

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
AUGUST 22, 2023**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McCourt 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 2023 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	Richard Formicola
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt

Excused: Nabil Eliya

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Mr. Brian McCourt

**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

- Today was our first of two days of new teacher orientation, we welcomed our new teachers this morning. They had a great day with professional development and time with their principals, with another day tomorrow. We want to acknowledge them and let them know how happy we are that they have come to join this great team.
- Tonight we have a presentation by MPHS Principal Mr. Capuano. This is a mandated state presentation.

Presentation by MPHS Principal Nicholas Capuano: NJGPA Results: Spring 2023 Test Administration

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

- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 061423277 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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD Declan Feehan

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 – Mrs. Fantulin...

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

July 18, 2023

2. Approve the District Organizational Chart for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the Attached appendix. BM-2
3. Approve the District Goals for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix. BM-3

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the Shared Service Agreement between the Midland Park Board of Education and the Borough of Midland Park for school field use. BM-4

Roll Call: All Yes

A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2022-2023 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 – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

1. Approve the resignation of Employee No. 2020, effective date August 24, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the reappointment of the non-aligned staff for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix. A-2

3. Approve the increase in salary for the following teacher, effective September 1, 2023:

Jessa Cabibbo	MA Step 8 (\$68,300) to MA +30 Step 8 (\$76,300)
Meghan Martinez	MA Step 10 (\$79,350) to MA +30 Step 10 (\$86,850)
Jean Swanson	MA Step 5 (\$61,400) to MA +30 Step 5 (\$68,150)

4. Approve the appointment of Merangie Munoz as the Secretary to the Godwin School Principal, pending submittal of required paperwork and Criminal History Review. She will be paid a salary of \$44,250 (Category II, Step 15 on the Secretarial/Clerical guide), effective August 24, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

5. Approve the following teachers to participate in the Orton Gillingham Reading Training Cohort Group through Fairleigh Dickenson University, 28% to be paid from ESSER III funds:

Amanda Ackerman  
Alexis Biagi  
Christine Hirsch  
Jennifer Stalb

6. Approve the following teachers to teach additional labs for the 2023-2024 school year.

Deborah Marks	28 periods
Nancy DeRitter	26 periods
Herbert Farnese	26 period

7. Approve the list of substitute workers for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix. A-7

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. Approve the appointment of Marisol Farley as a Building Aide at the High School. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

9. Approve the appointment of Patty Trava as the Highland School nurse for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$410 per day.
10. Approve the Agreement for Consultant Services between the Midland Park School District and Mary Oates to provide Math Professional Development during the 2023-2024 school year, not to exceed twenty six days or \$24,700.00, to be paid 100% through Title I funds.
11. Approve the following elementary school teachers to receive Professional Development in Mathematics. They will be paid at the hourly rate of \$60.95, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, paid through 100% Title II funds, not to exceed three hours each:

Brianna Brislin  
Christine Hirsch

12. Approve the following elementary school teachers to attend the Highland Foundations Summer Meeting. They will be paid at the hourly rate of \$60.95, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, paid 100% through Title II funds, not the exceed three hours each:

Amanda Ackerman  
Christine Horuzy

13. Approve Kelly Scala for summer hours prior to the start of the school year to meet with new students and establish the mentor program. She will be paid at the hourly rate of \$60.95, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, paid 100 % through Title 1 funds, not to exceed five hours.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

14. Approve the following aides to work for the Midland Park Community School Before and After School Child Care Program for the 2023-2024 school year:

Fadila Tawfik  
Declan Feehan  
Dakota Daniel  
Magdalena Kauker – Sub  
Sophie Mahoney – Sub

15. Approve the Fall & Winter Coaches at the High School for the 2023-2024 school year:

Cross Country Assistant Coach	Paul Marino	\$4,569
Football Assistant Coach	Sean Gang	\$5,852

16. Approve the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the High School for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix:

A-16

17. Rescind the appointment of Christina Scott as an aide at Midland Park Community School Before and After Care Program for the 2023-2024 school year.
18. Approve the appointment of Patrick Clark as the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at the High School. He will be paid a salary of \$111,456 prorated, effective, retroactive from August 21, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglione...

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of July 31, 2023, 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. July 2023 direct pays in the amount of \$398,581.42.
- b. July 2023 Community School claims in the amount of \$77,999.76.
- c. July 2023 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$9,068.05.
- d. Second July 2023 payroll in the amount of \$209,162.73.
- e. First August 2023 payroll in the amount of \$227,748.85.
- f. August 2023 claims in the amount of \$916,840.43.

3. Approve the amended cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period June 1 – 30, 2023, as per the attached appendix. B-3
4. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period of July 1 – 31, 2023. B-4
5. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period July 1 – 31, 2023, as per the attached appendix. B-5
6. Authorize the Superintendent and Business Administrator to enter into agreements for the purpose of making provisions for the expenditures under the Nonpublic School

Technology, Textbooks, Nursing and Security Entitlements for the 2023-2024 school year and to further authorize the aforementioned nonpublic school to self-administer the funds for their needs with assistance of the Business Administrator, as per the attached appendix:

B-6

Eastern Christian Elementary School

Green Twig School

Security	\$50,840.00	Security	\$1,025.00
Technology Aid	\$11,711.00	Technology Aid	\$ 245.00
Textbook Aid	\$13,817.00	Textbook Aid	\$ 289.00
Nursing Aid	\$29,760.00	Nursing Aid	\$ 600.00

7. Approve the contracts between the Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division and the Midland Park Public School District to provide services as-needed during the 2023-2024 school year for the following:

- Audiological Services
- Auditory Verbal Techniques/Consultative Services
- Augmentative/Alternative Communication Services
- Behavior Services
- Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- Therapeutic Adventure
- Transition Services

8. Approve the contract between the Midland Park Board of Education and Alyssa Van Buiten, as a Non-Public Nurse at Eastern Christian Elementary School, effective August 29, 2023 through June 30, 2024, subject to Chapter 226 funding provisions.

9. Approve the following Change Order as per the attached appendix:

B-9

Change Order Number 001 – 20.113 – MDPK  
 HS Arts Classroom Renovations

Base bid + alternates:	\$175,999
Allowance:	- \$5,000
Additional repointing:	+ \$4,400
Total:	\$175,399

10. Approve the following Change Order as per the attached appendix:

B-10

Change Order Number 001-21.187 – MDPK  
 Rooftop Unit –Replacement at Godwin School & MPHS

Base bid + alternates:	\$597,000
Allowance:	-\$ 15,000
Additional repointing:	+ \$7,139
Total:	\$589,139

11. Approve the School Contract between the Department of Human Services Commission for The Blind and Visually Impaired and the Midland Park School District for Classified student A to receive education services effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at a cost of \$2,200.
12. Approve the School Contract between the Department of Human Services Commission for The Blind and Visually Impaired and the Midland Park School District for Classified student B to receive education services effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at a cost of \$2,200.
13. Approve the School Contract between the Department of Human Services Commission for The Blind and Visually Impaired and the Midland Park School District for Classified student C to receive education services effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at a cost of \$2,200.
14. Approve the Annual Contract for Hospital Instruction between Bergen County Special Services School District and the Midland Park Public Schools for the provision of Hospital Instruction for the 2023-2024 school year for students who are confined during school hours for medical and/or rehabilitative care in New Bridge Medical Center, Paramus, NJ.
15. Approve Susan Steinmetz to provide Physical Therapy services to two classified students for the last two weeks in August at the rate of \$110.00 per hour, not exceed three sessions.
16. Approve the MPCS rental by Kris Gmerek for a Volleyball Clinic at Highland School from August 28, 2023 - August 30, 2023, Grades 4-8, from M-F – 9am-11am, at a rate of \$70 per hour.
17. Approve the MPCS rental by Kyle Sabella for a Basketball Clinic (Hoop Heaven) at Midland Park High School on the following Sunday dates: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19, from 8am-4pm, at a rate of \$70 per hour.
18. Approve the purchase of the following transfer for the purchase of equipment:

3” Featherlite Volleyball Net System	\$4,339.00
3: Featherlite Volleyball Center System	\$3,973.00

From account # 11-402-100-600-00-80      To account # 12-402-100-732-03-80

19. Accept the Extraordinary Aid funds in the amount of \$337,794 to be allocated as follows:

11-000-230-100 Sal General Admin	\$ 50,000
11-000-240-103 Sal School Admin	\$150,000
11-000-240-104 Sal School Admin - Special Svc	\$ 18,244
11-000-240-105 Sal School Admin – Secy	\$ 19,550
11-000-251-100 Sal Central Svcs	<u>\$100,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$337,794</b>

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services, for the out-of-district Placements and/or transportation of special education students for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix. C-1

2. Approve the out-of-district placements and/or transportation for students attending the Bergen Academy in Hackensack, Bergen County Tech in Paramus (part-time and full-Time), Bergen County Technical in Teterboro, Bergen County Applied Technology High School at Bergen Community College, Bergen County Institutes at Northern Valley High School, Ho-Ho-Kus School of Trade/Technical Sciences in Paterson, as per the attached appendix. C-2

3. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Samantha Severance	WIDA Virtual Annual Conference	Virtual	\$195.00	10/18/23

4. Approve the college and university partnerships and course offerings for dual enrollment Credit, as per the attached appendix. C-4

5. Approve a new Club for the National Art Honor Society and new Textbook/Instructional Material for Dynamics of Health Care.

6. Approve all courses, instructors, programs and trips which are included in the Fall 2023 semester of the Midland Park Community School.

7. Approve the new Curriculum for the 2023-2024 school year, which is aligned to the NJ Student Learning Standards:

Innovative Computer Design 2

Roll Call: All Yes



D. Policy Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the revised MPBOE Policy #7510, Use of School Facilities.

D-1

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Dr. Marie Cirasella)

No Report

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (N. Eliya, Chairperson)

No Report

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

No Report

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

- Dr. Thomas attended the Town Council meetings on 7/27 and 8/10

I. Town Council Committee – (B. McCourt, P. Fantulin)

No Report

J. Diversity Committee – (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)

No Report

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (C. Dell’Aglia)

- PTA dates for meetings are not released yet

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

- Notices on line to register for boosters
- They expect a good year

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Triolo)

- Marching band is in full swing
- PAPS meeting in September

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- 5K on 9/9, registration is open
- Go to MPPEF.ORG for any information

Board of Recreation – (J. Canellas)

No Report

Community School – (N. Eliya)

No Report

L. Old Business

No Report

M. New Business

Mr. Canellas stated that he has withdrawn his petition candidacy for Board re-election.

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of September 5, 2023, 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 – Mrs. Fantulin, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary