

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
March 17, 2009

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Richard Venditti, President, 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 2008 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."

ROLL CALL

Present:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Michael Hahn	Paula Lein
	Raymond Moraski	Wayne Roberts
	William Sullivan	Robert Schiffer

Richard Venditti

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: William Heebink, Superintendent of Schools
Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Venditti discussed the loss of Ms. Joan Vandervliet, a past Board member and a truly wonderful human being. Her life was very inspirational and her passing is a deep loss.

Mr. Venditti called for a Moment of Silence in her honor.

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Motion – Mr. Roberts, seconded – Mr. Moraski . . .

S-1 Affirm a school board disciplinary action for one high school student, as determined in closed session.

Roll Call: All Yes

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2008-2009 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.

A. Personnel – (W. Heebink)

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Accept the resignation of Karen Campbell, as a .5 Instructional Aide at the high school, effective retroactive to February 24, 2009 (support material attached).
2. Approve the appointment of Christine Hutzel as a .5 Instructional Aide at the high school. She will be paid a prorated salary of \$12,116.50 (Category V, Step 1 of the MPESA salary guide), effective March 18, 2009 through June 30, 2009 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Accept the retirement resignation of Concetta Cervati, health and physical education teacher at the elementary schools, effective June 30, 2009 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

4. Accept the resignation of Victoria Schoeler, elementary school teacher, effective June 30, 2009 (support material attached).
5. Approve the following additions to the list of coaches at the high school for the 2008-2009 school year (support material attached):

Gregory Cohen	Volunteer Baseball Coach
Ethan Grubman	Volunteer Baseball Coach

6. Approve the following high school teachers for the NJASK-8 review class, sponsored by the Midland Park Continuing Education Program, to be held at the high school (support material attached):

Michal Edgerton	English
Matthew Sayles	Math

7. Approve the appointment of Michelle Fiaschi as an aide for the Midland Park Continuing Education After School Child Care program effective March 25, 2009 through June 30, 2009 (support material attached).

8. Approve the following additions to the list of substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year (support material attached):

* Julie Abels

(s) Brian DeCarlo (previously on substitute list as well as a coach)

(s) Kathleen Peacock

(s) Elizabeth Salemme

* = NJ Standard Certificate

(s) = County Substitute Certificate

9. Approve the following addition to the list of substitute workers for the 2008-2009 school year (support material attached):

Eleanor Ostman Substitute Secretary

Therese Wheeler Substitute Secretary

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (R. Schiffer, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Ms. Lein . . .

1. Approve the following block motion:

a. February 2009 Midland Park Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$28,043.93.

b. March 2009 claims in the amount of \$241,335.41.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded- Ms. Lein . . .

2. Approve the following block motion:

a. February 2009 lunch program direct pays in the amount of \$27,607.14.

b. February 2009 direct pays in the amount of \$314,062.81.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the March 2009 payroll in the amount of \$1,042,935.81.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Schiffer spoke on the tentative budget being presented. He asked that everyone realize that this is a Tentative Budget. It is the intension of the Committee to work further on budget in order to reduce the increase, but had to submit something for approval because the initial budget is due to the county office.

Mr. Venditti stated that he is concerned with the increase. He commented that the current environment impacts everyone. We are trying to educate the children, they are our future, but he does not want the public to think we are insulting them with the increase presented. He wanted the committee to know his concerns.

Mr. Schiffer commented that starting 5 years ago the State began pushing State Aid figures to March but still required Budget submission on same date, We now have to rush to put something together within a week and continue working up to the Budget Hearing. We have no problems comparing this District's education program to any other. Large amount of Free Balance was given back to keep tax levy down long before State sets rules. There is an awareness of the current economic situation however; we must also know how deep we can cut our budget comfortably. The average home cost is \$300,000 and is an increase of \$272 annually or \$23 a month.

Mr. Canellas asked when the Board will have numbers that will be presented at the Public Hearing?

Mr. Schiffer answered that by Friday before the Public Hearing, if not sooner.

Open to Public

Mary Bradley asked if the public can have a copy of the budget. Mr. Schiffer responded that it will be advertised in the newspaper.

There was discussion on the number of sections budgeted for next year's third and fifth grades. Mr. Schiffer advised that at this time there is an extra section budgeted for the third grade and half time for the fifth.

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

4. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a tentative school district budget for the 2009-2010 school year for submission to the voters of Midland Park, as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
Total General Fund	\$19,272,324	\$16,313,582
Total Special Revenue Fund	396,631	-0-
Total Debt Service Fund	451,509	451,509
TOTALS	\$20,120,464	\$16,765,091

Roll Call: All Yes

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

5. Authorize the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to sign and execute all necessary documentation on behalf of the Midland Park Board of Education with approved financial institutions for all account processing, including the opening and closing of accounts.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

6. Approve the increase in the financial pay-out limit for the following consultant:

Board Attorney/Bond Counsel from \$40,000.00 to \$55,000.00 for the 2008-2009 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

7. Approve the appropriation of 2007-2008 Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$57,177 to the following accounts:

11-000-230-820-91-010-75-91	\$40,000.00
11-000-230-331-91-010-75-91	\$17,177.00

Roll Call: All Yes

- C. Curriculum Committee – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

APPENDIX

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

1. Approve the 2009-2010 Academic Calendar for the Midland Park Public Schools, which is attached as an appendix. A

The Board discussed the Calendar for 2009-2010

Mary Bradley stated that she is concerned that the stretch from March to June is 11 weeks and will be very long.

Dr. Heebink answered that we want students to be in school a week or two before testing. If we would move Spring Break it would have many implications.

Stephanie Pantalli – asked if the student could have a ½ day for Martin Luther King Day instead of a full day off. Ms. Criscenzo stated that the day is used for teacher in-services and by contract has to be the full day.

Debbie Dragonetti asked if there was discussion on shortening the February break to get out earlier. Mr. Moraski stated that it was discussed but felt this would be better.

MaryAlice Thomas asked if there would be any impact on the 2nd/3rd quarters with all of that time off. Dr. Heebink stated that the calendar is comparable to other districts; our students are not disadvantaged over any other.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the proposed Band/Broadcasting overnight trip to Southern California from February 19 - 24, 2010 (support material attached).

Mr. Roberts questioned how the students would be transported to and from the airport. David Marks explained that it would be with school vehicles if available, but there are funds if we can't use school buses.

Mr. Hahn asked if there was a reason why the trip is scheduled for the last day of break thus having miss days from school. Mr. Ersalesi reported that the rates are much less for air and hotel.

Mr. Roberts stated that the curriculum listed for the group was for 3rd and 4th grades and our students are in high school. Mr. Ersalesi advised that the curriculum would be tailored for our high school group.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Ms. Lein . . .

3. Approve the list of staff members requesting workshop attendance, as follows (support material attached):

Employee	Workshop	Date	Location
David Hershberger	Educational Computing & Technology in the Classroom	3/17/2009	Montclair, NJ
Robert Blanchard Michael Healy Patricia Terraciano	School IPM Coordinators Training	3/18/2009	Jersey City, NJ
Nick Capuano Michael Healy	Using Data to Improve Student Achievement	3/ 30/2009	Union, NJ
Nancy DeRitter Lori Menken	Knex in the Science Classroom Building, Problem Solving & Modeling	4/17/2009	Piscataway, NJ
Brian Ersalesi Joann Manicone	North Jersey English Teacher's Conference	4/ 22/ 2009	Pompton Lakes, NJ
Kathryn Piscitello	Winners! A Closer Look at the Years 100 Best Books for Children	4/ 29/ 2009	Whippany, NJ
Patricia Sicree	NJSHA Annual Convention	4/30-5/2/ 2009	Atlantic City, NJ
Jennifer Harris	Performance Assessment: Define, Design, Implement	5/1/ 2009	Montvale, NJ
Carole Treta	Building a Bridge to Global Learning Communities	5/19/2009	Monroe Township, NJ
Matthew Sayles	NPTNJ Alternate Route Capstone Experience	6/ 5/2009	Jersey City, NJ
JoAnn Wagstaff	Annual NJ Association of Library Assistants	6/ 8 & 9/2009	Mt. Laurel, NJ

Roll Call: All Yes

- D. Policy Committee – (P. Lein, Chairperson)

Ms. Lein reported that many policies are being reviewed. There will be many for the Board to approve.

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

The following items were reported on:

S15/A3650- Passed by both the Senate and the House. The bill would allow for a reduction in state aid equal to the amount a district would save by deferring half of its Public Employees Retirement System current year contribution.

S2647 – Released by the Senate Education Committee on 3/9. The bill would require criminal history checks for school district volunteers who have regular unsupervised contact with students. Identical Bill A3813 was referred to the Assembly Education Committee on 3/5.

S1007 – Released by the Senate Education Committee on 3/9. The bill would require school districts to report to the Department of Education information on students who are removed from school pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act.” Under the bill, districts must annually report violence and vandalism incidents. The bill also provides for formal recognition of effective intervention programs, making information about the program available to all districts in the state.

A3222 – Reported out of the Assembly Education Committee on 2/26. The bill would establish temperature control guidelines and standards for school facilities. Under the bill schools would be required to keep the temperature of the building between 68 and 79 degrees, with schools required to evacuate students if the temperatures fell below 63 degrees or rose above 89 degrees.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

The following items were reported on:

- a. We will be scheduling a meeting
- b. Sprinklers and fertilization for Spring – Ms. Garvey stated that this is already scheduled.
- c. Mr. Venditti asked that the repaving of the parking lot at the high school be discussed in Committee

Mr. Lee Tracy - Regarding the sprinkler system – the ground is now settling – who is responsible to fill the areas. Mr. Venditti responded that we will talk to our Buildings & Ground Super and the Borough. Mr. Tracy commented that the cars are driving on the infield. Can we put up barrier? Mr. Venditti responded that the police asked that we take down the barrier. We will have to speak to the police.

G. Negotiations – Teachers/Secretaries – (W. Roberts, Chairperson)

No report

H. Public Relations Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

Mr. Canellas commented that Chalk Board is changing for the Budget issue—limiting the information to (2) two pages.

I. Personnel Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

No Report.

J. Service Review Committee – (W. Roberts, Chairperson)

K. Town Council Special Projects Committee – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

The Board asked the Administrators to look into the use of the Borough tennis court?

L. Special Recreation Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

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

Accept the donation of labor and materials for improvements for the high school field, with an estimated value of \$28,070.00 from the Midland Park Baseball/Softball Association as reviewed by the Board Architect, as per Board Policy 7230.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Sullivan commented that he heard this will be done with- in 2-weeks.

Mr. Venditti stated that we need to have a meeting with various groups to let them know that there are procedures that have to be followed. We do appreciate all that they do, but we need them to understand that protocol must be followed even for donated materials and labor.

Mr. Tracy asked if when the plans were reviewed by the Board Architect was it realized that at the base of the back stop there is two feet of concrete. Is the back stop going on the concrete or in front of the concrete? The committee will check into the location of the back stop.

M. Technology Committee – (M. Hahn, Chairperson)

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

Award a contract to Millennium Communications Group, Inc. to provide district-wide area network as per E-Rate bidding process and specifications (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Hahn discussed the project, funding and time lines.

N. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

The following items were reported on:

The combined general meeting has been changed to Thursday, March 26th, beginning at 7:00 in the High School Media Center. The PTA meeting will begin at 8:00 and be a “Coffee with the Administrators”.

Market Day Orders are due by Saturday, March 21st, 2009.

The pick-up is Friday, March 27th in the MPHS Cafeteria from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Cultural Awareness Week is set for March 31-April 3rd. This year’s theme is “Building Lives” and focuses on helping those in need. They are collecting donations for Habitat for Humanity and school supplies for a school in Morocco.

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

A Parent –Teacher volleyball game is scheduled at Highland school in March at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2009.

Nominating committee will be reviewing open seats.

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

The following items were reported on:

- a. Athletic Ad Journals are available
- b. Ads for Spring Sports Journal
- c. Scholarships this year
- d. Baseball – Waldwick on May 13.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The High School Musical is this week. "Leader of the Pack" performances are from March 19th-March 22nd, 2009.

Special Education – (M. Hahn)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (R. Moraski)

The Spring Fling Comedy night is sold out.
Raffles are available.

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

A meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2009.
Discussing on line registration and printing.

Student Representative to the Board – (K. Yalli)

No Report

O. Old Business

P. New Business

Motion – Mr. Hahn, seconded – Ms. Lein . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of March 31, 2009, for the purpose of discussing personnel and negotiations.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Mr. Venditti invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Monahan questioned the status of the Director of Special Education position.

Dr. Heebink answered that we will be advertising for a permanent person.

Also, he will have parent and teacher input meetings.

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

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary