

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey

December 2, 2014

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Maryalice Thomas, at 8:00 p.m. and the following statement was read:

"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 2014 elective year. A notice was also posted outside of 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. In addition, all questions must be presented to the Board of Education during the public session and prior to the adjournment of the meeting."

ROLL CALL

Present:	James Canellas	Richard Formicola
	Robert Schiffer	William Sullivan
	Timothy Thomas	Peter Triolo

Maryalice Thomas

Excused:	Sandra Criscenzo
	Brian McCourt

OTHERS PRESENT

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

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

Ms. Stacy Garvey

BOARD PRESIDENT ITEMS

Dr. Maryalice Thomas

Midland Park Public School District Mission Statement

The Midland Park School District as part of a strong, dedicated community, provides students with a comprehensive, adaptive education in a positive environment by maximizing all resources and empowering them to realize their individual worth and responsibility with the expectation that all students achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

We are very excited that our students are playing in the football game at the Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford.

I would like to encourage everyone who is able to attend the Borough Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5th.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

Approve the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 102914351 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

Roll Call: All Yes

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on December 16, 2014.

Open to Public- Comments only for action items on the agenda.

No one from the public chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

Action Items:

- A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2014-2015 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. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

1. Approve the appointment of Deborah Marks as the ELL (English Language Learners) Instructor at the high school. She will be paid 3% of her base salary per semester, as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract (pending completion of negotiations), prorated retroactive from November 17, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Roll Call: 5 Yes Formicola, Sullivan, Thomas, Canellas, Dr. Thomas
2 No Schiffer, Triolo

B. Finance- (R. Schiffer, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Triolo . . .

1. Approve the use and rental of the high school gym to Hoop Heaven, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, for Basketball games on the following Sundays from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.:

December 14, 21, 28, 2014

Roll Call: 6 Yes Formicola, Schiffer, Sullivan, Thomas, Triolo, Dr. Thomas
1 No Canellas

LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

We are reviewing the first draft of the school calendar. It will be presented to the Board at a forthcoming meeting.

D. Policy Committee- (T. Thomas, Chairperson)

No Report.

E. Legislative Committee- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

On November 13, 2014, Governor Chris Christie signed into law a measure A-679/S-1897 that promotes the establishment of so-called “breakfast after the bell” programs across New Jersey’s schools. The legislation encourages both public and nonpublic schools currently participating in the federal school breakfast program to increase the number of students participating in the program by establishing a “breakfast after the bell” program.

The governor also approved A-948/S-1988, which requires a board of education to provide timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate nonpublic school representatives, including parents, prior to any change in the provision of nursing service for students attending nonpublic schools.

The committee also released the following pieces of legislation impacting New Jersey students and school districts:

S-165 - authorizes a teacher leader endorsement to the instructional certificate.

S-801– requires schools to maintain a supply of epinephrine and permit administration of epinephrine to any student encountering a anaphylactic reaction.

S-1275 –establishes a loan redemption program for teachers in certain fields to redeem loan amounts received under the New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students.

S-1276-establishes a pilot program in NJDOE to recruit disadvantaged or minority men to teach in certain failing schools under the alternate route program.

S-1687 permits students made homeless by acts of terrorism or natural disaster to attend tuition-free, the school district in which they resided prior to being homeless for two school years after the event.

S-2000/A-1796 prohibits a school district from denying a student school breakfast or school lunch because payment is in arrears without prior notice to parent.

F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

The following items were reported on as job completion as follows:

- Snow Removal – District Wide- Thanksgiving Eve
- Repaired – District Wide -Several heating issues
- Repaired – District Wide -Several restroom plumbing issues
- Installed new sink counter top teachers room – Godwin School
- Replaced faulty ballast and light bulbs – High School Gym
- Repaired hallway lights – Godwin School
- Repaired Roof top Heating Unit – Highland school -Gym

G. Negotiations Committee- (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

The Mediator has not presented a second date however we are still working with the Association to exchange proposals. We heard back today and both sides are working hard to hopefully conclude outside of mediation.

H. Public Relations Committee- (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

No Report.

I. Personnel Committee- (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

No Report.

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Market Day is scheduled for December 5, 2014.

Elementary School PTA - (P. Triolo)

The following items / events have been scheduled:

- 12/4 - Fundraiser at Tons of Toys & Tons of Treasures
- 12/5 – Spirit Day
- 12/10 –Winter concert
- 12/12 –Box tops & pictures

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

The Annual Beef Steak is scheduled for January 24, 2014.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The following items / events have been scheduled:

12/18 – Winter Choral Performance

1/14 – Winter Band Performance

Also, the play was fantastic

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (R. Formicola)

No Report.

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (Brian Mulligan)

No Report.

Borough Town Council – (M. Thomas and J. Canellas)

The Borough tree lighting is scheduled for December 5, 2014.

Ad Hoc – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS

There are no additional items to discuss at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of December 16, 2014, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, updates on MPEA negotiations and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

Discussion ensued regarding moving the Board of Education Election date to November.

Mr. Sullivan questioned what was the cost last year?

Ms. Garvey replied that it was approximately \$15,000.00 last year-now it will be more because there are less districts – it will run us about \$20,000-25,000.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he was concerned with the election remaining non-partisan if moved to November.

Dr. Thomas commented that she has not seen that up to this point.

Mr. Schiffer commented that he always thought the Midland Park Community will support the budget if presented with the right numbers, however we have always maintained a budget with a cap of 2%, so there is no reason for the vote and Midland Park will save \$20,000.00.

People will not get to work as election poll workers but district needs dollars for its residents.

Mr. Thomas added that we can always go back after four years.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Thomas invited the public to address the Board.

Taejin Pak who is the Senior Class President wanted to thank the Board for the opportunity to present their opinion – He read a statement to the Board stating the seniors are looking for a fair solution to the parking policy. They do not wish to deny the juniors. They see that a major flaw in the open parking system is the issue of safety. They feel that without assigned spots and in the rush to get to homeroom on time, hectic situations are inevitable. Having assigned spots would avoid chaos and it is a means of accountability and consistency. He continued that the seniors were asked to hand in driving forms in August on the assurance that those who handed in their forms were promised a spot near the front of the parking lot. The open parking system could potentially cause not a minor discomfort, but a serious problem as these seniors may not be able to find a spot. The seniors were told that there would be some spots on College Road and some spots in the back of the school that would be available. The juniors should then use these spots.

Stephen Potenzano commented that he would like to thank the Board and the Administrators for acting quickly when everyone was so upset. He expressed to the Principal that maybe seniors who do have cars get spaces assigned then assign spots as the rest get their license. This might be a solution to help the juniors and to give the seniors the right to have a spot.

Kristen Peterson wanted to thank you for listening to parents concern. She asked if spots are allocated for snow removal. Dr. Cirasella stated that when looking at this issue administration will try to take into consideration all issues and satisfy as many as possible.

Noreen DesBiens stated that with open parking more placards were distributed then there are available spots. Dr. Cirasella replied this is another issue being reviewed.

Joseph Donofrio commented that if you allow seniors a guaranteed spot and juniors have to raffle for a spot, you still will have an issue. Best solution –seniors had to wait as juniors- thus Juniors should have to do the same. Seniors should get the assigned spot.

Additional discussion continued on the topic.

Dr. Cirasella wanted to thank all for taking the time and praised the students who came to the meeting and who spoke. We have confidence and faith in our administration that a solution will be found. The Board and I have no other motivation and promise to take time to figure this out. The seniors now have assigned spaces and we will continue to have discussion and to come up with a solution.

Emily Parker commented on her support of teachers. The teachers deserve to be recognized and thanked. Negotiations have placed a dark cloud over the schools. Please try to end negotiations, the teachers deserve our support.

Motion –Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Thomas . . .
To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:46p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary