

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
March 31, 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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board Secretary's Certification

Ms. Garvey stated that a correspondence addressed to the Members of the Midland Park Board of Education was received from Ms. Melissa S. Furlong. Ms. Furlong has concerns regarding the 2009-2010 calendar.

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings:

February 24, 2009

March 17, 2009

Roll Call: All Yes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Heebink reported on the following items:

- a. Recognition of the clerical members for the month of April.
- b. List of achievements

Public Hearing on the 2009-10 School Budget

Dr. Heebink stated that this is a period of frustration and anger throughout the nation which has been felt at home and in the school district. The school budget has a direct benefit to students and home value, but this is the only opportunity for the public to express their anger.

Mr. Schiffer commented that the Tentative Budget was a work is in progress. The Finance Committee met and revised the budget by cutting \$141,957 below cap. The committee realized that due to the economy, additional funds needed to be eliminated.

Ms. Garvey reviewed the revenues, appropriations and the tax impact of the proposed budget.

Mr. Venditti thanked the Committee and the Administrators for their hard work.

Open to the Public

Mr. Lee Tracy questioned is there a line item for repairs. Mr. Schiffer answered that there is \$100,000 budgeted for maintenance through the district.

Mr. Al Gench spoke about the economy and how many people are being laid off and companies filing for bankruptcy. He asked that the Board reconsider the budget being presented and come back to the public with a decreased budget. He stated that the Board and the employees need to make sacrifices.

Mr. Russell Kamp asked for an explanation of the decrease in revenue income. Ms. Garvey explained that there are no longer any students coming from out of district paying tuition, the HIP/SHIP program and the Continuing Ed. program both have decreased enrollment.

There was discussion on the changing of the Chart of Accounts and the reclassification of expenditures causing difficulty in comparing the current year's budget to the proposed budget.

Mr. Monahan asked what would be affected if the budget was to fail. Mr. Schiffer stated that staffing, class size and programs would be affected.

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .

To close the Public Hearing

Roll Call: All Yes

The Board discussed specific budget items including maintenance of the buildings, workshops for staff, and the cutting of the Director of Curriculum and how the responsibilities of the position would be covered. Also discussed were programs at the high school, the reduction of the elementary music and art positions, and cutting of supply money across the district.

Mr. Venditti thanked the committee and the Administrator for all of their hard work. Board members have been reduced to arguing among themselves because they have a fiduciary responsibility to the community and at the same time are here for the students.

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

Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a school district Budget for the FY 2009-2010 school year for submission to the voters of Midland Park, as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
Total General Fund	\$19,130,337	\$16,171,595
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 396,631	-0-
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 451,509	\$ 451,509
Totals	\$19,978,477	\$16,623,104

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 – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Moraski . . .

To approve the following block motion:

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

* Daniel Anderson (on sub list last year and has worked as a Coach this year)

(s) Steven Cooper

* Doreen DeIanni

(s) Kristyn Gentile

(s) Dominick Piegaro

(s) = County Substitute Certificate

* = NJ Certification

2. Approve the transfers of the following maintenance/custodial personnel, effective April 13, 2009 (support material attached):

Thomas Churchill from Highland School to the high school - day time

Corrado Del Rosso from the high school to Highland School – day time

Joseph Naples from the high school to Godwin School as the split shift custodian

Walter Santana from Godwin School to the high school as the split shift custodian

3. Approve the appointment of Sam Schaper as a Substitute Bus Driver for 2008-2009 school year. He will be paid at the approved rate of \$12.25 per hour.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- AS-1 Accept the resignation of Laura Gere as a .5 Instructional Aide in the Godwin School, effective April 3, 2009 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

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

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of February 29, 2009, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate District officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, subject to the conditions of P.L. 1701.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the March 2009 supplemental claims in the amount of \$214,713.21.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the period February 1, 2009 – February 28, 2009, which are attached as an appendix. A

Roll Call: All Yes

4. Approve the transfers among accounts, according to prescribed accounting procedures, for the period February 1, 2009 – February 28, 2009, which are attached as an appendix. B

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve all courses and related instructors, programs and trips, which are included in the Pre Summer 2009 brochure of the Midland Park Continuing Education program (support material available).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the new 7th grade U.S. History textbook: American History: Beginnings Through Reconstruction (2008) (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve a new course offering: Advanced Placement Economics for grades 11/12 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

	Workshop	Date	Location
Teresa Isik Patricia Terraciano	New Jersey High School Graduation Campaign	April 17, 2009	Montclair, NJ
Anne Schaper	Regional Training for the Matrix Report and Online Applications	April 22, 2009	Parsippany, NJ
Nicholas Capuano	“Equity 101” Introductory Seminar Employment and Educational Equity	April 29, 2009	Newark, NJ
Karen Corcoran	Children with Hearing Loss, The Tools and Tricks of the Trade for School Nurses	May 18, 2009	Wood Ridge, NJ

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas asked how many students are needed to run course.

Dr. Heebink responded that 12-16 but there is really no set amount and the number usually grows after the 1st year.

Mr. Venditti questioned if the high school would be able to schedule the course. Dr. Heebink answered yes.

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

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

Approve the first reading of the following new/revised Board policies and regulations, which are attached as appendices:

Standards-Based Instructional Priorities	Policy Section 2428.1 (new)	<u>C</u>
Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Pupils	Policy Section 5111 (revised)	<u>D</u>
Tuition Income	Policy Section 6150 (revised)	<u>E</u>

Roll Call: All Yes

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

The following items were reported on:

- a. S15/S21 – Signed by the Governor. The bills 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.
- b. A3043 – Passed by the Assembly on 3/16. The bill requires the adoption of more stringent nepotism policies. The bill places anti-nepotism restrictions on school business administrators, personnel directors and in some cases school attorneys.
- c. A3568 – Passed by the Assembly on 3/16. The bill clarifies that the \$15,000 limit on payment for unused sick leave applies specifically to the positions of superintendent, assistant superintendent and business administrator.

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

The following items were commented on:

- a. Support of parents to fund project of auditorium seats;
- b. Concern with Varsity Baseball field- the machine that drags field broke; receiving help from the Borough.
- c. There will be a Committee meeting after the spring break.

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

There was a committee meeting tonight.
There is a meeting scheduled with the Union.

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

There will be a meeting tomorrow night to finalize the Budget edition of Chalk Board.

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

There will be a parent input meeting on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the August C. DePreker Media Center. The meetings' focus will be to determine parents feelings on the qualities a Director of Special Services should possess (both professionally and personally).

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

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

An update was given on fiber network and the internet access.

N. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

The following items were reported on:

This week is Cultural Awareness Week. The theme is “Building Lives”. On Friday the children will help build book cases that will be used in houses being built for Habitat for Humanity. During this whole week a collection of pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers, sharpeners and erasers are being collected for a school in Morocco that one of the presenters helped build.

In addition, Asian Grill lunch on Wednesday.

Market Day orders due by Saturday, April 18th.

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

The following items were reported on:

There was a good turn-out at the Volleyball game in Highland School.

Also, Candidates Night is Thursday, April 2nd, 2009 in the High School Media Center.

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

The following items were commented on:

a. Scholarship applications are being accepted – due May 1

b. Conference re-alignment –update by Mr. Salvi

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The following items were reported on:

- a. Jr. HS Musical – is on Thursday April 24th & Friday, April 25th, 2009.
- b. The High School Spring Concert and Awards is scheduled for April 29th, at 7:30 p.m.
- c. Middle School Spring Choral Concert is scheduled for May 14th, 2009.
- d. The Band Concert is May 31, 2009.
- e. Permission slips for the California Band Trip which is scheduled for February 2010 have been sent out.

Special Education – (M. Hahn)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (R. Moraski)

The Comedy Night was very successful.

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

The storing of wrestling mats was discussed.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

The following items were discussed:

- a. Brochure distribution
- b. Financing
- c. Mailings – possibly go to an on-line application.

Student Representative to the Board – (K. Yali)

No Report.

O. Old Business

None

P. New Business

Motion – Mr. Hahn, seconded – Mr. Moraski . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of April 14, 2009, for the purpose of negotiations and personnel.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Mr. Venditti invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Melissa Furlong asked if there would be a teacher filling the vacancy for Ms. Gere. Dr. Heebink replied that there would be. Ms. Furlong commented that class sizes are well above 25 and it is affecting her daughter. She also stated that she did not believe that making class sizes bigger is an answer for cutting the budget.

Mr. Lee Tracy asked about the concrete base of the new backstop; Ms. Garvey responded that matting was to be stalled to cover the concrete. Mike Hahn commented that this wasn't part of the original plan.

Mr. Al Grench asked that the Board propose a decrease of 5% to the budget – increasing class size and decreasing staffing to get back to basics; the next step will be rampant inflation.

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

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary