

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 30, 2024**

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 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.”

ROLL CALL

Present: Christine Dell’Aglia Nabil Eilya
Daniel McCarthy Maryalice Thomas
Peter Triolo Brian McCourt
Patricia Fantulin

Excused: Sandra Criscenzo
Richard Formicola

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 21st 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 of the 2022-2023 Annual Audit by Lerch, Vinci and Bliss.

- Dr. Cirasella introduced Mr. Jeffrey Bliss, Board Auditor, to present the 2022-2023 Annual Audit.

School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act – July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

- Dr. Cirasella explained this assessment for the 2021-2022 school year to the Board. She stated that the self-assessment grades have now been unembargoed and are posted on the district website. The reason for the delay is due to the state’s processes, which have taken longer than expected. These results were approved by the Board in August 2023.

Presentation of Report of Student Safety Data System (SSDS) District Violence & Vandalism and Incidents of Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) for Reporting Period 1, 2023-2024.

- Dr. Cirasella presented the SSDS District Violence & Vandalism and Incidents of HIB for Reporting Period 1 to the Board and mentioned that this was previously known as the EVVRS Report.
- Dr. Cirasella congratulated the two high school students, Olivia Dell’Aglia and Patrick Stern who were selected as the first Bergen Record’s Students of the Week. These amazing students excel academically and through extra-curricular activities are wonderful role models for younger students. We share in the pride their families must feel and wish them the very best in all future endeavors.
- Dr. Cirasella announced that Highland School’s Centennial Celebration will occur in May 2024. A Steering Committee consisting of teachers and key stakeholders will begin finalizing plans for the day. Details will follow.

Approve the following resolution:

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

- BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent’s decision in HIB Investigation No. 1019233183 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*

No report

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

None

BOARD MOTIONS

Motion – Mrs. Fantulin, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

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

December 12, 2023

- 2. Approve the list of Board of Education Standing Committees for the 2024 elective year, as per the attached appendix.

BM-2

Roll Call: All Yes

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 the retirement resignation of Ristem Sela, Computer Technician, effective June 30, 2024.

- Dr. Cirasella informed the Board that Mr. Sela has 25 years of service in the district and always has a smile and willing to lend a hand. Dr. Cirasella wishes him health and happiness in his retirement.

- 2. Approve the extension of unpaid family care leave for Employee No. 2128 as per the NJ FMLA, effective February 4, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

- 3. Approve the extension of the non-tenure track appointment of Jennifer New as a 2nd Grade leave replacement at the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,500 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective February 4, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

- 4. Approval for Midland Park School District staff members to donate sick days to create a sick bank for Employee No. 1834.

- 5. Approve the payment of Curriculum Writing stipends for the Godwin School for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix.

A-5

- 6. Approve the increase in salary for the following teachers, effective February 1, 2024:

Hanorah Bellucco MA Step 2 (\$55,500) to MA +30 Step 2 (\$61,000)
Diana Ragone BA Step 3 (\$52,750) to MA Step 3 (\$57,650)

7. Approve the following aides to work for the Midland Park Community School Volleyball Clinic, effective March 26, 2024 through May 21, 2024:

Ava Agratis
Kelly Ballen
Christina Brenna
Lindsey Kontos
Sophia Southey

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. Approve the following aides to work for the Midland Park Community School Before & School Child Care effective, January 17, 2024 through June 30, 2024:

Eleanor Eliya
Chloe Kasbarian

Roll Call: 6 Yes

1 Abstain (Mr. Eilya)

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

9. Approve the appointment of Emily Donovan to provide supplemental instruction for AP Calculus two days per week. She will be paid at the hourly rate of \$43.26 as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective January 22, 2024 through April 29, 2024.
10. Revise resolution A-5 from the January 2, 2024 agenda to approve the appointment of Sarah Murphy as a .57 Instructional Aide for a classified elementary school student attending Shaler Academy in Ridgefield, NJ. She will be paid a prorated salary of \$15,994.20 (Category V, Step 5 on the Secretarial/Clerical Guide), effective retroactive from January 3, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
11. **Approve Olivia Sebastian, Ramapo College student, to fulfill her psychology field work course by volunteering a minimum of 60 hours in Godwin School Special Education classes, effective January 31, 2024 through May, 2024.**
12. **Approve the appointment of the following Co-Coordiators of the Midland Park Community School 2024 Summer Camp, effective July 1, 2024 through August 9, 2024:**
- Anthony Cornetta
Maria Cornetta**
13. **Approve the appointment of Meghan Martinez as the Instructor of the Midland Park Community School 2024 Kindergarten Readiness Program, effective July 22, 2024 through July 26, 2024.**

14. **Approve the following appointments for the Midland Park Community School 2024 Park Players Summer Theater Workshop, effective July 29, 2024 through August 15, 2024:**

Caitlin Shannon, Coordinator
Mackenzie Kamp, Assistant Coordinator

15. **Approve a medical leave of absence for Employee No. 0428, retroactive from January 22, 2024 through approximately March 4, 2024.**

Roll Call: All Yes

- B. Finance Committee – (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)

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

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, 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. December 2023 direct pays in the amount of \$437,483.58.
- b. December 2023 Community School claims in the amount of \$72,951.08.
- c. December 2023 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$58,840.42.
- d. First December 2023 payroll in the amount of \$731,048.44.
- e. Second December 2023 payroll in the amount of \$691,706.97.
- f. January 2024 claims in the amount of \$732,064.01.
- g. First January 2024 payroll in the amount of \$730,811.70.

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period December 1 – 31, 2023, as per the attached appendix. B-3

4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period December 1 – 31, 2023, as per the attached appendix. B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- 5. Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 and the recommendation contained therein.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- 6. Approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Auditor’s recommendations, as contained in the Annual Audit for the fiscal year 2022-2023, as per the attached appendix. B-6

- 7. Approve the Addendum to the Agreement between the Midland Park Public Schools and ESS Northeast, LLC for the services of Substitute Teachers and Staff. B-7

- 8. Revise resolution B-10 from the November 14, 2023 agenda to approve the services contract between EDU Healthcare and the Midland Park Board of Education for Paraprofessional Services for 32.5 hours per week, at a rate of \$35 per hour.

- 9. Approve the increase of the budget by \$80,000.00 for the Midland Park Community School for the 2023-2024 school year:

Account number 13 602 100 320 03 74 – PROF. SVCS. TRIPS, SHOWS - \$25,000
Account number 13 602 100 330 03 70 – OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - \$25,000
Account number 13 602 100 511 03 70 – TRANSPORTATION - \$30,000

- 10. **Approve the following Change Order, as per the attached appendix:** B-10

Change Order Number: 002

Project: 21.187 – MDPK Rooftop Unit Replacement at Godwin School & MDPK HS

Additional ductwork from new units to tie into existing wall air return plenums in the doghouses at MPHS.

Sub Total	\$10,426.00
Discretionary allowance	<u>-\$ 7,861.00</u>

TOTAL:	\$ 2,565.00
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Original Contract Sum:	\$597,000.00
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Contract Sum increased by this Change Order	\$ 2,565.00
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New Contract Sum including this Change Order	\$599,565.00
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- 11. **Approve the following Change Order, as per the attached appendix:** B-11

Change Order Number: 002

Project: 001 - 20.113 – MDPK HS Arts Classroom Renovations

Installation of mixing valve to triple sink islands

Sub Total	\$735.00
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Discretionary allowance **-\$600.00**

TOTAL: **\$135.00**

Original Contract Sum: **\$175,999.00**

Contract Sum increased by this Change Order **\$ 135.00**

New Contract Sum including Change Order **\$176,134.00**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the new Curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year, which is aligned to the NJ Student Learning Standards:

Advanced Topics in Computer Science – half year course – Grades 11-12

2. **Approve the out of district placement change for a classified student from the Archway Program in Atco, NJ to Windsor Bergen in Paramus, NJ, requiring transportation, effective February 12, 2024.**
3. **Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:**

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Lisa Hayne	Theatre Day for Teachers	Montclair, NJ	\$165.04	3/13/2024

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No report

E. Legislative Committee – (Dr. Marie Cirasella)

- Dr. Cirasella reported that NJ Governor Phil Murphy announced his nomination of Kevin Dehmer as the next Commissioner of the NJ Department of Education. He will succeed Acting Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, who announced her retirement after three years in the position.
- Mr. Dehmer has served as Executive Director of the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University. Prior to that, he worked at the NJDOE, where he held several leadership roles, including Assistant Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer.

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

No report

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

No report

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

No report

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)

No report

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

No report

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

No report

Performing Arts Parents – (N. Eilya)

- Mr. Eliya reported that rehearsals are underway for the High School Musical.

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Mr. McCourt announced that there will be a Battle of the Bands fundraiser.

Board of Recreation – (D. McCarthy)

No report

Community School – (P. Triolo)

No report

L. Old Business

None

M. New Business

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

1. Motion to go into closed session following the meeting of January 30, 2024 for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent Search. No action will be taken at the end of this meeting.
2. Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of February 13, 2024, 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.

None

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

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned into closed session at 8:30 pm.

President McCourt reopened the public session of the meeting at 9:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary