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 1059, effective retroactive to June 30, 2021.
2. Approve the revised unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 1589, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective July 28, 2021 through September 3, 2021.
3. Accept the retirement resignation of Anne Heller as an Instructional Aide in the Godwin School, effective August 31, 2021.
4. Accept the retirement resignation of Cynthia Verbrugge as an Instructional Aide in the Godwin School, effective August 31, 2021.
5. Approve the appointment of Alexandra Juranich as a Kindergarten teacher in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$50,100 (BA Step 3 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
6. Approve the appointment of Erin Perkins as an Elementary School teacher in the Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$52,350 (MA Step 3 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
7. Approve the revision to Personnel Motion A-26 of the July 20, 2021 Board Agenda approving the increase in position for Joann Manicone, English teacher at the High School, from .8 to full time. Her correct salary will be \$108,800 (MA +30 Step 21 on the MPEA salary guide + \$1,600 Longevity), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
8. Approve the increase in salary for the following teachers, effective September 1, 2021:

Cristina Horuzy BA Step 3 (\$50,100) to MA Step 3 (\$52,350)
Kelly Scala MA Step 12 (\$65,500) to MA +30 Step 12 (\$72,750)
9. Approve the extension in the unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 1310, effective September 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

10. Approve a sixth period Special Education teaching assignment at the High School for Rosemary Filev for the 2021-2022 school year. She will be paid an additional salary of \$8,280.00, as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract.

11. Approve the appointment of Olivia Contreras as an Instructional Aide. She will be paid a salary of \$27,200 (Category V, Step 4 on the Secretarial/Clerical guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
12. Approve the change in position for Joanna Van Vliet, from a.67 Instructional Aide to a full-time Instructional Aide in the Pre-K integrated class in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$28,200 (Category V, Step 6 on the Secretarial/Clerical guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
13. Approve the appointment of Cindy Mahoney as a .5 Instructional Aide in the Kindergarten class in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$12,550 (Category V, Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. She will also work as a Building Aide for 5 hours per week at the approved hourly rate, effective September 3, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
14. Approve the appointment of Craig Morrissey as a part-time Custodian at the High School. He will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
15. Approve the additional appointment of Sharon Focaccia as a Building Aide in the Godwin School. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
16. Approve the list of substitute workers for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix.

A-16

17. Approve the appointment of the Co-Coordiators for the Before and After School Child Care Program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for the 2021-2022 school year, as follows:

Joan Papapietro
Loree Ranges

18. Approve the appointment of the following Counselors for the Before and After School Child Care Program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for the 2021-2022 school year:

Anthony Cornetta	Sean Olson – MPHS student
Linda Loken	Kathleen Thompson

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Dell’Aglio, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...

- S-1. Approve the appointment of Marlena Gaines as an Instructional Aide in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$28,200.00 (Category V Step 6 on the Secretarial/Clerical guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. McCourt

- S-2. Approve the appointment of Elena Kaplan as an Instructional Aide in the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$28,200.00 (Category V Step 6 on the Secretarial/Clerical guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

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 July 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. July 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$358,523.30.
- b. July 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$5,999.52.
- c. July 2021 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$7,818.59.
- d. Second July 2021 payroll in the amount of \$186,965.99.
- e. First August 2021 payroll in the amount of \$243,355.71.
- f. August 2021 claims in the amount of \$612,176.15.

3. Approve the revised cash reports and the Board Secretary's report for the period June 1 – 30, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

4. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's Report for the period July 1 - 31, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

B-4

5. Approve the Annual Contract for Hospital Instruction between Bergen County Special Services School District and the Midland Park Public Schools, for the provision of Hospital Instruction for students who are confined during school hours for medical and/or rehabilitative care in New Bridge Medical Center, Paramus, NJ at the rate of \$65.00 per hour for the 2021-2022 school year.

6. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between the Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and the Midland Park Public School District for the provision of transition services for a classified student in the sum of \$4,152 during the 2021-2022 school year.

7. Approve the Annual Contract for Non-Public Nursing Services for the 2021-2022 school year with the County of Bergen, Department of Health Services and the Midland Park Board of Education/Eastern Christian School.
8. Approve the contract between the Midland Park Board of Education and Susan Vander Pyl, as a Non-Public Nurse at Eastern Christian Elementary School, effective August 31, 2021 through the end of Eastern Christian's School year, subject to Chapter 226 funding provisions.
9. Approve the Contract for In School Nursing Services between Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. and the Midland Park Public Schools to provide substitute Registered Nurses on a substitute basis, effective retroactive from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
10. Approve the Partnership Agreement between the Midland Park School District and West Bergen Mental Healthcare, Inc. to provide school based-services by Christine Soderman, licensed Clinician. She will work full time at the Godwin School at a cost of \$72,500 to be paid through ESSER funds during the 2021-2022 school year.
11. Accept the New Jersey Department of Education funding for non-public schools for the 2021-2022 school year as follows and approve the purchases using the entitlement funding, as per the attached appendix:

B-11

Security	\$26,950.00
Technology Aid	\$ 6,258.00
Textbook Aid	\$ 8,943.00
Nursing Aid	\$17,248.00

12. Accept the Extraordinary Aid funds in the amount of \$590,416.00 to be allocated as per the attached appendix:
13. Approve the acceptance of funds in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Grant for fiscal year 2021-2022, as follows:

B-12

Title I Part A Basic	\$51,200
Title II Part A	\$13,487
Title III	\$ 3,597 (Consortium)
Title IV, Part A	\$10,000

14. Approve the resolution to award the bid for IMO Roof Re-Coating at Godwin School, File #150 to H & S Construction and Mechanical, Inc., as per the attached appendix:
15. Approve the Contract for Consultant Services between the Midland Park School District and Mary Oates to provide 46 on-site days of professional development at a rate of \$900 per day, not to exceed \$41,200, paid through Title I and Title II Part A funds, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
16. Approve the Proposal for School Behavior Consultation between Franny Renshaw, School Behaviorist and the Midland Park Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

B-14

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-3. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and Midland Park Public School District for the provision of Auditory Verbal Techniques/Consultative Services for one classified student for a maximum of one session weekly during the 2021-2022 school year, at a cost of \$5,775.00.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Christy Kearney Craig Rush Kelly Scala	Addressing Student Discrimination	Virtual	\$299.00	On-demand

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services, for the out-of-district placements and/or transportation of special education students for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix. C-2
3. Approve the out-of-district placements and/or transportation for the students attending the Bergen Academy in Hackensack, Bergen County Tech in Paramus (part-time and full-time), Bergen County Tech in Teterboro, Bergen County Applied Technology High School at Bergen Community College, Ho-Ho-Kus School of Trade/Technical Sciences in Paterson and Ho-Ho-Kus School of Trade/Technical Sciences in Hackensack, for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix. C-3

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the submission of the “Request to Establish a Special Education Program or Service” to the New Jersey Department of Education for a Middle School/Secondary Pull-out Resource Class in Science and Social Studies during the 2021-2022 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- Mandated policy changes
- Review of policies to be board approved

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- See Superintendent’s Report

- F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)
- Fruitful meeting with the stakeholders that serve on our Referendum Committee
 - Different groups are represented
 - Goal is to discuss timeline, scope of project, get input, be available for others to voice concerns
 - Grateful to those who volunteer their time
 - We are meeting frequently to discuss referendum plan

- 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)

- A meeting will be scheduled after school starts

- J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- Working on having a normal school year
- Pizza picnic – 9/9
- 1st meeting of the year – 9/28
- PTA membership portal is open
- Printed calendars with activities for the year
- Thank you to the PTA for all their hard work

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

- Fall Sports have started
- Everything scheduled to start on time

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

- Gearing up for the new school year
- Looking for membership

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

- A meeting will be scheduled after school starts

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- First meeting – 9/13
- No 5K this year
- Small fundraisers in the fall, bigger ones in the Spring

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

- October – Community Day

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Relaunching of summer camp – very successful
- Fall ‘21 – open for registration
- Before/Aftercare Registration is open
- Sending postcards out with program highlights

Student Representative to the Board – (Sophia Rosenthal)

No Report

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of September 7, 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.

The following members of the public made the following comments and questions.

Liliana Occhipinti – *Question regarding the DEI. Will there be training for the teachers and if so, who will be doing the training?* Dr. Cirasella responded that there be no outside training. The DEI has been in our curriculum for quite some time.

Sherry Sansone – *What is your COVID policy on quarantining students come this fall? Several schools in this area are not going to. Is it going to be that if one student has COVID, will they all have to quarantine or if a number of students have it? If more, it falls under a communicable disease.* Dr. Cirasella responded that we are following the recommendation in the guidance document that I referenced in the handout.

I am aware of Governor Murphy’s mask mandate but to what degree does Midland Park have a say in that. There does need to be mask free time while sitting in school for six plus hours. If children are sitting at their desks with shields up does it mean they need to be wearing their masks continuously? What can the BOE do for our children as far as saying something to the State in regards to this. Dr. Cirasella explained that we are legally bound by the executive order and we have to follow it. The order states masks must be worn indoors and that is what we are

going to do. Mr. Triolo stated that this is a mandate from the state and it's difficult to go against. We are all hopeful things get better. Right now the executive order is in place.

Are you willing to write a letter to the Governor to ask if masks can be optional? Mr. Triolo responded that we cannot comment at this time.

Jessica Haftek – *Are we using Gravity Goldberg again this year for social and emotional learning? I have not seen it approved on an agenda yet, unless I missed it. It would be helpful to know.* Dr. Cirasella stated that we did approve, we do contract with them and you can get more detail from your building Principal.

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. McCourt...
To Adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary