

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
JULY 20, 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:

“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
	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.

Mr. Triolo spoke about the parade and fundraiser for Connor Opderbeck. He asked everyone to keep Connor and his family in our thoughts.

Mr. Triolo also informed the public that microphones were on order and meetings will continue at this time in the media center.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

A handout is provided for the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report of District Violence & Vandalism Statistics and Incidents of HIB for Reporting Period 2, 2020-2021.

We want to advise everyone that the district's email server was down all day today and all district personnel were unable to receive or send emails. We hope this issue will be fixed tomorrow.

Effective Wednesday, July 14, students and staff were not required to wear facemasks when attending the Extended School Year (ESY) program, the SOAR, or any other program held in our schools during July and August.

As we look ahead to September, it is important to note that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) maintains that vaccination is currently the nation's leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic and we will share vaccination options for our community when we are made aware of them.

We are all watching the news and understand the fluctuating facemask recommendations coming forward in recent days. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, suggested parents follow new COVID-19 guidance for mask wearing issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The academy is recommending schools require facemasks for children older than two and all adults regardless of vaccination status. Dr. Fauci stated the academy wants to "go the extra mile" to make sure kids are protected at school due to the rise in cases of the delta variant of the coronavirus.

This guidance is slightly different from the CDC and Prevention, which advised mask wearing in schools just for unvaccinated children and adults. The guidance on facemask is changing and we must remain watchful of it and flexible with regard to what we must do in the weeks to come.

The administrators and team of key stakeholders continue to discuss wearing facemasks when we return to school in September and we expect to advise school families of a final determination on or before August 10. This decision will be informed by the status of the pandemic health emergency, the Governor's orders, CDC recommendations and guidance and the advisement of local health officials.

We stand with the CDC in strongly encouraging the wearing of facemasks indoors by all those who are unvaccinated. This measure will be one in our district's multiple mitigation strategic plan to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, which includes:

- social distancing of three feet to the greatest extent possible;
- handwashing and respiratory measures;
- staying home when sick and getting tested;
- and extensive cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

The Governor has stated that each individual district must make these decisions on its own and we take this charge very seriously, especially because school districts are not medical or health agencies and must rely heavily on the guidance of those that are. Be assured that unless a mandate prohibits us from doing so, we will make determinations that ensure the safety and health of our district community, while still providing parents with opportunities to decide on what they determine is best for their own children.

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

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

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

June 1, 2021

June 15, 2021

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 – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

1. Approve the 15-year year Longevity payment of \$1,250 for Nancy Ganguzza, Instructional Aide, retroactive to September 1, 2020.
2. Approve the retroactive payment for 15 additional hours for Karen Corcoran, Certified School Nurse, during the 2020-2021 school year. She will be paid at the approved rate of \$43.26 per hour.
3. Approve the following retroactive appointments as Summer Custodial/Maintenance Workers. They will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective June 23, 2021 through August 31, 2021:

Brendan O'Keefe

Mary Rodriguez

4. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 0966, effective retroactive to June 30, 2021.
5. Approve the retroactive appointments of the following part-time summer Bus Drivers. They will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021:

Blanca Garcia

Margaret Soto
Andreina Vilorio-Herrera

6. Approve the retroactive appointments of the following part-time summer Bus Aides. They will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021:

Sharon Focaccia
Phyllis Kirchdoerffer
Louis Pellegrino

7. Approve the summer hours for Karen Corcoran, Certified School Nurse, for the physical examinations/health related paperwork for the athletic teams. She will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, not to exceed 7 days.
8. Revise Personnel Motion A-4 of the June 1, 2021 Board Agenda to reflect the change of dates for Emily Cooper as an LLD Self-Contained Teacher during the Extended School Year Program to reflect the dates worked as July 6 – 15, 2021.
9. Approve the following staff to work as substitute teachers during the Extended School Year Program, on an as needed basis, effective July 19 – 29, 2021:

Danielle Kirsch
Patricia Olson

10. Approve the retroactive additional summer hours for Kelly Scala, Guidance Counselor in Highland School to work with students in the SOAR program and to assist at-risk students to transition back to school in September. She will be paid at the rate of \$60.95 per hour, through Title I and/or ESSER III funds, not to exceed 30 hours through August 6, 2021.
11. Approve the following elementary school teachers to receive Professional Development in the area of Mathematics to provide support to at-risk students during the summer. They will be paid at the rate of \$60.95 per hour, through Title I and/or ESSER funds, not to exceed 3 hours each:

Emily Cooper
Gwenn Hendrick

12. Approve the following elementary school teachers to receive Professional Development training for technology communication devices during the month of July. They will be paid at the rate of \$60.95 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, not to exceed four hours each:

Crystal Fernandez
Gwenn Hendrick
Patricia Sicree

13. Approve the following elementary school teachers to receive Professional Development to review/align/create materials for Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 to support student learning loss in reading and grammar. They will be paid at the rate of \$60.95 per hour, through Title I and/or ESSER funds, not to exceed 8 hours each:

Eileen Brown	Alyssa Maimone	Grade 3
Traci Audino	Stephanie Mont	Grade 4
Danielle Kirsch	Jennifer Stalb	Grade 5
Cristina Horuzy	Nicole Marino	Grade 6
Maureen O'Hara		BSI

Roll Call: All Yes

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

14. Approve ABA training for the following Instructional Aides during the month of July. They will be paid at the rate of \$22.16 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract for 6 hours each:

MaryAnn Blau	Denise McPhillamy
Nareka Jones	Veronica Terrana
Ranisha McClendon	Amanda Valcarcel
Kathleen McKinless	

15. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 2009, effective September 1, 2021.
16. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 2018, effective September 1, 2021.
17. Approve an extension in the unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 1882, effective September 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022.
18. Approve the Longevity payment for Meghan Martinez in the sum of \$400, effective September 1, 2021.
19. Approve the appointment of Rachael Magro as a Guidance Counselor leave replacement in the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,250 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through December 23, 2021.
20. Approve the appointment of Donna Materia as a leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,250 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022.
21. Approve the appointment of Tara Nafash as a Math teacher at the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,250 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
22. Approve the appointment of Patricia Olson as an ESL teacher in the elementary schools. She will be paid a salary of \$51,000 (BA Step 5 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

23. Approve the appointment of Amanda Petrocelli as a Science teacher at the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,000 (BA Step 5 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
24. Approve the appointment of Danielle Scalfani as a Kindergarten teacher at 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.
25. Approve the appointment of Tara Spendley as an English teacher at the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,250 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Dr. Cirasella stated she met with all of the new-hires and they will be attending new teacher orientation.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

26. Approve the increase in position for Joann Manicone, English teacher at the High School, from .8 to full time. Her salary will be \$108,000 (MA +30 Step 21 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
27. Approve the appointment of Christine Carr, Media Specialist, as the Liaison to the Midland Park Public Library. She will be paid at the rate of \$54.90 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
28. Approve the following addition to the list of Fall Coaches at the High School for the 2021-2022 school year:

Add: Nickolas Joannidis	Assistant Cross Country Coach	<u>Stipend</u> \$4,319
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29. Approve the sixth period assignments in Social Studies at the High School during the 2021-2022 school year. The teachers will each be paid an additional salary as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, as follows:

Hanorah Bellucco	\$ 5,400
Nancy Stewart LoPresti	\$11,460

30. Approve the placement of Erik Sloezen, Ramapo College Intern, to fulfill his clinical practice in Music. His cooperating teacher will be David Marks, effective September 7, 2021 through May 6, 2022.
31. Approve the appointment of Katherine Diaz as an Instructional Aide in the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$25,100 (Category V, Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

32. Approve the appointment of Mahar Boules to the following positions for the 2021-2022 school year:

Substitute Bus Driver Substitute Custodian

33. Approve the following High School students as Aides for the 2021-2022 school year in the Before School/After School Child Care Program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education:

Amal Alimam	Shannon Garrett	Cindy Mahoney, Substitute Aide
Sydney Cieri	Carolyn McCourt	
Megan DeMarco	Paige Tuozzo	

34. Approve the paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1311, effective approximately October 4, 2021 through approximately October 20, 2021; a paid child care leave, effective approximately October 21, 2021 through approximately December 3, 2021 and an unpaid child care leave, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately December 6, 2021 through February 15, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the following staff member to work as a substitute teacher during the Extended School Year Program, on an as needed basis, effective July 21 – 29, 2021.

Amanda Valcarcel

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 June 30, 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. June 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$103,005.38.
- b. June 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$59,126.70.
- c. June 2021 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$27,780.21.

- d. Second June 2021 payroll in the amount of \$644,088.67.
 - e. June 2021 supplemental payroll in the amount of \$23,552.11.
 - f. First July 2021 payroll in the amount of \$118,932.30.
 - g. June 2021 supplemental claims in the amount of \$204,613.88.
 - h. July 2021 claims in the amount of \$475,132.64.
3. Approve the 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 transfers between accounts for the period June 1 – 30, 2021, as per the attached appendix. B-4
5. Approve the Vendor Agreement between Paul Wichansky LLC and Midland Park High School to provide inspirational speaker services for two in-person events during the month of October, 2021 in the amount of \$3,150.00.
6. Approve the acceptance of funds in the amount of \$963.83 for the BCUA 2021 Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant for the High School.
7. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and Midland Park Public School District for a classified student to receive Behavior Services for a maximum of one hour weekly, effective July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021, in the amount of \$1,440.
8. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and Midland Park Public School District for a classified student to receive Audiological Services for a maximum of seven hours, as needed, during the 2021-2022 school year, in the amount of \$2,820.
9. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and Midland Park Public School District for a classified student to receive Auditory Verbal Techniques/Consultative Services for a maximum of two sessions per week during the 2021-2022 school year, not to exceed \$11,550.
10. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and Midland Park Public School District for a classified student to receive Augmentative/Alternative Communication Ongoing Services for a maximum of four hours during the 2021-2022 school year, not to exceed \$660.
11. Approve the School Contract between the Department of Human Services Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Midland Park School District for Classified student A to receive educational services effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a cost of \$2,200.

12. Approve the School Contract between the Department of Human Services Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Midland Park School District for Classified student B to receive educational services effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2011 at a cost of \$2,200.
13. Approve the Linkit! Software License Agreement between Advanced Assessment Systems, Inc. (d/b/a Linkit) and Midland Park School District, effective retroactive to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$13,213.
14. Approve the contract for in-school nursing services by Bayada Home Health Care, Inc., effective retroactive from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, at a rate of \$53 per hour for RN services and \$43 per hour for LPN services for classified student #1.
15. Approve the contract for in-school nursing services by Bayada Home Health Care, Inc., effective retroactive from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, at a rate of \$53 per hour for RN services and \$43 per hour for LPN services for classified student #2.
16. Approve the Agreement for Consultant Services between the Midland Park School District and Mary Oates to provide 6 on-site days of professional development at the rate of \$900 per day, not to exceed \$5,400, effective July 21, 2021 through August 27, 2021.
17. Approve the licensing contract between 7 Mindsets and Godwin and Highland Schools for Online Curriculum and Resources and shared virtual Professional Development Sessions at a cost of \$5,000, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
18. Approve the renewal of the Student Accident Insurance Policy through Monarch Management Corporation, effective August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-2. Approve the submission and acceptance of funds for the IDEA Grant application for 2021-2022 to the New Jersey Department of Education, as follows:

Basic:	\$223,103 Public
	\$ 21,452 Non Public
Preschool:	\$ 21,215 Public

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas advised there was going to be a new cyber insurance provider offering more coverage and a lower deductible for a slight increase in price. Better coverage for student and district data.

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
Karen Corcoran	School Health Conference	Virtual	\$200.00	10/30/21
Jennifer Liss Catherine Prinsell Emily Trent Pamela Vermaas	Addressing Student Discrimination	Virtual	\$299.00	On-demand

2. Approve the retroactive recommendation for the special education placements and transportation for the summer of 2021, as per the attached appendix.
3. Approve all courses, instructors, programs and trips which are included in the Fall 2021 semester of the Midland Park Continuing Education program.

C-2

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- On 6/24 the State Assembly and Senate voted to send a \$46.4 billion state budget to Governor Murphy. The budget set a new record of spending for education, with public Schools getting \$9.3 billion in direct aid next year and an increase in Extraordinary Special Education Aid funding, going from \$125 million to \$400 million.
- Effective with the 2021-2022 school year, each school district shall incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in the curriculum for students in grades K-12 as Part of the district's implementation of the NJ Student Learning Standards. The Commissioner of Education will provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources designed to promote diversity and inclusion. The instruction shall:
 - Highlight and promote diversity, including economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities and religious tolerance.
 - Examine the impact that unconscious bias and economic disparities have at both an individual level and on society as a whole.
 - Encourage safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender identities, mental and physical disabilities and religious beliefs.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (C. Dell'Aglio, Chairperson)

- Soccer Assoc. met with district staff and spoke about renovating Sunset Field. The committee discussed rolling the cost into the upcoming field improvement referendum. A committee is being formed of community stakeholders to address the fields and support the a plan to move forward.

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)

- Reaching out to our liaison to schedule our next meeting

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- Supply kits will be available this year

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

- The musical Into the Woods was completed
- Planning for the 2021-2022 school year

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

No Report

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

- Community Day coming in September

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Course offerings will go out to the community shortly

Student Representative to the Board – (Sophia Rosenthal)

No Report

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of August 24, 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.

Stephen Engel asked which way the Board was leaning about masks come September and if there was anything the Board could do to keep the masks off students' faces. Seeing other children's faces is important to their education and learning. Mr. Triolo responded that Dr. Cirasella tried to address that the best she could. We are still waiting for guidance but there will be a full day with lunch.

Nicole Tolan stated I know you quoted the CDC and Dr. Fauci, Dr. Cirasella took her mask off because her glasses fogged up, when the children are trying to learn with their glasses fogging up and they are being told to keep the mask over your nose. Keep in mind how kids feel when deciding.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary