

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 15, 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’Aglia	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo
Excused:	Richard Formicola	

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 21st 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

- Anthony Wright, NJDOE Assistant Commissioner of Education, contacted me that our district was chosen to present a PowerPoint at the statewide ESSER Roundtable in late April focusing on best practices regarding our applied use of ARP ESSER funds. We will share specific details about our plan and the positive outcomes achieved. This is a wonderful honor for the team and we are delighted by this invitation.
- Bergen County School Boards Association sponsors the Unsung Heroes program, which recognizes a senior from each of the county's high schools. The honorees are students who make outstanding contributions to schools and communities. We are pleased to nominate MPHS senior Amal Aliman for this honor. Amal moved from Syria to the U.S. in 2017, her sophomore year. Despite many challenges of learning, writing and speaking a new language, she has consistently demonstrated strong motivation and work ethic. She participates in a wide variety of clubs, activities and charitable endeavors. Amal expresses gratitude to teachers for their help and support as she assimilated into American life.
- Monthly Presentations for Board & Public: MPHS's Senior Seminar Program, presented by Principal Nicholas Capuano and English Teacher Joann Manicone. The Senior Seminar Program is an innovative and very popular elective that expands guidance services in an instructional dynamic. Teacher Joann Manicone provides students with guidance and support in writing of college essays, the application process, attainment of scholarships and more post-high school activities.

Open to the Public: **COMMENTS** only for action items on the agenda.

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Ms. Dell'Aglio...

1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings held on:

January 4, 2022

January 18, 2022

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +1. **Approve a sixth period teaching assignment at the High School for the following teachers. They will be paid 5% of their salary, as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, effective retroactive from February 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022:**

Patricia Homsany	Study Skills	\$5,730
Marina Lenihan	English III CPC	\$2,975
Paul Marino	Study Skills	\$3,050

Theresa Seiders English I CP \$5,730
Drew Strohmeyer English 8 CPC \$5,440

- +2. Approve the list of Spring Athletic Coaches at the High School for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix:

A-2

- +3. Approve the appointment of the following Instructional Aides to the Academic Support Lab at the High School to provide supplemental instruction for students at risk. They will be paid at the approved rate of \$22.16 per hour, effective from February 8, 2022 through June 23, 2022:

Timothy Hamilton
Dylan King

- +4. Approve the appointment of Holly Neville, substitute teacher, to provide Home Instruction for an elementary school classified student. She will be paid at the approved rate of \$36.77 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective retroactive from January 24, 2002 through February 11, 2002.

- +5. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 1447, effective June 30, 2022.

- +6. Approve the following new job description, as per the attached appendix:

A-6

School Counselor Secretary

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. McCourt...

- +7. Approve the transfer in position for Mary Fezza, .5 General Secretary to the Athletic Director and .5 General Secretary to the Curriculum Department to School Counselor Secretary in the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$41,650 (Category III Step 10 on the Secretarial/Clerical Secretarial Guide), effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

- +8. Approve the appointment of Adam Sidrow as Coach for the Summer Kids Basketball Camps, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education.

- +9. Approve the appointment of Barrie Facente as the Instructor for the Kindergarten Readiness 2022 Program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, effective July 11 – 15, 2022.

- +10. Approve the appointment of the Summer Camp Coordinators for the Midland Park Continuing Education Summer Camp 2022, effective June 27 – August 12, 2022:

Maria Cornetta (out of district teacher)
Emily Trent

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the transfer of Kasey Damiano from the position of Instructional Aide to the position of long-term substitute teacher at the High School. She will be paid at the rate of \$150 per day, effective March 1, 2022 through May 2, 2022.
- S-2. Approve the appointment of Mackenzie Conroy as an Instructional Aide at the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$25,100 (Category V, Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide) prorated, effective March 1, 2022 through May 2, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

- 1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of January 31, 2022, 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. January 2022 direct pays in the amount of \$159,058.29.
- b. January 2022 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$33,896.23.
- c. January 2022 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$68,900.87.
- d. Second January 2022 payroll in the amount of \$653,779.24.
- e. February 2022 claims in the amount of \$541,232.40.

- 3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's Report for the period January 1 - 31, 2022, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

- 4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period January 1 – 31, 2022, as per the attached appendix.

B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

- 5. Approve the Annual Contract for Services between the Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and the Midland Park Public School District to provide professional services for classified students on May 2, 16, 24 and 31, 2022, at a rate not to exceed \$1,880.00.

- +6. **Approve the Homebound Instruction Agreement between Silvergate Prep, Wayne, NJ and the Midland Park Board of Education to provide homebound instruction to**

a classified high school student for ten hours per week at the rate of \$34 per hour, effective retroactive from February 7, 2022 for approximately thirty days.

- +7. Approve the agreement between the Midland Park Board of Education and the South Bergen Jointure Commission to approve the coordinated transportation services agency, for the purposes of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, PL 1997 for the 2022-2023 school year. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, the coordinated transportation of out-of-district special education, vocational and summer programs.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +8. Approve the use of the High School Gym to Summer Kids Basketball Camps, Grades 3 – 8, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on the following dates:

June 27 – July 1; July 11 – 15; July 18 – 22, 2022

- +9. Approve the use and rental of the Highland School Field for Kids Camps, Grades K-5, through TGA Premier Sports, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, as follows:

Golf Camp: April 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- +10. Approve the use of Godwin School for Kindergarten Readiness 2022 Program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., from July 11 – 15, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

- +1. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Marina Lenihan	Catching Up Students With Disabilities	Virtual	\$279.00	3/24/2022
Justin Rispoli	Crisis Prevention Institute Certification	Virtual/Saddle Brook, NJ	\$3,906.70	3/8-10/2022
Glenn Stokes	Directors of Athletics Assoc. of NJ Annual Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	\$855.10	3/15-18/2022

- +2. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) Waiver from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for the 2022-2023 school year, due to the fact that there are fewer than forty Medicaid eligible students in the Midland Park School District.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +3. **Approve the non-resident enrollment of the children of Employee No. 0115, in the 4th grade class in the Highland School and the 7th grade class in the High School, for September 2022, as per Board Policy 5111.**
- +4. **Approve the non-resident enrollment of the child of Employee No. 1296, in the 7th grade class in the High School, for September 2022, as per Board Policy 5111.**
- +5. **Approve the recommendation for the placement of an elementary school classified student on Home Instruction, effective retroactive from January 24, 2022 through February 11, 2022.**
- +6. **Approve the recommendation for the placement and transportation of an elementary school classified student in Sage Alliance, Mahwah, NJ, effective retroactive from February 14, 2022 through June 30, 2022.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- There will be a meeting in March

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- Bill S-3488, offers districts financial incentives to study consolidation, for both countywide and regional school districts. The law creates a new program within the state's Department of Community Affairs that will use state funds to give school districts money to hire consultants to do consolidation studies. The state will pay interested districts half the cost of the study, then the remainder of the cost once the student is accepted by the NJDOE.
- Bill S-3685, permits a retired teacher to return to employment for up to two years without reenrollment in the pension system. This also includes any retired special services provider, such as speech language therapists or therapists. This law goes into effect immediately, but will only apply to retirees hired during the 2022-2023 school year.
- Bill S-1020 establishes a statewide discipline database to gather information on a variety of student disciplinary infractions. This reporting will become included in the School Report Card and will begin with data from the 2022-2023 school year.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (C. Dell'Aglio, Chairperson)

- Referendum vote on turf & field projects on 3/8
- Mailers and emails have been sent out & Q & A is listed on the website
- Get informed and get the right information. There have been many virtual and in person meetings, the next one on 3/1 at the Board meeting by the architect & a virtual one on 3/2
- Addressed concerns of cancer causing agents that could be in turf. Thank you to administration for all of their research and reaching out to the manufacturers. The manufacturer has been contacted and they confirm all their products being used are all free of any heavy metals. Testing has been conducted by the EPA. The Board would not propose any harmful materials being used.

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

- There will be a meeting in March

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

No Report

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (N. Formicola)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (C. Dell'Aglio)

- Room service – snacks for teacher's on Thursday, 2/17
- Talent show is postponed until May
- Thank you to the parents for fundraisers

Booster Club – (N. Eliya)

- Spring sports registration is open
- Lawn sign fundraiser is going on
- Ax throwing event at Stumpy's on 4/7

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

- Preparation for the Musical
- Valentines were delivered over the weekend

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

- Mrs. Bruder presented at last month's meeting with positive feedback

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Student Liaison applications are being accepted
- Spring fundraiser – It's Time to Laugh, information is on the website
- Scholarship applications – contact Mrs. Stewart
- Looking for new trustees

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Student Representative to the Board – (Sophia Rosenthal)

- Thrive Club had a compliment fundraiser for Valentine’s Day where students and faculty could send compliments to others. The club raised a lot of money
- The students are trying to think of ways to raise money for prom
- Senior apparel & lawn signs are being sold now to raise money
- Since break is coming up, we have spirit week this week and a pep rally on Friday
- To comment on Ms. Manicone’s presentation, senior seminar was great and it was nice to have someone tell me that I’m doing well since I don’t always believe that

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of March 1, 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. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Eliya...
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary