

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
March 21, 2023**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. McCourt 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 2023 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 Nabil Eliya
 Maryalice Thomas Peter Triolo
 Patricia Fantulin Brian McCourt

Excused: Richard Formicola

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools
 Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PRESIDENT’S REPORT *Mr. Brian McCourt*

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 congratulate all the students who participated in the musical. It was wonderful to see the fruits of all the students’ labor, it was so many hours. Congratulations to everyone.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE *Declan Feehan*

- Winter sports awards will take place on March 30, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 20th there was an assembly after school for the spring student athletes, organized by the athletic trainer, Larry Schupner, about becoming resilient athletes
- Spring sports have begun, this includes track and field, tennis, baseball and softball. Teams will start competing in April
- On March 31 there is a Shakespeare Live performance for grades 9-12 with an immersive workshop afterward for anyone interested
- The musical was two weeks ago. It was a great experience and the PAPS had a raffle ticket fundraiser that raised a lot of money
- This Thursday, March 23, there is a trivia night hosted by the classes of 2023 and 2024 to raise money for the prom. This is open to anyone, not just students

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

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

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

February 7, 2023
February 14, 2023

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +2. **Approve the Agreement between the Midland Park Administrator’s Association and the Midland Park Board of Education, as well as Salary Schedule A, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.**

- +3. **Approve the Agreement between the Midland Park Education Association and the Midland Park Board of Education, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.**

Roll Call: All Yes

- A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

APPENDIX

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 – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mrs. Crisenzo...

1. Approve the appointment of Kelly Fischer as a leave replacement at the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,500 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective May 11, 2023 through June 22, 2023.
2. Approve the retirement resignation of Carole Steele as the Enrichment Teacher at Highland and Godwin Schools, effective June 30, 2023.
3. Approve the retirement resignation of Eileen Brown as an Elementary Teacher at Highland School, effective June 30, 2023.
4. Approve the appointment of Tim Hamilton to work at the Girls Volleyball Clinic at Midland Park High School sponsored by the Midland Park Continuing Education Program, effective March 28, 2023 through May 23, 2023.
5. Approve the payment of Emily Trent to implement a Therapy Dog program for the 2022-2023 school year, which encompasses counseling, school based SEL, empathy activities, and reading opportunities. She will be paid \$43.26 per hour as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, not to exceed 115 hours. Payment will be paid out of ESSER III and Title IV funds.

Dr. Cirasella added it was with extreme regret she move the approval of the retirement of Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Brown. They will both be missed very much.

Roll Call: All Yes

Dr. Cirasella stated that we did approve the retirements of Carole Steele and Eileen Brown and that is with extreme regret & gratitude. We wish you just the best and we will miss you very much.

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

- +6. **Approve the payment of Curriculum Writing stipends for the High School and Elementary School for the 2022-2023 school year, as per the attached appendix.**
- +7. **Approve the following student as an Aide for the Before and After Care program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for the 2022-2023 school year, effective March 22, 2023 through June 30, 2023:**

Ava Agrati - 11th grade Midland Park High School student

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +8. **Approve Marie Pantina as a long term substitute secretary in the high school for up to 16 hours per week at Step 20, Category 3 (10 months) effective May 18, 2023 through June 30, 2023. She will be paid \$35.36 per hour.**
- +9. **Approve the resignation of Employee #2204, effective March 23, 2023.**

A-6

- +10. **Approve a paid disability leave for Employee No. 1640, effective approximately May 22, 2023 through June 22, 2023, and an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ FMLA, effective September 1, 2023 through November 24, 2023.**
- +11. **Approve a paid disability leave for Employee No. 1887, effective approximately May 26, 2023 through June 22, 2023, and an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ FMLA, effective September 1, 2023 through November 24, 2023.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +12. **Approve the following teacher to provide home instruction for a non-classified high school student, effective retroactive from March 10, 2023 through June 22, 2023. He will be paid at the rate of \$36.77 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:**

Subject	Teacher	Hours/Week
PE 11	Jeff Hackett	.5

- +13. **Approve the following on line home instruction courses for a non-classified high school student, effective retroactive from March 10, 2023 through June 22, 2023:**

Subject	Program	Cost
US History II CP	Educere (52)	\$199.50
English III CP	Educere (52)	\$199.50

- +14. **Recind the approval of Jeff Peters to supervise the stage crew for the Highland School Musical.**
- +15. **Approve Amanda Lazaro to supervise the stage crew for the Highland School Musical at a rate of \$473.00.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the following student as an Aide for the Before and After Care program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for the 2022-2023 school year, effective March 22, 2023 through June 30, 2023:

Priscilla Schmidt – 12th grade Midland Park High School student

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

- 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, 2023, 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. **February 2023 direct pays in the amount of \$291,518.71.**
 - b. **February 2023 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$24,847.02.**
 - c. **February 2023 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$47,226.32.**
 - d. **First February 2023 payroll in the amount of \$707,443.45.**
 - e. **Second February 2023 payroll in the amount of \$716,694.55.**
 - f. **First March 2023 payroll in the amount of \$664,868.48.**
 - f. **March 2023 claims in the amount of \$536,404.42.**
3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's Report for the period February 1– 28, 2023: B-3
4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period February 1 – 28, 2023, as per the attached appendix: B-4
5. Approve the Midland Park Continuing Education Summer Camp to use the Waldwick Municipal Pool for 15-30 campers, ages 5-11 per day, from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. on the following dates:

June 27, 29; July 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27; August 1, 3, 8, 10
6. Approve the agreement between the Midland Park Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission to approve the coordinated transportation services agency, for the purposes of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, PL 1997 for the 2023-2024 school year. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, the coordinated transportation of out-of-district special education, vocational and summer programs.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mrs. Dell'Aglio...

7. Approve the use and rental of the Highland School Gym and High School Gym to Hoop Heaven, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, for youth basketball games on the following dates and times:

Highland School – 6 pm - 10 pm

March 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

April 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28

May 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30

June 2, 5, 7, 8

High School – 8 pm - 10 pm

April 26, 27

May 3, 4, 10, 17, 18, 25, 30

June 2, 5, 6, 7

Roll Call: All Yes

- Mr. Eliya asked how much are we receive for rent. Ms. Garvey answered that the rental is by the hour, and if they use the complete 184 hours they asked for, it would be \$11,960.
- Mrs. Fantulin asked about the rental. She questioned the amount of hours that is being rented out and about the organization looking to rent the gyms.
- Ms. Dell’Aglia asked if the amount can be listed on the agenda from now on.

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

S-2. Recind the following resolution from the meeting of February 14, 2023:

- +8. Approve Team Together (AAU Basketball Team) in the Midland Park High School Gym, as a rental for the Continuing Education Program for the following dates:

March 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30

April 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

May 4, 5, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

June 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Roll Call: All Yes

Mrs. Dell’Aglia asked if it was possible to note on board agendas how much these rentals are? Ms Garvey answered that doesn’t see why we couldn’t, it has never been on there before but yes we can put the amounts on the agenda.

C. Curriculum Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the decommissioning of the following Smartboards at the High School:

1. Smartboard – Midland Park Bar Code – 2784
2. Smartboard – Midland Park Bar Code – 3060
3. Smartboard – Midland Park Bar Code – 5217

2. Approve the decommissioning of the following equipment at Highland School:

1. MIDI Keyboards – ID #'s – 2463, 2464, 2465, 6304, 6307, 6311
2. Drums – ID #'s – 3315, 3322, 3326, 3329, 3330, 3331, 3333
3. 2 instrument folder cabinets

3. Approve the non-resident enrollment of the children of Employee No. 0115, in the 5th grade class in the Highland School and the 8th grade class in the High School, for September 2023, as per Board Policy 5111.

4. Approve the agreement between the Midland Park Board of Education and Michael Fowlin for a performance on April 13, 2023 at the Highland School. \$2,000 of this event will be paid out of ESSER 11 funds.

+5. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Morgan Altemus	AP Summer Institute: English Language & Composition	Rockville Center, NY	\$872.89	8/7-8/10/2023

- +6. Approve the recommendation for a non-classified high school student to be placed on home instruction, effective retroactive from March 10, 2023 through June 22, 2023.**

Roll Call: All Yes

D. Policy Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

No Report

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- Governor Murphy’s Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget Plan will increase Pre-K Through 12 School Aid by \$1 billion. The plan will also grow the State’s Educator Workforce and promote the success of New Jersey’s students. The proposed budget provides historic levels of school aid, with an increase in \$1 billion over the prior Year. This amount includes pre-k funding, pension and benefits funding for school Staff, and an increase in \$832 million in total K-12 formula aid.
- In addressing the proposed budget, the Governor said, “My Administration remains committed to providing students throughout our state with the world-class education they deserve. Ensuring equitable access to high-quality education not only prepares our children for successful futures – it benefits us in the here and now. This year’s budget proposal demonstrates our ongoing commitment to working towards fully funding our schools, expanding pre-K throughout the state, growing our educator workforce, and promoting the success of our students.”

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (N. Eliya, Chairperson)

- We had our first meeting of the year and hope to meet again soon

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

No Report

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

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

+1. **Approve the Mill Gardens Senior Citizen home residents to attend the Highland School Musical production of Annie on the afternoon of April 21, 2023 at the Highland School.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- We will scheduling another meeting soon

J. Diversity Committee – (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)

No Report

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Pocketbook Bingo – 5/11, tickets will be going on sale soon

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

- Career day at Godwin School – 3/22
- Executive Board meeting at Highland School media center– 4/10
- Art Ventures at Highland School – 4/11
- Cultural Awareness Day is cancelled
- The Girl Scouts are having their own Cultural Day
- Parents night out at the MP Fire House – 4/28
- Holiday camp at the MPHS over spring break

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

- Recently the Midland Park Athletic Hall of Fame held a luncheon at the Brickhouse. Inductees were: Matt Bizard, Kenneth Junta, Kaleb Zuidema, Coach Jeff Hackett, Ed Salvi, Coach Steve Silver and the 1994-1995 Girls soccer team

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Triolo)

- Musical was a great success, congratulations to the cast, crew and back stage crew, who did a wonderful job. Special congratulations to Ella Marron who had the starring role. It was wonderful to see her. It was a great show
- Most of the PAPS fundraisers are over the year
- Scholarship applications, the scholarships will be given out at the end of the year

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

- The presentation from the last meeting on March 7, if you missed it, it will be available on our website

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Looking for new trustees, if you are interested contact Kelly Schott, or email MPPEEvents@gmail.com

Mrs. Fantulin commented that she attended the Education Foundation event. She commented that it was a fabulous event and very well done.

Board of Recreation – (J. Canellas)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (N. Eliya)

- Summer theater workshop – 7/10-27. The performance will be 7/27

L. Old Business

No Report

M. New Business

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. Eliya

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of April 11, 2023, 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.

No one chose to speak at this time.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator