

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
MARCH 7, 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
	Nabil Eliya	Richard Formicola
	Maryalice Thomas	Patricia Fantulin

Brian McCourt

Excused:	Christine Dell’Aglia
	Peter Triolo

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT** *Mr. Brian McCourt*

***Midland Park Public School District Mission Statement***

***The Midland Park School District as part of a strong, dedicated community, provides its students with a comprehensive, adaptive education aligned to 21<sup>st</sup> 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. McCourt announced that we have two new members for the Midland Park Education Hall of Fame. The Midland Park Board of Education has established the Education Hall of Fame which is open to all former district employees who have retired at least three full years prior to nominations, made significant contributions to the district over at least a five year period of employment and has been nominated by at least two individuals. He announced that Mrs. Joan Brennan and Mr. Lee Tracy will be inducted into the prestigious Education Hall of Fame. Mr. McCourt spoke about both of the nominees.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

We will have a brief presentation tonight by Director Ann Marie Bruder on the Department of Special Services. We are pleased that senior student Marcus Catuogno will also be on hand to speak about the support and guidance he has received through the department.

#### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE** *Declan Feehan*

**Open to Public – COMMENTS only for action items on the March 7, 2023 agenda.**

No one chose to speak at this time.

#### **BOARD MOTIONS**

##### **Action Items:**

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

1. Approve the appointment of Sammy Tuozzo, as an aide at the Before and After School program, located at Godwin School, sponsored by the Midland Park Continuing Education Program, effective March 8, 2023 through June 30, 2023.
2. Approve the transfer of Denise McPhillamy from the Highland School to the Godwin School as a paraprofessional to support the Godwin ABA program, effective March 8, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Formicola...

1. Resolution to Approve the Tentative 2023-2024 School Year Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the Tentative 2023-2024 School Year Budget, as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$ 25,299,578
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 443,275
Special Schools (Fund 13)	\$ 880,489
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 26,623,342
SPECIAL REVENUE (Fund 20)	\$ 646,867
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$ 931,150
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS	 \$ 28,201,359

Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve- Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is \$420,000 for other capital project costs to replace classroom ceilings and lighting, renovations to art room 40 and the guidance office at the high school. Also included is concrete floor replacement in the maintenance building. The total costs of these projects represent expenditures for renovation elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the CCCS;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$22,834,226 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$931,150 to support Debt Service, for the 2023-2024 school year budget. Included in the General Fund Tax Levy is the need for a Health Care Cost Cap Adjustment in the amount of \$448,101 to be included in the base budget.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Formicola...

2. Establish the following Travel Allowances and related expenses for district employees and trustees in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:A-7.3:

<u>2021-2022</u>		<u>2022-2023</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>
Maximum	Actual	Maximum	Current	Maximum
\$30,000	\$20,401	\$30,000	\$26,416	\$30,000

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a classified high school student on bedside instruction, effective retroactive from March 1, 2023 through approximately April 28, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/Review of March 21, 2023 agenda items**

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

No Report

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

- Teacher workshop approvals
- Bedside approvals

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

No Report

E. Legislative Committee- (Administration)

- Governor Murphy announced three new programs to boost students learning in Grades K-5. They are High Impact Tutoring and RAPID Learning Acceleration professional development programs for teachers.

The NJDOE’s plan for these initiatives will focus on academic recovery and accelerated learning for young learners. The initiatives will be based on evidence-based strategies that can help schools close achievement gaps caused by COVID-19-related disruptions to the learning environment and the shift to remote instruction.

The department will enter into an agreement with colleges and universities that have the capacity to provide such professional development to NJ educators. The plan will be supported by \$3 million in ESSER state set-aside funding.

F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (N. Eliya, Chairperson)

- There will be a meeting tonight after this meeting

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

- Administrators Association agreement and Midland Park Education Association agreement will be on the next agenda

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

No Report

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

- A meeting will be scheduled soon

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

No Report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Eliya commented that the musical is this weekend and tickets are on sale.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Eliya informed the Board that the musical is this weekend and you can still get tickets.

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Eliya...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of March 21, 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. Eliya, seconded – Mrs. Criscenzo...

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator