

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
NOVEMBER 16, 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	Brian McCourt
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Excused: Nabil Eliya

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Mr. Peter Triolo

**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.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** – A moment of silence for the passing of Drew Gibbs. He was a Midland Park High School graduate and an award winning football coach.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

Presentation: Highland School's Grades 3 & 6 Student Mentorship Program. Mr. Galasso and Mrs. Scala are with us tonight to discuss this successful student-driven initiative.

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 – Mr. Canellas...

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

October 5, 2021

October 19, 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 extension in the paid medical leave of absence for Employee No. 1731, retroactive from October 22 – 27, 2021.
2. Approve a paid medical leave of absence for Employee No. 1674, effective retroactive from October 28, 2021 through approximately December 13, 2021.
3. Approve Karen Corcoran, Certified School Nurse, for extra time spent to conduct COVID contact tracing during the 2021-2022 school year. She will be paid at the hourly rate of \$43.26 as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract.
4. Revise Motion S-1 of the September 7, 2021 Board Agenda, approving a sixth period teaching assignment in Study Skills at the High School for Jason Whelpley. He will be paid an additional stipend of \$2,875, prorated effective September 8, 2021 through October 27, 2021, as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract.
5. Approve a sixth period teaching assignment for Jason Whelpley as an ELL Instructor at the High School. He will be paid an additional stipend of \$2,875.00 per semester prorated, effective retroactive from October 28, 2021 through June 30, 2022, as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract.
6. Approve a sixth period teaching assignment for Paul Marino in Study Skills at the High School. He will be paid an additional stipend of \$3,050.00 prorated, effective retroactive

from October 28, 2021 through January 31, 2022, as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract.

7. Approve the following revision to the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the High School for the 2021-2022 school year:

		<u>Stipend</u>
Change:	Jeff Peters Jazz Band Co-Advisor	\$511.00
Add:	David Marks Jazz Band Co-Advisor	\$511.00

(The \$1,022.00 stipend will be split between the two Co-Advisors)

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. Approve the appointment of Amanda Petrocelli to continue as a substitute teacher at the High School, effective retroactive from November 1, 2021 through January 8, 2022. She will be paid at the substitute teacher rate of \$96.00 per day.
9. Approve the appointment of Marissa Gordon as an Instructional Aide in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$27,700.00 (Category V, Step 5 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide) prorated, effective November 17, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
10. Approve a paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1484, effective approximately January 17, 2022 through approximately February 7, 2022; a paid child care leave, effective approximately February 8, 2022 through approximately March 8, 2022 and an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately March 9, 2022 through June 1, 2022.
11. Approve 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 and an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately May 25, 2022 through June 23, 2022.
12. Approve the appointment of Emily Trent as an Adult Aide for the Before/After School Child Care Program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, effective November 17, 2021 through June 22, 2022.
13. Approve the appointment of Adam Sidrow as the Coach for the Winter Break Youth Basketball Camp, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, held in the Highland School Gym, effective February 23 – 25, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

APPENDIX

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

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of October 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. October 2021 direct pays in the amount of \$737,151.72
- b. October 2021 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$23,667.85
- c. October 2021 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$77,068.73
- d. Second October 2021 payroll in the amount of \$655,419.66
- e. First November 2021 payroll in the amount of \$709,256.82
- f. November 2021 claims in the amount of \$412,162.71

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

B-3

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

B-4

5. Approve the Amendment to SHIP Program Agreement between the Midland Park Board of Education and Bergen County Special Services School District for the 2021-2022 school year.

6. Approve TLC Landscaping to create an outdoor classroom on the property of Highland School. The cost of the project is \$36,690 which will be funding by ESSR II grant monies, local funds and donations from MP Elementary PTA and MP Education Foundation.

7. Approve the following Change Order, as per the attached appendix:

B-7

Change Order Number 001 – 21.180 –MDPK Godwin Roof Recoating

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

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

9. Approve the use of the Highland School Gym for Winter Break Youth Basketball Camp for Grades 3 – 8, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on February 23, 24, 25, 2022.
10. Approve the use and rental of Schiffer Field for NFL Alumni Youth Football Camp, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. from July 25 – 29, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. 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 2021-2022 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

Mr. Canellas wished good luck to the administration as they adventure into a new budget season.

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

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Nicholas Capuano	NJASA Techspo 2022	Atlantic City, NJ	\$817.71	1/26-28/2022

2. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a non-classified high school student on home instruction, for a maximum of ten hours per week, effective retroactive from November 4, 2021 through approximately January 4, 2022 (or sooner).
3. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a classified high school student on home instruction, for a maximum of ten hours per week, effective retroactive from November 8, 2021 through approximately December 8, 2021.

4. Approve the following Winter Classes for Midland Park Continuing Education, which are an extension of the Fall 2021 programs to be held at the High School from January 3, 2022 through February 17, 2022:

Barre	Sewing
Men's Basketball	Therapeutic Yoga
Oil Painting	Yoga 1
Pilates Plus	Zumba

5. Approve the Children's After School Workshops, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education to be held in the Highland School Cafeteria from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. as follows:

"Making" STEM Workshop – Grades K – 5, Instructor: Scitech Learning, LLC  
Tuesdays: January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 2022

Little Cooks Workshop – Grades K – 6, Instructors: Wiggle & Giggle, LLC  
Thursdays: November 11, 18; Tuesdays: December 14, 21, 2021

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the second reading of the following revised Policies:

a.	Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations	Policy Section 0131
b.	Assignment of Extra Duties	Policy Section 3134
c.	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff	Policy Section 3142
d.	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member	Policy Section 4146

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

a.	The Road Forward COVID-19 Health and Safety	Policy Section 1648.11	<u>D-2a</u>
b.	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs	Policy Section 6115.01	<u>D-2b</u>
c.	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures	Policy Section 6115.02	<u>D-2c</u>
d.	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Conflict of Interest	Policy Section 6115.03	<u>D-2d</u>

- e. Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants Policy Section 6311 D-2e

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the abolishment of the following Mandated Policies:

- a. Restart and Recovery Plan Policy Section 1648
- b. Remote Learning Options for Families Policy Section 1648.02
- c. Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction Policy Section 1648.03
- d. Children Displaced by Domestic Violence Policy Section 5114
- e. Religious Holidays Policy Section 8810

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- Arbitration for non-teaching staff members: under this revision, a non-teaching staff member now has the right to submit to binding arbitration any dispute regarding there is just cause for disciplinary action, including, but not limited to: reprimands, withholding of salary increments and termination or non-renewal of an employment contract. The employee may submit to such arbitration irrespective of the employer's action or failure to act, and of any contracted or negotiated provision. The burden of proof shall be on the employer to demonstrate just cause.
- Substitute teacher requirements: candidates for a substitute teaching credential who apply between May 11, 2021 and June 30, 2023, need only 30 credits and need only be 20 years old. During a period of public health emergency, substitutes can fill positions for up to 40 school days, plus an additional 20 school days, upon approval of the Commissioner.
- Parental notification of marijuana offenses: Law Enforcement is now required to provide a written warning to a minor and written notice to the parents of the minor charged with purchasing, knowingly possessing or consuming alcohol or cannabis in any school, public conveyance, public place, place of public assembly or motor vehicle on the first violation. The prior language indicated this would not occur until the second violation.
- Anti-Hazing Bill: This bill is to combat hazing among middle and high school students and college students and was inspired by the tragic death of NJ student Timothy Piazza who took part in a fraternity pledging process at Penn State University. The bill requires institutions of higher education and public and nonpublic schools and middle schools to adopt anti-hazing policies, expands activities encompassing criminal hazing and upgrades penalties for engaging in these activities. A policy draft is to be provided to us shortly for the Board's consideration.

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

- Working on fact sheet for the field improvement project.
- Still discussing at this time, more information to come

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)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (J. Canellas)

- Panther Bowl Parent Social
- Tiktok is up & moving
- Book Fair
- Looking for volunteers for events

Booster Club – (B. McCourt)

- Fall season is complete
- Lawn sign fundraiser still going on
- Winter sports starting soon

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

- High School music program participated in Syracuse
- High School Musical – The SpongeBob Musical

Special Education – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Spring event preparation
- Student Liaison position
- Amazon smile fundraiser
- Looking for trustees
- Cookbook 2<sup>nd</sup> edition



Board of Recreation – (R. Formicola)

- Tree lighting ceremony on 12/3, Highland band will be playing
- Winter sports starting

Continuing Education Program – (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Emails were sent out for trips
- Afterschool programs for children
- Facebook page lists all programs

Student Representative to the Board – (Sophia Rosenthal)

- 1<sup>st</sup> marking ended
- The French Club did their bon bon sale
- Dual enrollment sign-ups have started, students love the college credits
- Students are enjoying the new Thrive Club that one of the seniors started, a lot of people came to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, they need a bigger room
- The Thanksgiving food drive is going on, involving NHA, Senate & Interact. Students made posters and brought two tables of food

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of December 7, 2021, 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. Canellas wanted to add to the wonderful presentation about the mentoring program. Every opportunity we can give our students opportunities to shine. One of the students in the slideshow was Kaitlin Deblasio and my daughter’s mentor was Lauren Deblasio and they still keep in touch. The Deblasio’s must be doing something right. It’s a wonderful program that puts at ease the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from transitioning from Godwin to Highland. Kudos to them and I hope to see that program come to expand.

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

Motion to go into closed session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss Referendum Projects. No action will be taken at the conclusion of this session.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...  
Motion to return to open session at 9:00 p.m.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Canellas...  
To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary