

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Stacy Garvey and she read the following Statement:

“Adequate notice of this meeting were 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 2024 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.”

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REORGANIZATION MOTIONS

APPENDIX

A. Presentation of the Annual School District Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023:

For Members of the Board of Education

3 three-year terms

Votes

Daniel McCarthy	908
Maryalice Thomas	899
Peter Triolo	866

B. Administration of Oath of Office to Daniel McCarthy, Maryalice Thomas, Peter Triolo

ROLL CALL

Present:	Sandra Criscenzo	Christine Dell’Aglia
	Nabil Eliya	Richard Formicola
	Daniel McCarthy	Maryalice Thomas
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

C. Election of Officers:

1. Mrs. Criscenzo nominated Mr. McCourt for Board President. Mr. Triolo seconded the motion.

2. Mrs. Criscenzo nominated Mrs. Fantulin for Board Vice President. Mr. Triolo seconded the motion.

Voting: 7 Yes, 2 Abstain (Mr. McCourt, Mrs. Fantulin)

The Board Secretary turns the meeting over to the newly elected Board President.

#### ROLL CALL

Present:           Sandra Criscenzo           Christine Dell’Aglia  
                  Nabil Eliya               Richard Formicola  
                  Daniel McCarthy       Maryalice Thomas  
                  Peter Triolo               Patricia Fantulin  
                  Brian McCourt

#### OTHERS PRESENT

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

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

- D. Approve the appointment of Stacy C. Garvey as the Board Secretary.
- E. Approve Continuation Under "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised."
- F. Reaffirm the present Board policies.
- G. Reaffirm the standing Board Committees.
- H. Reaffirm the District Affirmative Action Plan.
- I. Reaffirm the K-12 Curricula as outlined in the Course of Study Guides, as per the attached appendix. RM-I
- J. Reaffirm the District Student Code of Conduct Manuals.
- K. Reaffirmation of the following negotiated agreements between the Board of Education and the:
  1. Midland Park Education Association
  2. Midland Park Administrators & Supervisors Association
  3. Individual staff members:
    - a. Superintendent of Schools
    - b. School Business Administrator
    - c. Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds
    - d. Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent
    - e. Confidential Secretary to the School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary

- f. Confidential Secretary to the Director of Special Services
- g. Assistant to the Business Administrator
- h. Payroll & Benefits Coordinator
- i. District Technology & Data Coordinator
- j. Computer Technician
- k. Computer Media Technicians
- l. Community School Program Co-Coordinator/Financial Manager
- m. Community School Youth Program Coordinator
- n. Community School Class and Trip Coordinator

L. Designate the following as Depositories for School Funds:

Columbia Bank  
State of New Jersey Cash Management

M. Designate the following Tax Shelter Annuity Companies:

Equitable	Metropolitan Life
AIG Valic/Corebridge Financial	Security Benefit
Lincoln Investment Planning	National Life Group
IPX Fidelity & Vanguard	Aspire Financial

N. Designate the following administrator for Chapter 125 flexible spending accounts services:

Ameriflex

O. Designate the following third-party administrator for 403B plans:

US OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services

P. Designate the following providers of optional employee funded disability, accident and/or cancer care plans:

American Family Life Assurance of Columbus, 'AFLAC'  
Prudential Insurance Company of America

Q. Designate the School Architect:

Solutions Architecture

R. Designate the School Attorney:

Fogarty & Hara

S. Designate the School Auditor:

Lerch, Vinci & Bliss LLP

T. Designate the school Financial Advisor:

Phoenix Advisors, LLC

U. Designate the School Insurance Brokers:

FIRM, Inc. – Liability  
Brown & Brown Advisors – Benefits Coordinator Consultant

V. Designate the Indoor Air Quality Consultant:

ER&M, Inc.

W. Designate the newspapers for Official Notices:

North Jersey Media Group (The Record)  
The Ridgewood News

X. Approve the following appointments, effective January 1, 2024:

Affirmative Action & Title IX Officer	Danielle Bache
Qualified Purchasing Agent	Stacy Garvey
Substance Awareness Coordinator	Craig Rush
Integrated Pest Management Coordinator	Scott Collins
Custodian of Records	Stacy Garvey
ADA Officer & 504 Committee Coordinator	Anne Marie Bruder
Asbestos Management & PEOSA Coordinator	Environmental Remediation & Management
Public Agency Compliance Officer	Stacy Garvey
School Safety Specialist	Nicholas Capuano

Y. Approve the authorization to award contracts up to a bid threshold of \$44,000 and to set the quote threshold at \$6,600.

Z. Approve the following officials to sign checks:

Superintendent  
Board President  
Board Secretary  
High School Principal  
Highland School Principal

AA. Recognize the following district support organizations with respect to their liability for activities performed in pursuit of supporting Midland Park students.

Elementary PTA  
High School PTA  
Midland Park Athletic Booster Association  
Midland Park Performing Arts Parents  
Midland Park Public Education Foundation

BB. Approve the use of the following cooperative purchasing groups:

Educational Data Services  
Hunterdon County Services Commission  
Union County Services Commission  
Morris County Services Commission  
Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission  
Essex Regional Educational Services Commission

Roll Call: All Yes

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

CC. Annual discussion of the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics and adoption of the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics, as per the attached appendix. RM-CC

At this time each Board member read out loud each of the ten Code of Ethics.

Roll Call: All Yes

## **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.*

Presentation to James Canellas, honoring him for his years of service to the Board of Education.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT** *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

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

Approve the following resolutions:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 202120223184 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.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 202120223185 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.

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 1106233186 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 January 2, 2024 agenda.**

No one chose to speak at this time.

Student Representative to the Board – (Declan Feehan)

No Report

## **BOARD MOTIONS**

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

1. Approve the Board of Education Schedule of Meetings, as per the attached appendix:

BM-1

Roll Call: All Yes

## **Action Items**

- A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2023-2024 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. Triolo...

1. Approve a medical leave for Employee No. 1883, effective January 17, 2024 through approximately March 15, 2024.
2. Approve a medical leave for Employee No. 1834, effective January 2, 2024 through approximately February 5, 2024.
3. Approve the appointment of Anne Schaper as a Substitute Secretary, effective January 15, 2024 through approximately March 15, 2024. She will be paid a salary of \$200 per diem.
4. Accept the resignation of Employee #1914, effective January 19, 2024.
5. Approve the appointment of Sarah Murphy as an Instructional Aide for a classified elementary school student attending Shaler Academy in Ridgefield, NJ, effective January 3, 2023 through June 30, 2024. She will be paid at the hourly rate of \$22.16, pending Criminal History Review.
6. Approve the payment of Curriculum Writing stipends for the High School and Elementary Schools for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix.

A-6

7. Approve the appointment of Olivia Montwaid as a maternity leave replacement in the Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$54,999 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective on or about January 4, 2024 through June 30, 2024, pending Criminal History Review.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – ( )

Motion – Mrs. Dell’Aglia seconded – Mr. Triolo...

1. Approve the Carry Over Funds for the IDEA Grant for the 2022-2023 school year, as follows:

IDEA Preschool/Midland Park:	\$ 3,559.00
IDEA Preschool/Eastern Christian:	\$ 5,826.00
IDEA Basic Eastern Christian:	\$34,214.00

2. Approve the MPCS Rental by Broadway Originals for Theater Dance/Acting classes at Midland Park High School from 4:00 – 6:15 pm at a rate of \$55 per hour on the following dates:

February 6, 8, 13, 15, 27, 29 - 2024  
March 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 - 2024  
April 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 - 2024  
May 2, 7, 9 - 2024

3. Approve the MPCS rental by Broadway Originals for mini show productions at Midland Park Memorial Hall, for four hours a day (times to be determined), at a rate of \$125 per hour, on May 9 and May 10, 2024.

4. Approve the MPCS rental by Broadway Originals for theater practice at the Midland Park High School from 6:00-8:00 pm at a rate of \$35 per hour on the following dates:

March 26, 2024  
April 9, 16, 23, 30 – 2024  
May 7, 14, 21, 28 – 2024  
June 4, 2024

5. Approve the MPCS rental by Broadway Originals for the production of The Little Mermaid at Midland Park Memorial Hall, for a total of 15 hours (times to be determined), at a rate of \$125 per hour on June 28 and June 29, 2024.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Justin Repole	Nonviolent Crisis Intervention	Teaneck, NJ	\$1,849	3/7/24

2. Approve the recommendation for a classified middle school student to be placed on bedside instruction for ten hours a week, effective retroactive from December 19, 2023 through date TBD.

Roll Call: All Yes

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/Review of January 16, 2024 agenda items**

- B. Finance Committee- ( )

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

- E. Legislative Committee- (M. Cirasella)

No Report

- F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (N. Eliya, Chairperson)

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

- I. Town Council- (B. McCourt, P. Fantulin)

No Report

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

- Meeting on 1/16/24



## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. McCourt stated that at the last Board meeting we appointed a new security guard for the elementary level. We have had no issues at the schools.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Formicola...

1. Motion to go into closed session tonight to discuss the Superintendent search. No formal action will be taken as a result of this closed session discussion.

2. Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of January 16, 2024, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Formicola thanked Mr. McCourt and Mrs. Fantulin for the great job they did last year as president and vice president of the board and looks forward to another year of working with the them both.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**- general **COMMENTS** only at this time are to be directed to the Board President.

- Mr. Canellas thanked the Board for the amazing professional and personal experience over the past 15 years. It started with the strategic plan and ended in seeing our buildings.  
This place really looks different and thank you for the opportunity to play a small part in that. Thank you for your warm wishes. If the Board ever needs any assistance, please, you know where to find me.

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

Motion to go into closed session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent search. There will be no action taken in this closed session.

Board returned to open session at 9:35 p.m.

Motion – Mr. Formicola, seconded – Mr. Eliya...

To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary