

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
APRIL 5, 2022**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Triolo at 8:00 p.m. and Ms. Garvey read the following statement:

“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 2022 elective year. A notice was also posted inside 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 or students.”

Roll Call

Present:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Christine Dell’Aglio	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin	Richard Formicola
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Excused: Brian McCourt

OTHERS PRESENT

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

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

*Midland Park Public School District Mission Statement*

*The Midland Park School District as part of a strong, dedicated community, provides its students with a comprehensive, adaptive education aligned to 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge and skills needed for success in college and career. The district maximizes all resources to empower students to realize their individual worth and responsibility, with the expectation they achieve the New Jersey state standards at all grade levels.*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT** *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

- Thank you to everyone who came to our “Coffee & Conversations” program on March 28. We were delighted to have such a great turnout and we learned a great deal from your questions and comments. As we move forward in partnership, please never hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns. As one of our parents said that night, social media is not the place to go for information.
- Sponge Bob the Musical was fantastic! Congratulations Mrs. Halliwell and all the musicians and parents who helped make the production so amazing. We extend best day congratulations to all of the participating students for their hard work and dedication.

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

1. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 0207223162 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

**Open to Public – COMMENTS only for action items on the April 5, 2022 agenda.**

No one chose to speak at this time.

**BOARD MOTIONS**

**Action Items:**

- A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

APPENDIX

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2021-2022 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. Triolo, seconded – Dr. Thomas...

1. Approve the appointment of the following staff members to provide home instruction to a non-classified High School student. They will be paid at the rate of \$36.77 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective retroactive from March 21, 2022 through approximately April 21, 2022:

Hanora Bellucco	World Cultures	1.5 hours per week
Donna Halliwell	Chorus	30 minutes per week
Lisa Hayne	Broadcasting I	30 minutes per week
Matthew Jimenez	Physical Education	30 minutes per week
Matthew Jimenez	Health	30 minutes per week
Krystyna Makowski	Science	1.5 hours per week
Joann Manicone	English	1.5 hours per week
David Marks	Band	30 minutes per week
Tara Nafash	Math	1.5 hours per week
Yana Seminara	French 2	1 hour per week

*Minutes of the Public Meeting of April 5, 2022*

2. Approve the appointment of Joann Manicone as an ELA Instructor to provide supplemental instruction for High School students who are at risk of not graduating. 100% of her salary will be paid through ESSER III funds at the rate of \$43.26 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, 5 days per week for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

3. Approve the following staff to work before and after school in the Highland Intervention Program to assist targeted students with remediation and support in English and Math. 100% of their salaries will be paid through ESSER III funds at the rate of \$43.26 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract. Each grade level ELA and Math course will run 12 sessions:

Amy Tamburri	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade Math
Kristen Conners	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade ELA
Jenna Abballe	4 <sup>th</sup> grade Math
Traci Audino	4 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA
Amy Tamburri	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Math
Cristina Horuzy	5 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA
Nicole Marino	6 <sup>th</sup> grade Math
Anne Edwards	6 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA

4. Approve the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs for the 2022 Marching Band Season, as per the attached appendix.

A-4

5. Approve the following additions or changes to the list of Advisors to Activities & Clubs at Highland School:

		<u>Stipend</u>
Add:	Katherina Grammer      Stage Crew Advisor	\$461.00
Delete:	Michael Kilgallen      Early Bird Club Advisor	
Add:	Nancy Ganguzza      Early Bird Club Advisor	\$461.00

6. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 0324, effective June 30, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

7. Approve the appointment of Jason Whelpley as the Assistant Principal at the High School. He will be paid a salary of \$108,000, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

- Dr. Cirasella commented on how lucky she was to hire Jason. He has been truly an outstanding teacher and always looks to improve his skills. He has shown great promise as an administrator. He is truly dedicated to the high school and the students through all the extra things he has done. I want to congratulate you again.
- Mr. Whelpley thanked the Board for this opportunity and to Dr. Cirasella for interviewing and offering him this position. He continued, after eight years being here in

Midland Park, I have love being here. I feel like through my middle school teaching, ESL, theater, coaching and all the clubs I have become part of the Midland Park community. I am excited and look forward to being able to stay in the Midland Park community in this next step of my career. Thank you again.

B. Finance- (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglia...

1. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and the Midland Park Public School District, to provide Therapeutic Adventure services on May 23, June 6, 13 and 14, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$1,880.
2. Accept the grant funds in the amount of \$2,500 awarded by the Foundation for Health Advancement’s Middle and High School STEM Grant Program for Mrs. Vandenberghe’s High School class project “Robotic STEM”.

Roll Call: All Yes not sure what you wanted me to put here.....

Mr. Canellas asked Ms. Garvey to explain the Chapter 44 law.

Ms. Garvey stated that the state calculated a savings for our district based on a law put in place, Chapter 44. The savings calculated was \$411,000 in health benefit costs by the Educator’s Health Program being offered to our employees. A savings of just under \$3,500 was the actual amount saved. An appeal was submitted to the state which was approved. At the public hearing on May 3, the budget numbers will reflect an increasing of \$300,000, the amount we were made to cut from the tentative budget. It will be put back in the health benefits line from where it was taken. The Board will be approving a budget with a 2% increase on the tax levy.

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

Motion – Ms. Crisenzo, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

1. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a non-classified middle school student on home instruction for a maximum of 10 hours per week, effective retroactive from March 31, 2022 through approximately May 1, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/Review of April 19, 2022 agenda items**

B. Finance Committee- (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

- Routine finance motions on the April 19 agenda

C. Curriculum Committee- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

- Faculty members requesting workshops

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

- We met tonight. Ten policies for approval, all mandated. Accepting recommendations from the State.

E. Legislative Committee- (Administration)

- Governor Murphy signed legislation that ensures the contributions, history and heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are included in the NJ Student Learning Standards for Social Studies in grades K-12. The law also establishes the Commission on Asian American Heritage within the department to “survey, design, encourage, and promote the implementation of Asian or Asian American cultural and educational programs in the State.”
- The law requires districts to select and adopt inclusive instructional materials that portray the cultural diversity of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for implementation in the 2022-2023 school year, and specifies that we must seek the assistance of the Commission on Asian American Heritage in fulfilling these requirements.

F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (C. Dell’Aglio, Chairperson)

- We met tonight. We continue to debrief after the referendum failed hoping to find creative solutions and discuss how we are moving forward with the fields and improving them for the students

G. Negotiations Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

- We met tonight, I will have a follow up report going out

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee- (P. Fantulin, Chairperson)

No Report

I. Town Council- (P. Triolo, B. McCourt)

- Next meeting 4/13

J. Diversity Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

- NJSBA is offering an all day Equity Conference on 5/20, a great day for the committee to spend together and think about where we are headed. What are thoughts are, how we would like to see this committee, it’s work manifest this year and the coming years.

K. Student Representative- (Sophia Rosenthal)

- We are all excited for Spring Break next week
- The junior & senior class is hosting another volleyball tournament this Thursday, 4/7 for all grades to raise money for prom
- Spring sports are going on and the baseball team has a game tonight
- The musical was a huge success and students really enjoyed it
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade orientation is at 7:00 pm tomorrow, 4/6 with tours from the peer leaders
- I want to congratulate Mr. Whelpley for becoming Assistant VP, I know how much the students love him

**OLD BUSINESS**

No report

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of April 19, 2022, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, legal updates and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**- general **COMMENTS** only at this time are to be directed to the Board President.

No one chose to speak at this time.

Motion – Mr. Formicola, seconded – Mr. Eliya...

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator