

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
January 13, 2015

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 | Sandra Criscenzo |
| | Richard Formicola | Brian McCourt |
| | Robert Schiffer | William Sullivan |
| | Timothy Thomas | Peter Triolo |

Maryalice Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT

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

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.

Dr. Thomas wished everyone a Happy New Year

- Congratulated the Midland Park Borough on their Reorganization.
- Recommendations are enlisted for the Education Hall of Fame.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on January 27, 2015.

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

No one had any comments 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 – Ms. Criscenzo . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the appointment of the following teachers at the high school to provide home instruction to a high school non-classified student. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract (pending completion of negotiations), for two hours per subject per week, effective retroactive from December 15, 2014 through February 13, 2015:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ethan Grubman | Pre-Calculus and Personal Finance |
| Nancy DeRitter | Physics |
| Eric Ferro | U.S. History |
| Sarah Berninger | English II |

2. Approve 23 additional days for Catherine Prinsell, School Psychologist, to provide case management services. She will be paid her per diem rate of \$305.05 (pending completion of negotiations) for a total of \$7,016.15, effective retroactive from January 8, 2015 through June 18, 2015.
3. Approve an unpaid sick leave for Joseph Bounassi, Head Custodian at the high school, effective retroactive from January 7, 2015 through February 18, 2015 or sooner, as per the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act of 1993.
4. Approve the addition of Joan O'Neill to the list of substitute Bus Drivers for the 2014-2015 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

- S-5. Approve the request for Cynthia Verbrugge, Instructional Aide, to transfer 30 of her accumulated sick days to James Verbrugge, Maintenance worker.
- S-6 Approve the extended paid sick leave for James Verbrugge, Maintenance worker, effective retroactive from December 9, 2014 through approximately April 3, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-7 Approve the termination of William Edland as a Custodian, effective February 12, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-8 Approve the termination of Frank Gabriele as a Custodian, effective February 12, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance- (R. Schiffer, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

1. Approve the submission of the Amendment to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Consolidated Grant for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 and upon subsequent approval, accept the funds as follows:

Title I Part A - \$19,918.00

Title II Part A - \$34,911.00

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the extension of home instruction for one middle school non-classified student, effective retroactive from October 31, 2014 pending possible placement.
2. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one middle school non-classified student on home instruction, effective retroactive from January 6, 2015 through April 3, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The committee met tonight and there will be one policy amendment at the next meeting.

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

No Report.

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

The following items have been reported as job completions as follows:

- Several early morning snow and ice events during the past couple weeks
- Repaired heating issues at the Godwin school and the high school
- Repaired main office electrical issue at Godwin School
- Completed the wiring and speaker installation for new sound system at Godwin school
- Anchored all boys locker room benches to the floor
- During Winter break hallway floors were burnished and waxed all buildings
- Painted the walls Handicap access Hallway MPHS

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

Continuing – received a proposal back and it seems that we are very close to settling.
We do anticipate a settlement in the near future.

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

J. Liaison Committee

The following items/events were reported on:
High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

The following events were mentioned:
Market Day Orders are due on 1/17 and the pick- up day is 1/23.
General meeting is schedule for 1/21 at 7:00 p.m.

Elementary School PTA - (P. Triolo)

Events are scheduled as follows:
Godwin School Talent Show is scheduled for January 30, 2015 and
Highland School Talent Show is scheduled for January 23, 2015.
A Parent Social Fund Raiser is scheduled for January 17, 2015 at the Fire House.

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

The Beef Steak fund raiser is scheduled for January 24, 2015.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The Winter Band Concert will be held on January 14, 2015.
Musical Fund Raiser

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

Open gym nights at the recreation barn have begun.

Education Foundation – (R. Formicola)

The Blue Jean Ball – Mardi-Gras is scheduled for March 7, 2015.
Glam week Fund Raiser

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (Brian Mulligan - Absent)

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

Borough Reorganization went very smoothly.
Probationary Officer sworn in new members of the Police Department.

Ad Hoc – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS

No additional items needed to be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .

1. To go into closed session before the meeting of January 27, 2015, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, updates on MPEA negotiations and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .

2. To go into a second closed session after the meeting of January 13, 2015, for the purpose of reviewing confidential HIB parent hearing.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Dr. Thomas invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Kim Rupp commented that Glen Rock is voting on full day Kindergarten. They began their Feasibility Study before us and their anticipated date to start the full-day Kindergarten is September, 2015. Midland Park's earliest date to start would be September, 2016. Mrs. Rupp asked why not next September?

Dr. Cirasella spoke to the superintendent of Glen Rock. They started talking 5-8 years ago about full day Kindergarten. Glen Rock is able to do the program within 2% cap. Every District is different. Our district may not be able to accomplish this and stay within the budget cap. A start date for Glen Rock for September 2015 is not set in stone but they are hopeful. The full-day Kindergarten Committee is working hard to get a recommendation to the Board.

Ms. Rillo stated she is a parent in town and an educator. The public is very passionate for full day Kindergarten. She is quite concerned because there are 76 districts in Bergen County and we are one of the last to go to full day. The public feels this is not a priority. She asked if the committee recommends not to go to full day, will the Board reconsider.

Dr. Cirasella answered the Board does make the decision and can have the committee revisit. It is very disheartening to hear that the public does not think this is a priority. We have a lot of people working hard. I assure you that everyone wants the best for the children of Midland Park.

Ms. Fantulin questioned the coming of PARCC and what is the responsibility of the district for the people who refuse PARCC. We would like to see the district move toward supporting to opting out.

Dr. Cirasella commented that it was made clear from the County/State that there is no option to opt-out. Districts are expected to follow the law. The District is moving ahead and working on a case by case basis. Something could change, but at this time the District is following the State. We will provide any additional information, as it comes.

Dr. Thomas stated that an alternative program will not be provided.

Ms. Heidi Meyer stated she had opted her son out of NJASK and just brought him into school after testing. She asked if this would be an option.

Dr. Cirasella advised parents to speak to the Principals to discuss any individual situation.

The Board moved into Closed Session at 8:30 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:35 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Mr. Triolo. . .
Approve the following resolution:

- S-1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decisions in HIB Investigation Nos. 112114353, 1122414354 and 1122414355 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Reports 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

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

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary