

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 19, 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:	Sandra Criscenzo	Christine Dell’Aglia
	Nabil Eliya	Daniel McCarthy
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo
	Brian McCourt	Patricia Fantulin

Excused: Richard Formicola

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: Marie Cirasellá, 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.

President Brian McCourt called for a moment of silence for the passing of Scott Collins and Dave Lancaster.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

Approve the following resolution:

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

- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 0112243190 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

Presentation on The Service Learning Program at Highland School, presented by Principal Peter Galasso.

- This school based update focused on the CTC Mentorship Program for sixth grade students, which serves CTC students with severe disabilities.

Dr. Cirasella thanked Mr. Galasso for his presentation.

Student Representative to the Board – (Declan Feehan) - Absent

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. Triolo, seconded – Mrs. Fantulin...

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

February 16, 2024

2. Approve the revised 2024-2025 Budget Preparation Calendar, 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 revisions to Appendix A-11 of the May 16, 2023 Board Agenda, effective retroactive from July 1, 2023, as per the attached appendix: A-1
2. Approve the new Social Media Coordinator Advisor job description at the high school, as per the attached appendix: A-2
3. Approve the following addition to the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the high school for the 2023-2024 school year:

Add: MacKenzie Conroy	Social Media Coordinator	<u>Stipend</u> \$488.00
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4. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee No. 1773, effective retroactive from February 14, 2024 through approximately March 1, 2024.
5. Approve an additional paid medical leave for Employee 1834, effective retroactive from February 26, 2024 through approximately March 8, 2024.
6. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee No. 0716, effective retroactive from February 26, 2024 through approximately March 8, 2024.
7. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee No. 0067, effective retroactive from February 12, 2024 through approximately March 29, 2024.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee No. 1172, effective retroactive from February 13, 2024 through approximately April 2, 2024.
9. Approve the following teachers to provide home instruction for a classified elementary school student. They will be paid at the approved rate of \$43.26 per hour for up to 10 hours per week, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective approximately March 20, 2024 through approximately April 19, 2024:

Cristina Horuzy
Allison Kilgallen
Patricia Olson

10. Approve a paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1588, effective approximately May 24, 2024 through approximately June 20, 2024; a paid leave of absence, effective approximately June 21, 2024 through June 30, 2024 and an unpaid leave of absence, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective September 1, 2024 through November 29, 2024.
11. Approve the appointment of Kevin Smith as a Maintenance Worker. He will be paid a base salary of \$49,070 (Schedule A-1 Step 15 of the Custodial Maintenance salary guide) + \$8,000.00 additional compensation for experience + \$2,000.00 Maintenance Stipend, prorated, effective March 20, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

- 12. Approve the list of Spring Athletic Coaches at the High School for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix:
- 13. Approve the appointment of Jamie Smith as an Aide for the MPCS Before and After School Child Care program, effective March 20, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
- 14. Approve the appointment of Timothy Hamilton as an Aide for the MPCS Volleyball Clinic, held in the High School, effective March 26, 2024 through May 21, 2024.
- 15. Approve the appointment of the following Camp Coordinators for the MPCS Spring Break Camp, effective April 1 – 5, 2024:

Nareka Hartman
 Felicia Robinson

- 16. Approve Sydney Cieri to observe a Godwin School pre-school/first grade class for a total of 10 hours, as part of her coursework at Bloomsburg University, effective March 20, 2024.
- 17. Rescind the appointment of Mackenzie Kamp as the Assistant Coordinator at the MPCS’s 2024 Park Players Summer Theater Program, effective July 29, 2024 through August 15, 2024.
- 18. Approve the retirement resignation, w/regret, of Nancy Stewart LoPresti, Social Studies teacher at the high school, effective June 30, 2024.

Dr. Cirasella stated that Mrs. LoPresti is such a wonderful teacher and has worked in the district for 30+ years. Her students have cited her as the reason they love Social Studies. She is so involved in the High School. We will miss her very much and wish her all the best retirement has to offer.

- 19. Approve the following staff members to provide summer support for at risk students. They will be paid at the approved rate of \$60.95 per hour, as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract, through the ESEA Grant (Title 1 funds), as follows:

Emily Donovan	Math
Maureen Kelley	English
Paul Marino	Social Studies

- 20. Approve the 2024 Marching Band Staff appointments, as per the attached appendix:

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the paid medical leave of Employee #1589, effective retroactive from March 11, 2024 through April 15, 2024.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of February 29, 2024, 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. February 2024 direct pays in the amount of \$583,726.89.
- b. February 2024 Community School claims in the amount of \$205,184.21.
- c. February 2024 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$58,524.61.
- d. First February 2024 payroll in the amount of \$726,682.19.
- e. Second February 2024 payroll in the amount of \$736,333.61.
- f. First March 2024 payroll in the amount of \$730,559.10.
- g. March 2024 claims in the amount of \$498,705.56.

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period February 1 – 29, 2024, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period February 1 – 29, 2024, as per the attached appendix.

B-4

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

B-5

Change Order Number: 003

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

Credit for labor and materials for electrical feeds at HS.....	\$ 2,533.62
Cost for adjustments for installation and integration of new fire alarm systems at HS and Godwin.....	\$ 5,785.98
Sub Total	\$ 3,252.36

Original Contract Sum:	\$597,000.00
Net change by previously authorized Change Orders	\$ 2,565.00
Contract Sum prior to this Change Order	\$599,565.00
Contract Sum will be increased by the Change Order	\$ 3,252.36
New Contract Sum, including this Change Order	\$602,817.36

Roll Call: All Yes

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

6. Resolution to approve the Tentative 2024-2025 School Year Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the Tentative 2024-2025 School Year Budget, as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$ 26,095,048
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 408,275
Special Schools (Fund 13)	\$ 1,036,500
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 27,539,823
SPECIAL REVENUE (Fund 20)	\$ 664,350
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$ 537,675
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS	 \$ 28,741,848

Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve- Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is \$385,000 for other capital project costs to replace classroom ceilings and lighting at Highland and High School, relocation of the health office in Highland School and the repointing of the exterior of Godwin School. The total costs of these projects represent expenditures for renovation elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the CCCS;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$23,719,665 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$537,675 to support Debt Service, for the 2024-2025 school year budget. Included in the General Fund Tax Levy is the need for a Health Care Cost Cap Adjustment in the amount of \$169,970 to be included in the base budget.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

7. Establish the following Travel Allowances and related expenses for district employees and trustees in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:A-7.3:

<u>2022-2023</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>		<u>2024-2025</u>
Maximum	Actual	Maximum	Current	Maximum
\$30,000	\$16,438	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

8. Approve the use and rental of facilities to Hoop Heaven Basketball, sponsored by Midland Park Community School from 6:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., as follows:

High School Gym: March 28; April 11, 18, 19, 25, 26; May 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 28, 30, 31; June 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 2024

Highland School Gym: March 25, 26, 27; April 8, 9, 29, 30; May 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 2024.

9. Approve the use and rental of High School Classroom 35 for Field Wellness LCC, sponsored by MPCS on April 9, 2024 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following items to be decommissioned:

Ludwig Tympani 32”, Bar Code #005035

Various Flags and Color Guard Uniforms, prior to 2018

2. Approved the continued placement of a classified student in the Fusion Academy, Englewood, NJ, effective March 12, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
3. Approve the placement of a classified elementary school student in the Learn Well Educational Services to receive bedside instruction, effective retroactive from approximately March 12, 2024 through approximately March 19, 2024.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following revised Mandated Policy, which is attached as an appendix:

Petty Cash

Policy Section 6620

D-1

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No Report

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

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

1. Approve the Midland Park Public Schools Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Review on the following date and location:

March 14, 2024 Highland School, Midland Park, NJ, P. Galasso

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

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

- Ridgewood Water Presentation – changing out lead piping

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

No Report

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

- Next meeting 5/7

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (C. Dell’Aglia)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

- Math-A-Thon at Godwin and Highland schools
- Career Day at Godwin School
- Kindergarten orientations

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

No Report

Performing Arts Parents – (N. Eliya)

- Support the Musical – The Addams Family
- General meeting, encourage all parents to join
- Scholarships to students if they are members for all 4 years

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

- Summer ESY program
- Developing parents advisory group

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Battle of the bands was a big success
- Grants
- Looking for new trustees

Board of Recreation – (D. McCarthy)

- Baseball and Softball registration is still open

Community School – (P. Triolo)

No Report

L. Old Business

None

M. New Business

Motion – Mr. Triolo, Dr. Thomas...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of April 23, 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.

No one chose to speak at this time.

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Eliya
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary