

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

October 7, 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	Sandra Criscenzo
	William Sullivan	Timothy Thomas
	Timothy Thomas	Peter Triolo

Maryalice Thomas

Excused:	Richard Formicola
	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.***

Dr. Thomas stated that she sincerely thanks all the voters for their confidence in passing the Referendum. We are extremely pleased and wish to acknowledge the MPEA, CAMP, the Administration team and the Board Committee members for all their work and support in getting this accomplished.

- Week of Respect – Encourage everyone to visit the website.
- Curriculum – They are beginning to create two committees.
  - All day Kindergarten
  - Technology Committee

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS**     *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

1. Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .  
Approve the submission of the Midland Park School District's New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) Statement of Assurance for the 2014-2015 school year, which is attached as an appendix.

SR-1

Roll Call: 6 Yes (Criscenzo, Schiffer, Sullivan, Thomas, Canellas, Dr. Thomas)  
1 (Stepped Out) Triolo

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on October 21, 2014.

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

No comments at this time.

## **BOARD MOTIONS**

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .  
Accept the results of the Midland Park Public Schools Special Referendum Election (official count) held on Tuesday, September 30, 2014:

Proposal to be voted upon:

Yes     936  
No      533

Roll Call: All Yes

## Action Items:

### A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

### APPENDIX

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. Triolo . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the appointment of Barbara Makela to provide home instruction to an elementary school general education student for up to five hours per week. She will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective retroactive from September 24, 2014 through November 25, 2014.
2. Approve the appointment of the following high school teachers to provide home instruction to a high school general education student. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective retroactive from October 3, 2014 through November 21, 2014, as per the attached appendix:
3. Approve the following changes to the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the high school for the 2014-2015 school year:

A-2

### Stipend

Delete:	JoAnn Polhemus	Advanced Chemistry Team Advisor	
Add:	Deborah Marks	Advanced Chemistry Team Advisor	1, 048
	Maureen Donatien	Outdoors Club Co-Advisor	429
	Teresa Wecht	Outdoors Club Co-Advisor	\$ 429

4. Accept the resignation of Laura Vierheilg as a Bus Aide, effective retroactive to September 26, 2014.
5. Accept the resignation of Donna Jordan as a part-time Bus Driver, effective October 10, 2014.
6. Approve the appointment of Marissa Emord as a Bus Aide. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective October 9, 2014 through June 30, 2015.
7. Approve the appointment of Joan O'Neill as a part-time Bus Driver. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective October 13, 2014 through June 30, 2015.
8. Approve the following Custodial/Maintenance transfers, effective retroactive to October 1, 2014:

Joseph Bounassi from Maintenance/Groundskeeper to the position of Head Day Custodian

Troy Wallace from Head Day Custodian to the position of Maintenance/Groundskeeper

9. Approve the appointment of Alexis Vander Wiele as an Aide for the Midland Park Continuing Education Before School Child Care program, effective October 8, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Teresa Mallon	NJ Science Teachers Conference	Princeton, NJ	\$115.00	Oct. 14-15, 2014
Nina Fasciano	Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Training	Brick, NJ	\$202.57	Oct. 21, 2014
Marie Cirasella Stacy Garvey Sandra Criscenzo Richard Formicola Brian McCourt Robert Schiffer William Sullivan Maryalice Thomas	New Jersey School Boards Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	\$5,000.00	Oct. 28-30 2014
Danielle Bache	Intervention Strategies When a Student is in Crisis	New Brunswick, NJ	\$2,394.12	Oct. 28-31, 2014

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the revision of the following curricula:

Social Studies – Grade 7 – New

Holocaust Studies & Human Behavior – HS – revised

Spanish I – HS – revised

Spanish II – HS - revised

Art I – HS – revised

Art II – HS – revised

Art III – HS – revised  
Economics – HS – revised  
Art – Kindergarten – revised  
Art – Grade 1 – revised  
Art – Grade 2 – revised  
Spanish – Grade 1 – revised  
Spanish – Grade 2 – revised  
Social Studies – Kindergarten – revised  
Social Studies – Grade 1 – revised  
Social Studies – Grade 2 – revised  
Computers – Grade 3 – revised  
Band – Grades 3-6 – revised

3. **Approve the alignment of curriculum to Core Content Standards:**

**Physical Education - Grades K – 6**  
**Health – Grades K - 6**  
**Computers – Grades 4 - 6**  
**Technology – Grade 7**  
**Introduction to Computers – HS**  
**French – Grades 4 - 6**  
**French III – HS**  
**Spanish III – HS**  
**Dramatics – HS**  
**Art – Grades 3 - 8**  
**Digital Photography - HS**  
**Sculpture - HS**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement and transportation of one high school special education student in the SHIP program at Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School, effective retroactive from September 17, 2014 through June 30, 2015.
5. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one elementary school general education student on home instruction, effective retroactive from September 24, 2014 through November 25, 2014.
6. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school general education student on home instruction, effective retroactive from October 3, 2014 through November 21, 2014.

Roll Call: All Yes

## **LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **B. Finance- (R. Schiffer, Chairperson)**

Mr. Schiffer talked to the auditor and everything will be complete by the end of the month. The Audit draft should be received shortly.

Ms. Garvey discussed conversation with Bond Attorney and Financial Advisor on the process of financing referendum projects and the timing of the sale of the bonds. Both advised that the sale of the bonds should occur in January in the hopes of receiving the best interest rates.

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

No Report.

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

The Assembly Education committee held it first hearing in September and released the following bills:

A-3360, sponsored by Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, which would require middle schools and high schools to set up “food services advisory committees,” with half of the membership comprised of students, to address student concerns about the breakfasts and lunches they are served each day. The bill is specifically aimed at students who are vegetarian or vegan. The bill states that a school district should ‘make all reasonable efforts to expand its school breakfast and school lunch menus to include hot and cold vegetarian and vegan meal options.

The bill won unanimous support of the Assembly committee, and will move to the full Assembly for a vote. A companion bill in the Senate has yet to be filed. NJSBA supports the bill.

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

Mr. Thomas reported the Maintenance Crew is working very hard at completing work orders in all three buildings. Mr. Collins is meeting with the Committee about Dugouts. A date for the next committee meeting will be forthcoming.

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

No Report.

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

Thank you to all on passing the Referendum.

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

No Report.

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Market Day – October 11, 2014.

The plant sale went very well.

Elementary School PTA - (P. Triolo)

The following items/events were discussed:

- October 8<sup>th</sup> was designated as Fire Prevention Day
- Smoke detector donation
- Pumpkin Sale on October 9, 2014
- Harvest Festival is scheduled for 10/10 and there is a rain date scheduled for 10/17
- Invention Convention is 10/28/14.

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

The Booster Club is recruiting and looking for people to become active members.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The following events were discussed:

*Music in the Park* is scheduled for Sunday

The Marching Band took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the competition in Ramsey

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

Back- to-School Night was September 22, 2014 at Highland School and it went quite well.

Education Foundation – (R. Formicola)

Dr. Thomas commented on the following events/items:

Trivia Night is scheduled for October 13, 2014

Currently reviewing and establishing grants

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)

Trying to get dates together – hope to schedule soon.

Ad Hoc – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS**

No other items were discussed at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No other items to discuss at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of October 21, 2014, for the purpose of personnel, negotiations and confidential student and association matters.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Dr. Thomas invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Patricia Fantulin commented that on behalf of the Community Alliance of Midland Park (CAMP) she wrote a letter to the MPEA & the Board.

Ms. Fantulin read the letter from the Community Alliance of Midland Park (CAMP) regarding resolving the negotiations of the contract. We urge both to make an effort to settle for the benefit of the students and the community.

Dr. Thomas stated that there is a Remediation Meeting scheduled for October 14th and hopefully progress will be made.

Ms. Kim Rupp thanked the Board for approving the Kindergarten study and asked when will the members be chosen and when will the committee get started.



Dr. Cirasella commented that we will have something on the website in the next couple of days asking for parent interest. Also, we will have teacher, administrator, and board member representation on the committee to make a decision and report back to the Board.

Ms. Rupp commented that Glen Rock is doing a Feasibility Study.

Dr. Cirasella advised that we do not feel it is necessary to spend the funds for this study.

Ms. Emily Parker stated that she is in support of the teachers and that she hopes that everyone will come to agreement now that the Referendum has passed. All negotiations should be handled in a positive fashion.

Ms. Doumas commented that no one has any knowledge of any of the items being negotiated, however, the teachers were a big part of passing the referendum. The MPEA took out an ad to support the Referendum. You need to acknowledge that people are fed up because negotiations are taking too long. This can't take another year.

Motion - Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary