

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. Triolo 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 2021 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’Aglia	Patricia Fantulin
	Richard Formicola	Maryalice Thomas

Peter Triolo

Excused:	Nabil Eliya
	Brian McCourt

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**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

Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Self-Assessment presentation.

Report of Student Safety Data System (SSDS) District Violence & Vandalism and Incidents of Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) for Reporting Period 1, 2021-2022.

School Safety - In the wake of the horrific tragedy at Oxford High School in Michigan, school safety is most important. Our district has a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan with a response team that includes administrators, key staff members, Police Chief Michael Powderly, SRO Jason Tillson, Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Rau, Fire Department Chief Jason Crean and DPW member Mike Tauber. The team meets annually to discuss the existing plan and any modifications. Our plan includes procedures on threat situations, evacuations and safe havens, lockdowns, intruders in the building and more.

In addition, we meet as a district team to discuss school safety and our Safety Specialist, Nick Capuano, attends required state training workshops and turnkeys information to the administrative team. We have also hosted live action intruders in the building scenarios in conjunction with law enforcement officials.

When tragedies such as what just happened at Oxford High School happen, the media saturation is intense and it is difficult for students to avoid being bombarded by this news. We are here to support any student who may feel distressed and anxious about this, or any other matter. Please reach out to principals, our Student Assistance Counselor Craig Rush or anyone in the school to advise us of your concerns.

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

1. Approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 101521245 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.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 102121005 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 the Public: **COMMENTS** only for action items on the agenda.

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

Motion – Ms. Fantulin, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglio...

- 1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on November 16, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

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 – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...

- 1. Approve the following High School staff to provide home instruction for 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 November 4, 2021 through approximately January 4, 2022, or sooner.

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

- 2. Approve the appointment of Jessica Lee, Math teacher in the High School, to provide supplemental instruction for at-risk students at the High School. She will be paid through the ESSER III funds at the rate of \$43.26 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, for three days per week during the 2021 – 2022 school year.

- 3. Approve the following elementary staff to work in the Highland Academic Support Lab to assist at-risk students. They will be paid through ESSER III funds at the rate of \$43.26 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, for two days per week, effective January through May, 2022:

Tracy Audino	Stephanie Mont
Eileen Brown	Maureen O’Hara
Kristen Connors	Erin Perkins
David Hershberger	Jennifer Stalb
Cristina Horuzy	

- 4. Approve the following elementary staff to provide one-to-one intense intervention for at-risk students. They will be paid through ESSER III funds at the rate of \$43.26 per hour,

as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective retroactive from December 6, 2021 through June 23, 2022, not to exceed \$4,326 (100 hours):

Kristen Conners  
Cristina Horuzy  
Nicole Marino

Maureen O'Hara  
Amy Tamburri

5. Approve the following addition to the list of Winter Coaches at the High School for the 2021-2022 school year:

		<u>Stipend</u>
Add: Peter Kruimer	Varsity Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	\$5,357.00

6. Approve the extension in the paid medical leave for Employee No. 1674, effective retroactive from December 13 –23, 2021.
7. Approve the increase in position for Amanda Ackerman, elementary school teacher in the Highland School, from a .8 position to a full-time position. This increase will be paid through ESSER III funds. Her salary will be \$61,250.00 (MA Step 10 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
8. Approve the retirement resignation of Margaret Soto, as the full-time Bus Driver for the district, effective January 31, 2022.

Ms. Soto has been employed with the district for 35 years, we wish her much happiness and health in her retirement.

9. Approve the extension in the unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 1310, effective February 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

10. Revise Motion A-11 of the November 16, 2021 Board Agenda to reflect the approval of a paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1560, effective approximately March 14, 2022 through approximately March 25, 2022; a paid child care leave, effective approximately March 28, 2022 through approximately April 22, 2022; an unpaid child care leave, effective approximately May 25, 2022 through June 23, 2022 and an unpaid leave of absence, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective September 1, 2022 through November 25, 2022.
11. Approve the maternity leave for Employee No. 1720, effective approximately March 24, 2022 through approximately April 4, 2022; a paid child care leave, effective approximately April 5, 2022 through approximately May 18, 2022; an unpaid child care leave, effective approximately May 19, 2022 through June 23, 2022 and an unpaid leave of absence, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective September 1, 2022 through November 25, 2022.

12. Approve the appointment of Jeffrey Peters as a substitute Chaperone for the 2022 MPHS Ski Club, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education on the following dates:  
  
January 5, 12, 19, February 9, 2022  
  
Roll Call: All Yes
- B. Finance Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)  
  
Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...
  1. Approve the following resolution:  
  
RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of November 30, 2021, 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.
  2. Approve the following block motion:
    - a. November 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$197,551.20.
    - b. November 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$29,065.04.
    - c. November 2021 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$35,143.85.
    - d. Second November 2021 payroll in the amount of \$651,907.96.
    - e. December 2021 claims in the amount of \$516,619.94.
  3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's Report for the period November 1 - 30, 2021, as per the attached appendix. B-3
  4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period November 1 – 30, 2021, as per the attached appendix. B-4
  5. Approve the agreement with Learn Well to provide 10 hours of educational services per week to a non-classified high school student on bedside instruction, at the rate of \$49 per hour, effective retroactive from November 19, 2021 through approximately December 19, 2021.
  6. Approve the agreement with Learn Well to provide 10 hours of educational services per week to a non-classified high school student on bedside instruction, at the rate of \$49 per hour, effective from December 9, 2021 through approximately January 24, 2022.

7. Approve the acceptance of donations for the outdoor classroom at the Highland School, as follows:

Midland Park Elementary PTA	\$8,000
Midland Park Education Foundation	\$6,500

8. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Midland Park Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement") between the Board and the Parents of a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, and which Agreement is located in the student's file, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

9. Approve Power Educational Consultants, LLC to provide professional training for Co-Teaching Pairs on January 17, 2022 at a cost of \$550.

10. Rescind Motion B-8 of the November 16, 2021 Board Agenda approving the use and rental of the High School Gym to Hoop Heaven for Youth Basketball games from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Sundays in January and February, 2022

11. Approve the use and rental of the High School Gym to Summer Heatt Basketball, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for youth basketball games from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on the following Sundays:

December 19, 2021; January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022

12. Approve the use and rental of facilities at the High School to KIDZTOPROS, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education to provide STEM, Arts and Sports Enrichment activities from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. during the following school breaks:

Winter Break – February 23, 24, 25, 2022  
Spring Break – April 11, 12, 13, 14, 2022

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Triolo...

- S-1. Approve the IDEA Grant Carry Over funds for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Non Public	\$17,076
Preschool	\$ 684

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-2. Revise Motion A-4 of the October 19, 2021 Board Agenda approving the following staff members to provide supplemental instruction for at-risk students in the Academic Support Lab in the High School during the 2021-2022 school year. They will be paid through ESSER III funds at the rate of \$43.26 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:

Paul Marino                      Teresa Wecht  
 Deborah Marks                Griselda Valdeon

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

- 1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Eurico Antunes	NJASA Techspo 2022	Atlantic City, NJ	\$921.84	1/26-28/2022

- 2. Approve the following proposed overnight trip:

Concert Band Students, Grades 7 – 12, to Baltimore, MD from June 10-12, 2022

- 3. Approve the following request for a new textbook at the High School for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades:

“Teen Health” by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2021, Columbus, OH

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglia...

- 4. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a non-classified high school student on bedside instruction, effective retroactive from November 19, 2021 through December 19, 2021.
- 5. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a non-classified high school student on bedside instruction, effective retroactive from December 9, 2021 through January 24, 2022.
- 6. Approve all courses, instructors, programs and trips in the Spring 2022 Midland Park Continuing Education program.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following revised Mandated Policies, as per the attached appendices:

a. Comprehensive Health and Physical Education	Policy Section 2422	<u>D-1a</u>
b. Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents	Policy Section 2467	<u>D-1b</u>
c. Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Policy Section 5111	<u>D-1c</u>
d. Eye Protection	Policy Section 7432	<u>D-1d</u>
e. Emergency and Crisis Situations	Policy Section 8420	<u>D-1e</u>
f. School Nutrition Programs	Policy Section 8540	<u>D-1f</u>
g. Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill	Policy Section 8550	<u>D-1g</u>
h. Student Transportation	Policy Section 8600	<u>D-1h</u>

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Fantulin, seconded – Dr. Thomas...

2. Approve the first reading of the following revised Policy, as per the attached appendix:

a. Education of Homeless Children	Policy Section 5116	<u>D-2a</u>
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Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No Report

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)

- Field improvement projects – still waiting for approval from the state

Motion – Ms. Dell’Aglia, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...

1. Approve the Midland Park Public Schools Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report on the following date and location:

11/17/2021 CTC Academy, Oakland, NJ

Roll Call: All Yes



G. Negotiations Committee - (N. Eliya, Chairperson)

No Report

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report

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

No Report

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Eliya)

- Giving tree is still up until 12/16
- Food drive

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- Holiday store – 12/13-15 & 12/17
- Newsletter – Holiday parties are happening, hoping it is a more typical holiday year

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

- Holiday concerts are scheduled
- Choral concert 12/15

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Grant details going to principals soon
- Comedy show – It's Time to Laugh Again on 3/19
- Amazon Smile fundraiser
- Cook Book fundraiser
- Donation @ community thrift shop, use #28, profits will go to them

Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Winter recess activities were approved tonight
- Spring Calendar
- Trips
- Check Facebook for more activities

Student Representative to the Board – (Sophia Rosenthal)

- Food drive was very successful
- Clothing drive is going on now
- Toy drive will be in the near future
- Fall sports awards were on 12/6
- Last week there was a presenter for the 11<sup>th</sup> graders about the Holocaust

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

Motion – Ms. Fantulin, seconded – Dr. Thomas...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of January 4, 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.

Mr. Triolo wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas & a Healthy Prosperous New Year. We are all in this together and I appreciate the support of these fine people on the Board and of the community throughout this year. Be with your family and loved ones. Thank you very much.

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

To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary