

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 23, 2022**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. McCourt and Ms. Green 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 2022 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: Sandra Criscenzo Christine Dell’Aglia
 Patricia Fantulin Brian McCourt

Peter Triolo

Excused: James Canellas Nabil Eliya
 Richard Formicola Maryalice Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools
 Lisa Green, Secretary to the Business Administrator/Board Sectary

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

- Dr. Cirasella reviewed the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.
- New Teacher Orientation – Today was the first of two days of our New Teacher Orientation program. It was wonderful to welcome new staff members this morning, and to do so in person and not virtually! Our new teachers will receive important, mandated training including:
 - A School Safety Overview
 - Training in HIB and Affirmative Action
 - District Technology, such as PowerSchool, TieNet, Google Classroom and more
 - And the Observation and Evaluation process, the Danielson Framework
- Convocation - We have prepared two days of engaging activities for district staff on the Opening Day Convocations on September 1 & 2. The following presentations will be provided to district staff:
 - Anti-Bullying Legislation Update, Board Counsel Stacey Cherry
 - Threat Assessment in Schools, Agent/Risk Mitigation Planner William Stallone
 - Deaf Awareness Training, Rasheda Garcia
 - Professional Development for Identified Staff
- School District Staff Vaccinations - As you may be aware, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has announced the state is ending requirements that teachers, school employees, workers at childcare facilities, state employees, and state contractors who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 must undergo regular testing for the virus. This is yet another step away from the rigors of COVID-19 protocols and we remain hopeful those dark times are behind us.
- Back-to-School Nights at our Schools – Please mark your calendars for MPHS – September 15; Godwin – September 20; Highland – September 22. This and other important information may be found on each school's website where monthly calendars and a list of school activities may be found.
- District Back-to-School Update – I will be presenting a district update at the Board meeting of October 4, which will include information on school safety, school and department updates, the revised health and physical education standards and more. We will also post the presentation on the district website immediately following the meeting.

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

APPENDIX

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

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

July 19, 2022

2. Approve the District Goals for the 2022-2023 school year, as per the attached appendix. BM-2
3. Approve the District Organizational Chart for the 2022-2023 school year, as per the attached appendix. BM-3
4. Approve the submission of the Professional Development Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2022-2023 school year to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Roll Call: All Yes

A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2022-2023 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 – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglia...

1. Approval of the following retroactive payment of Curriculum writing stipends during the 2021-2022 school year:

Subject	Class	Teacher	New/Revise	Hours	Total
Health & PE	K-2	Brian DeCarlo	Revise	8	\$400.00
Dance	K-2	Brian DeCarlo	Revise	4	\$200.00

2. Approve the payment of Curriculum writing stipends for the High School and Elementary Schools during the summer, as per the attached appendix. A-2
3. Approve the retroactive payment for Chris Finn, Wrestling Team chaperone, for his hours from November 22, 2021 through February 12, 2022 in the amount of \$2,635.
4. Rescind Board Motion A-30 of the June 21, 2022 Agenda to appoint Natalie Kowalski as an elementary Music teacher leave replacement.
5. Approve the following staff resignations, effective retroactive to June 30, 2022:
 - a. Employee No. 1296
 - b. Employee No. 2124
 - c. Employee No. 2010
6. Approve the resignation of Employee No. 2143, effective retroactive to August 3, 2022.
7. Approve the resignation of Employee No. 2086, effective retroactive to August 17, 2022.
8. Approve Karen Corcoran, Certified School Nurse, to work up to ten additional hours at Highland School to review student records to ensure that required immunizations are complete prior to the start of school. She will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract.

9. Approve the payment of over time during the ESY Summer Program for the following Aides:

JoAnna Van Vliet 1 hour
Marie Theodorides 1.25 hours

10. Approve the revised start date for Hope Rothenberg as the .5 Curriculum Secretary/.5 Secretary to the Athletic Director from August 22, 2022 to August 29, 2022.

11. Approve the increase in salary for the following teachers, effective September 1, 2022:

Susan Jensen MA Step 20 (\$94,600) to MA +30 Step 20 (\$104,500)
Stephanie Mont MA Step 6 (\$54,999) to MA +30 Step 6 (\$59,500)

12. Approve the appointment of Roberta Carbah as a 2nd Grade leave replacement teacher in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,500 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective October 17, 2022 through February 17, 2023.

13. Approve the appointment of Kristen Daley as a leave replacement Music teacher in the elementary schools. She will be paid a salary of \$50,900 (BA Step 4 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective September 1, 2022 through December 23, 2022.

14. Approve the appointment of Mark Fontana as a Physical Education/Health teacher in the Highland School. He will be paid a salary of \$53,400 (BA Step 9 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

15. Approve the appointment of Alexandra Kilkenny, as a 1st Grade leave replacement teacher in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$50,500 (BA Step 3 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective September 1, 2022 through November 23, 2022.

16. Approve the following appointments for Mary Ann Peterfriend as a Special Education leave replacement in the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$66,000 (MA +30 Step 9 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective September 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023.

17. Approve the following appointments for 6th period teaching assignments at the High School. Each teacher will be paid an additional salary of 5% of their base salary, as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, prorated effective September 1, 2022 through November 23, 2022:

Kasey Damiano	Study Skills 7	\$1,914
Mary Ann Peterfriend	English 7 RC	\$1,943
Therese Seiders	Math 8 CPC	\$3,401

18. Approve the following appointments for 6th period teaching assignments at the High School. Each teacher will be paid an additional salary of 5% of their base salary per semester, as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Nancy LoPresti	US II CP	\$11,550
Paul Marino	US I CP	\$ 6,350
Yana Seminara	ESL	\$ 8,280

19. Approve the appointment of Hanora Bellucco for a 6th period teaching assignment in Sociology at the High School. She will be paid an additional salary of \$2,750, which is 5% of her base salary per semester, as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, effective January 23, 2023 through June 22, 2023.

20. Approve the following additions to the list of Fall Coaches at the High School for the 2022-2023 school year:

		<u>Stipend</u>
Add: Chris Finn	Assistant Football Coach	\$5,670
Frank Clark	Assistant Soccer Coach	\$4,747

21. Approve the change in position for Pina Dellisanti to .5 Instructional Aide in the Godwin School and Building Aide for 1 hour per day. She will be paid a salary of \$12,650 (Category V, Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical Guide), effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

22. Approve the appointment of Victoria Lesoine as an Instructional Aide in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$30,450 (Category V, Step 9 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide), effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

23. Approve the appointment of Edward Enerlich as a full-time Maintenance worker. He will be paid a salary of \$52,000 (Step 12 on the Custodial/Maintenance salary guide, including Maintenance stipends of \$7,000) prorated, effective retroactive to August 16, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

24. Approve the appointment of Yahely Cepeda as a full-time Bus Driver. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate of \$32.00, effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

25. Approve the appointment of Petra Mills as a part-time Bus Aide. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate of \$18.25, effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

26. This item was removed.

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

27. Approve the following personnel for the Before/After School Child Care, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

Marie Theodorides - Before/After School Child Care Coordinator
Jeanne Bartlam – After School Child Care Aide
McKenzie Cieri – After School Child Care Aide
Nicole Paterson – Before/After School Child Care HS Student Aide
Sophie Mahoney – substitute After School Child Care Aide
Cindy Mahoney – substitute After School Child Care Aide
Bailey Kasbarian – substitute After School Child Care Aide
Milena Theodorides – substitute After School Child Care Aide
Brooke Chiodo – Before/After School Child Care Adult Aide

28. Approve the list of substitute workers for the 2022-2023 school year, as per the attached appendix.
29. Approve an unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 1915, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately September 26, 2022 through approximately October 24, 2022.

A-28

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

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, 2022, 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 2022 direct pays in the amount of \$373,044.04.
- b. July 2022 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$27,082.85.
- c. July 2022 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$24,404.89.
- d. June 2022 supplemental payroll in the amount of \$1,929.37.
- e. Second July 2022 payroll in the amount of \$191,241.25.
- f. First August 2022 payroll in the amount of \$227,028.89.
- f. August 2022 claims in the amount of \$418,083.86.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the amended cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period June 1 - 30, 2022, as per the attached appendix. B-3
4. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period July 1 – 31, 2022. B-4
5. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period July 1 – 31, 2022, as per the attached appendix. B-5
6. Approve the following resolution in response to the proposed SEHBP rate increases, as per the attached appendix. B-6
7. 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 the 2022-2023 school year for students who are confined during school hours for medical and/or rehabilitative care in New Bridge Medical Center, Paramus, NJ.
8. 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, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
9. Approve the Agreement to authorize the Superintendent and Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Eastern Christian Elementary School for the purpose of making provisions for the expenditures under the Nonpublic School Technology, Textbooks, Nursing and Security Entitlements for the 2022-2023 school year and to further authorize the aforementioned nonpublic school to self-administer the funds for their needs with the assistance of the Business Administrator, as per the attached appendix: B-9

Security	\$46,535.00
Technology Aid	\$ 9,282.00
Textbook Aid	\$14,586.00
Nursing Aid	\$25,424.00

10. Approve the contracts between the Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and the Midland Park Public School District to provide services as-needed during the 2022-2023 school year for the following:

Audiological Services
Auditory Verbal Techniques/Consultative Services
Augmentative/Alternative Communication Services
Behavior Services
Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Therapeutic Adventure
Transition Services

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- 11. Approve the Agreement for Consultant Services between the Midland Park School District and Mary Oates, effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 to provide 39 on-site days of professional development to teachers in each school at the daily rate of \$900, not to exceed \$35,100, which will be paid through Title I funds.

- 12. Approve the use and rental of the High School Gym by Hoop Heaven, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

September 25; October 2, 16, 23; November 6, 20, 2022

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

- 1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services, for the out-of-district placements and/or transportation of special education students for the 2022-2023 school year, as per the attached appendix. C-1

- 2. 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 for the 2022-2023 school year, as per the attached appendix. C-2

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- 3. Approve the revised Curricula, which is aligned to the NJ Student Learning Standards, as per the attached appendix. C-3

- 4. Approve the disposal of outdated textbooks at the High School, as follows:

ISBN No.:	Book Title	Publication Year	Author	Subject	Grade	Quantity
13:978-0-13-323133-5	World History	2013	Ellis, Esler	Social Studies	8 &9	188
13:978-0-13-318959-9	US History	2013	Werner, Levy Roberb, Tyler	Social Studies	10&11	156

- 5. Approve the following class to be included in the Midland Park Continuing Education Fall program:

Arena Fencing Academy (Grades 6-12) to be held in the High School Cafeteria from 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. on Fridays, effective September 23 through November 4, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the second reading of the following non-Mandated Policies:

- a. Examination for Cause – Teaching Staff Members Policy Section 3161
- b. Examination for Cause – Support Staff Members Policy Section 4161

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- Governor Phil Murphy signed today Bill A1282 requiring the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement a three-year “Electric School Bus Program” to provide funding for the purchase of electric school buses and charging infrastructure across the state to assess a variety of operational issues related to school bus electrification. The bill’s signing follows the Murphy Administration’s commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, vehicle electrification, and the protection of children and families from harmful air pollutants.

The DEP will issue \$15 million in grants in Year One and up to \$15 million in Years Two and Three. Grants will be awarded annually and at least half of the grant funding awarded by the DEP in each year will be allocated to a low-income, urban, or environmental justice community.

- Governor Phil Murphy signed today Bill A4075/3229 into law, requiring school districts to establish a threat assessment team at its schools. Threat assessment teams provide assistance in identifying students of concern, assessing students’ risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of student harm. Guidelines for threat assessment teams will be developed by the NJDOE.

In our district, we have already established our team and members have begun the mandated training as provided by the NJDOE in consultation with state law enforcement agencies and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

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

- Buildings look fantastic
- Many of the projects that were slated for the summer are working up to completion
- Thank you to the maintenance workers

G. Negotiations Committee - (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (P. Fantulin, Chairperson)

- The committee met tonight before this meeting
- We spoke about the survey we did on field improvement and social media use

- We had a lot of commentary, we had about 73 comments. They were very helpful
- We will use those comments to help shape our next survey, which is due out in October
- The public will be advised as to the outcome of this next survey

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

- We met with the council last week, it was a productive meeting

J. Diversity Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

No Report

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (R. Formicola)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (C. Dell'Aglio)

- Pizza party on 9/9 on Highland field 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Looking for volunteers to fill various chair positions
- Contact Lauren Morris, the new President, if you are interested

Booster Club – (N. Eliya)

- Fall sports have started practice

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

- Band camp was last week

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- 5K - 9/10, registration is open

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

- Town soccer using the school fields

Continuing Education Program – (P. Fantulin)

- There are a number of interesting programs, some for kids and some for older people
- The programs are listed on the website – www.mpsnj.org

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of September 6, 2022, 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.

Mr. Condon stated that he would like to have visibility of the health curricula as it going to be implemented this year. I haven't seen any literature, it would be good to understand what it looks like ahead of the school year. In other towns, like Wyckoff, they had full visibility via a mailed packet to the parents, to vote on whether it would be implemented or not. To have some visibility for myself and my wife to make some educated decisions on our children's schooling, whether it's in a public school or to move into another institution.

Dr. Cirasella, thanked Mr. Condon and responded that as of June 2020, the standards were posted on the Dept. of Ed website and ours as well. With the revisions the best thing to do is to call the Principal, sit down with them and get very specific details because there are different benchmarks. In October I will be talking about it. It is a mandated curriculum. We are a public school and committed to remain in legal compliance. I really appreciate what you have to say.

Mr. Condon stated he spoke to Mr. Galasso and he did highlight that the subject matter would taught within bands, 2nd-5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th and gave some indication of how it was going to be implemented.

Dr. Cirasella responded that all district curricula is posted on the website. Once these revisions are put in place, it will be posted on the website. Speak to the principal or call me, do whatever makes you comfortable.

Mrs. Simone stated that she is a teacher in Fort Lee. In Fort Lee they did hold a public meeting and the parents fought against the curriculum. I feel it should be the parent's decision to teach our kids about body parts. Governor Murphy and the Board are putting teachers in an uncomfortable position to teach things like this and we are putting our children in an uncomfortable position. I feel as a parent, a nurse, psychologist or a guidance counselor should be teaching our kids. How do you know that a teacher you have hired likes children, who thinks of children in a certain way? I know you do a background check on them. Even if I opt my child out, children talk and they will say, look what I learned in class today. I am disappointed that this was approved tonight. I want to see in writing who is going to teach my child. Then it is my choice to keep my kids in Midland Park or to send him to somewhere private.

Mr. Condon spoke again and said that was far well put then I think I did. I would like to understand the procedure for you to vote on a curriculum that has not been disclosed yet.

Dr. Cirasella responded that the curriculum revision has been disclosed. There is a great deal of information on the website. Board works by committee. We have a BOE Curriculum Committee. The Committee gets the information and they pass on a report to the Board at large. This is the process by which the Board then votes. These are mandated revisions by the State. The curriculum will be posted on the website shortly.

Mrs. Velez – I have a little bit of an opposing viewpoint. I am happy this town decided not to do an opt-in program. I think the public needs to know that the standards have to be taught in the classroom, as state approved, in order for funding to happen. I am eager to see the resources the PE teachers will be using. I do agree the sooner the better to get this information out there for parents, so they can fully understand the opt-out process, and making sure that that process is clear to parents. I did just want to say thank you.

Mrs. Dell'Aglio commented that she is a parent herself and all of us the parents are trying to do the right thing for the students of Midland Park. She explained that in Kindergarten they are talking about gender identity and everyone immediately panics. It may be different than your beliefs. She gave an example of a lesson she personally observed. Girls can do boys things and boys can do girls things. When you dig through the lessons that are being taught, it's not what our minds go to and what the students are hearing.

Mr. Palombo – He stated that every year there are revisions. I understand you feel you make the decision and parents did not get a chance to vote or fight and there was no opportunity to have this information. As a parent, it hurts me that we are not working together. I understand that every year there are revisions but you also know there are specific revisions, because of Murphy, that are going to flair the parents and I think it was not thoughtful how you responded.

Mr. Triolo stated that one of the reasons we have open meetings is to hear from the public and it is very important to reach out to the individual administrators or Dr. Cirasella. I appreciate all your comments.

Mrs. Haftek asked if there is any consideration that we have a Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction in the district. If you have that many revisions to make in a year with new curriculum and new standards. This is a lot to put on the principals. She stated she is in education as well, as a psychologist. She stated she would not want to teach this. It is a lot to put on the PE teachers. She asked why we wouldn't have one.

Dr. Cirasella responded that when she arrived here, we did have a Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction and what she found over a few years was that the involvement of the principals and staff was much more significant. It made sense for Midland Park. I appreciate what you're saying. The Board looks at it every year when they seek to craft a budget.

Mr. Palombo stated that he wanted it noted that several times during this meeting you say that's why we have this open forum. I find it hard to believe and understand how this is an open forum when there is clearly information that we don't have, that others present do. I find this unacceptable.

Mr. Triolo stated he appreciated his comment. When it is voted on it will be made available.

Dr. Cirasella answered Mr. Palombo that she understands what he is saying. The Board hires and retains Board council. These meetings are run according to a legal process that this Board does not have the ability to arbitrarily change. In my Superintendents reports over the last six months I have referenced the Comprehensive Health and PE standards and we have discussed them. The principals have this included in their back to school presentations. I would like to call your attention to something that has been used for years, the opt out requirement. Dr. Cirasella read the statement from the NJSA. There has always been a way for a parent to exercise personal beliefs in this regard and that will never change.

Mr. Triolo thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated that we will be back to our regular meetings starting on September 6th.

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Green
Acting Board Secretary