

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
MARCH 1, 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	Richard Formicola
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Excused:	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin
	Brian McCourt

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff:	Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
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**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*

Presentation on Referendum to Improve District Athletic Fields—Synthetic & Natural Turf Upgrades,  
by Frank Messineo of Solutions Architecture

Members of the public chose to speak at this time regarding the presentation on the referendum:

Mr. Crause asked what programs are not being served currently by the condition of the fields. Mr. Triolo responded that we are able to run the HS programs and the rec. programs.

We are unfortunately not able to give all of the opportunities we would like to the community teams and our school teams. This referendum allows the school programs all the time they need and allows the rec programs to use the fields longer at night and allow those programs to grow. We will not have to worry about scheduling and needing downtime for the fields to rest. This allows the community and the school to use the fields more effectively and have more time.

Mr. Crause stated, the district is kicking in \$352,000 from their capital fund, then asked where did they get that money, I assume the taxpayers. Ms. Garvey responded the funds come from capital reserve which the board deposited into every year when there have been left over funds from the budget. It is used to offset taxes for the following year or pay for projects that cannot be in the budget. It is taxpayers money. Mr. Crause asked, since you are taking funds from capital reserve, if you need to make other capital improvements I assume you will come back to the taxpayers. Ms. Garvey responded, that we have a healthy capital reserve. Over the past couple of years due to COVID, we have received a lot of state and federal funding. We had money left over and part of the money went to future budgets to offset the tax levy and part went to capital reserve so we can pay for projects.

Mr. Crause asked, the money that is rolling off from the prior levy, when does that occur? Ms. Garvey responded that it will happen in 2024. She stated its one year of overlap and it will only be the interest part of the first payment on the new bond.

Mr. Mayer stated that he has lived here all his life and played on the fields, if there is such a demand for this how come I can get on the varsity field 6 out of 7 nights a week at 5:00? What organizations have been turned down from using the field and who is asking to use the field? Mr. Triolo responded depending on the time of the year, and the usage of the field, when there is no scheduled athletics, we try to let them rest. Mr. Mayer asked what specific sports have asked to use the field? Mr. Triolo responded, soccer, we would like to bring our football team back here and we are hoping to expand flag football. We would like to bring in lacrosse. We want to make sure the fields that our kids are playing on are in the best shape possible.

Mr. Sikora commented that maintenance is significantly less with a turf field, versus a grass field. Can you put numbers behind that? Where would the savings go in the Board of Ed budget, is it only for sports or is it going to education? Mr. Messineo responded that on the school website frequently asked questions it lists detailed cost of maintenance for the fields. The only maintenance the turf fields will need will be raking and grooming the fields. The warranty is approximately 10 years, then the carpeting will have to be replaced. Ms. Garvey continued, our current maintenance is approx. \$55,000 per year. Any savings we have goes back to programs in the schools. Mr. Triolo gave examples of what we have spent on the savings over the years.

Mr. Kutcha commented about the scope of the project of upper and lower sunset and the thought process that went into that project. You mention a crown being placed in the field, but there was no mention of drainage, why is that? Mr. Messineo explained the different kinds of drainage that both fields would require, he also said we have not designed the fields yet. When it comes to design time, we are willing to listen to anyone in the community for their input.

Mr. O'Connor stated that his biggest concern is with Schiffer Field, which is the biggest part of your budget. He said he wasn't sure if baseball should be played on turf and was concerned about the usage. I see kids there all the time, will that field be fenced in and will kids have access to the field. Mr. Triolo responded that the field will be fenced, it will not be locked. There will be access to the fields. Mr. O'Connor asked, did you look into the cost to rehabilitate that field, just to have it be a respectable ballfield played on grass? Mr. Messineo replied, we looked into it back in 2014, over the years baseball has become more prevalent in the state of NJ to be played on turf.

Ms. Martin asked if the referendum passes will the recreation programs still have priority for field rentals over outside organizations. Mr. Triolo responded that there are no plans to change the relationship between the recreation department and the schools. There will be no changes to the situation that works well.

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

1. Approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 1024213160 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 March 1, 2022 agenda.**

No one chose to speak at this time.

#### BOARD MOTIONS

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Dell'Aglio...

1. Approve the revised Tentative 2022-2023 Budget Preparation Calendar, as per the attached appendix:

APPENDIX

BM-1

Roll Call: All Yes

#### Action Items:

- 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. Rescind a portion of Personnel Motion A-1 on the February 15, 2022 Board Agenda, approving Marina Lenihan for a sixth period teaching assignment at the High School from February 1 – June 30, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance- (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the Speaking Engagement Agreement between the Midland Park Public Schools and Listen, Lucy, LLC at a cost of \$2,786 to be paid through Title IV funds.
2. 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 February 14, 2022 through March 14, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a non-classified high school student on bedside instruction, effective retroactive from February 14, 2022 through March 14, 2022.
2. Approve the English Language Learner (ELL) Three-Year Plan for the 2021-2024 school years.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the revision to Motion C-1 on the February 15, 2022 Board Agenda to reflect an additional cost of \$48.27 for the hotel for Glenn Stokes to attend the Directors of Athletics Association of NJ Annual Conference from March 15 – 18, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/Review of March 15, 2022 agenda items**

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

- Standard resolutions on the March 15 agenda
- Budget information for next meeting

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

No Report

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

No Report

E. Legislative Committee- (Administration)

No Report

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

- Wonderful presentation with accurate information
- Public zoom meeting tomorrow, 3/2 at 7:30 p.m.

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)

No Report

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

- We will be scheduling an initial meeting after the referendum to set goals and objectives of the committee.

K. Student Representative- (Sophia Rosenthal)

- We just got back from break, which we needed
- Boys basketball has a big state game tonight and spring sports will start up on 3/11
- Tickets for the spring musical, (SpongeBob) go on sale Thursday 3/10. The kids are excited to see the show
- Masks will be optional in school starting March 7. Students can't wait, since it's been so long

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Canellas stated that earlier this week it was announced that our Business Administrator is being recognized by her state association for the Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Garvey thanked Mr. Canellas.

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of March 15, 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. Canellas...  
To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary