

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 18, 2022**

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm. by Mr. Triolo and Acting Board Secretary, Ms. Green, 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	Richard Formicola
	Brian McCourt	Maryalice Thomas

Peter Triolo

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff:	Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools
	Lisa Green, Secretary to the 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

Athletic Program presentation: Mr. Glenn Stokes – Mr. Stokes gave an update about the Fall/Winter Season. We had a very successful fall season. Mr. Stokes noted that various aspects on the gym have been upgraded.

Start Strong Assessment presentation: Dr. Marie Cirasella, Mr. Nicholas Capuano & Mr. Peter Galasso – Below are the results of the Start Strong Fall 2021 Assessments, a mandated program of the New Jersey Department of Education.

- The administration of the Start Strong Assessments would satisfy the federal statewide requirement to administer general assessments in English language arts (ELA), Mathematics and science for only the 2020-2021 school year.
- Test results help evaluate the needs of students in grades 4-12.
- The assessments were administrated quickly, in person and provided immediate results.
- It satisfied federal statewide assessment requirements only for the 2020-2021 school year. This spring, the NJ Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) schedule will be back in place.
- Start Strong does not replace local standards-based benchmark assessments districts may already have in place.
- The assessment is based on a subset of the prior academic year's academic standards
- We will use Start Strong results to:
  - Support district-level curriculum planning
  - Evaluate scope and sequence based on distribution of student support needs
  - Provide professional learning supports such as support labs, summer support, small group interventions and professional development
  - Individual Student Reports (ISRs) shared with parents will promote conversations between parents and educators on where their child might need support at the beginning of the school year
- Start Strong assessments were not designed to predict future student performance on the NJSLA, nor estimate what score a student would have received if they had taken the NJSLA in the Spring 2021.
- We encourage out families to review their child's Individual Student Reports and contact your child's teacher or principal with any questions.

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

- This presentation is the mandated report of the district's incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying and incidents of violence and vandalism for Reporting Period 1 for the 2021-2022 school year. As required, the report includes the status of all HIB investigations, any non-disciplinary measures imposed and training conducted programs implemented to reduce HIB. In providing this information, the district satisfies statutory requirements for public reporting of these statistics.

- The following information was included in the presentation:
  - The district’s HIB investigations for Reporting Period 1, the data is disaggregated by grade level and includes the status of all HIB investigations conducted thus far. We had three HIB investigations, none of which were confirmed as HIB.
  - The Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reporting includes statistics of violence, vandalism and substance abuse. For this reporting period, we had one incident of inappropriate physical contact and one violation of the substance abuse policy.
  - Training and programs in our district are provided to create a positive school culture and climate and reduce the number of HIB incidents. Initiatives during this timeframe included Week of Respect programs, grade level SEL lessons at all schools, a community presentation on the School Climate Survey results, a legal review of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Legislation for school families and grade-level appropriate presentations at all our schools.
  - District initiatives are identified, which supports safe and caring learning environments at our schools. We will continue conducting School Climate Surveys to ensure we are addressing areas specific to our needs.

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

**APPENDIX**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on December 14, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +2. **Approve the list of Board of Education Standing Committees for the 2022 elective year, as per the attached appendix.**

**BM-2**

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 – Mr. Eliya...

1. Approve the increase in salary for the following teachers, effective February 1, 2022:

Jennifer Stalb

MA Step 13 (\$67,750) to MA+ Step 13 (\$75,500)

Jason Whelpley MA Step 8 (\$57,500) to MA +30 Step 8 (\$63,500)

- +2. **Approve the extension in the unpaid child care leave for Employee No. 1882, effective February 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.**
- +3. **Approve the extended appointment of Donna Matera, as a leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,250 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective February 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.**
- +4. **Approve the appointment of Karli Gnehm as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade maternity leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,600 BA Step 2 on the MPEA salary guide prorated, effective March 16, 2022 through June 30, 2022.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +5. **Approve the increase in position of Blanca Garcia from part-time Bus Driver to full-time Bus Driver. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate of \$30.90, effective January 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +6. **Approve the retirement resignation of JoAnn Polhemus, Chemistry teacher in the High School, effective June 30, 2022.**
- +7. **Approve the retirement resignation of Marie Pantina, Guidance Secretary in the High School, effective June 30, 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 December 31, 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. December 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$742,708.76.

- b. December 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$33,900.19.
- c. December 2021 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$34,883.70.
- d. First December 2021 payroll in the amount of \$710,173.46.
- e. Second December 2021 payroll in the amount of \$647,921.73.
- +f. First January 2022 payroll in the amount of \$650,371.47.**
- g. January 2022 claims in the amount of \$428,171.05.

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period December 1 - 31, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period December 1 – 31, 2021, as per the attached appendix.

B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

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

**+5. Approve the following resolution;**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Midland School District in the County of Bergen, hereby approves the submission of a major amendment to the Long Range Facilities Plan to the Department of Education for review and approval. The District is seeking Debt Service Aid.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

**+6. Revise Supplemental Motion S-6 on the January 4, 2022 Board Agenda to reflect the approval of the Annual Contract for Services between Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and Midland Park Public Schools to provide Auditory Verbal Techniques/Consultative Services – Developing Speech and Language through listening for a hearing impaired student for a reduction of one session per week, at a rate not to exceed \$3,465, effective January through June 2022.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

**+7. Approve the resolution of the Board of Education of the Borough of Midland Park, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey authorizing the submission of a Bond Proposal Question to the School District Voters at a Special District Election to be held on March 8, 2022, as per the attached resolution appendix.**

B-7

**+8. Approve the appointment of Solutions Architecture for pre-referendum and communications services.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +9. **Approve the use and rental of the High School Gym and the Highland School Gym to Summer Heatt Sports, LLC from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on the following dates:**

**June 27 – July 1, 2022 - High School Gym**

**July 11-15, 18–22, 25-29; August 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, 2022 – Highland School Gym**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

- +1. **Approve the attendance and residency of a classified middle school student at Moonridge Academy, Cedar City, UT, as per the previously approved Settlement Agreement, effective retroactive from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.**

- +2. **Approve the recommendation for the placement and transportation of a classified high school student in the Holmstead School, Ridgewood, NJ, effective retroactive from January 3, 2022 to June 16, 2022.**

Roll Call: Yes – 8, Abstain – 1 (Ms. Fantulin)

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

- +3. **Approve the 2022 Summer Camp for Children, Grades K-6, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education to be held in the High School cafeterias and other approved facilities from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:**

**June 27 – July 1, 5–8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29; August 1-5, 8-12, 2022**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the adoption of the following new/revised Mandated Policies, as per the attached appendices

- |    |  |                        |             |
|----|--|------------------------|-------------|
| a. | School Employee Vaccination Requirements                           | Policy Section 1648.13 | <u>D-1a</u> |
| b. | Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19 | Policy Section 1648.14 | <u>D-1b</u> |
| c. | Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program                    | Policy Section 2425    | <u>D-1c</u> |
| d. | Sexual Harassment of Students                                      | Policy Section 5751    | <u>D-1d</u> |
| e. | Petty Cash   | Policy Section 6620    | <u>D-1e</u> |

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

2. Approve the second reading of the following revised policy:

Education of Homeless Children

Policy Section 5116

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No Report

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

- We met tonight to discuss the project to renovate and improve our fields
- Referendum vote on 3/8
- We are proposing turf on two of our fields and providing an organic refurbishment of lower sunset field
- There will be many presentations both in public and virtual

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

No Report

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

- We had a brief meeting tonight before this meeting
- A report will be distributed to the Board tomorrow

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

No Report

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA – (R. Formicola)

- Pocketbook bingo 4/28
- In school cultural awareness 3/16
- Over Christmas there was a “guess how many kisses are in the bottle” and there were two winners

Elementary School PTA- (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Will attend the meeting on 2/25

Booster Club – (N. Eliya)

- Ax throwing event at Stumpy’s event 4/7

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

No Report

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Tickets are on sale for It's time to Laugh fundraiser at Ramsey Country Club 3/19

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Student Representative to the Board – (Sophia Rosenthal)

- David Luberoff was Athlete of the Week
- Midterms are next week, we haven't taken them in 2 years due to COVID
- This is the last week of senior seminar
- Students in grades 7-11 are picking their courses for next year
- The boys basketball team is 8-2, they are doing really well
- The band concert is pre-recorded and the link will come out soon

K. Old Business

Mr. Formicola thanked the administration, you have done a great job. The past two years have been difficult. I just wanted to say thank you.

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of February 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. Formicola, seconded – Mr. McCourt...  
To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Green".

Lisa Green  
Assistant to the Board Secretary