

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
OCTOBER 17, 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: Christine Dell’Aglia Nabil Eliya
Richard Formicola Maryalice Thomas
Peter Triolo Patricia Fantulin

Brian McCourt

Excused: James Canellas
Sandra Criscenzo

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

- The first presentation tonight is the School Self-Assessments under the ABR for Reporting Period: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- The second presentation tonight is the Annual District Assessment Report 2022-2023. Presented by Dr. Cirasella, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Galasso, Mrs. Bruder.

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. 09142333179 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. 0920233180 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

- MPHS girls' soccer coach earned his 500th career win last week again Paterson Charter
- This week is Violence Awareness week, and in honor of that, we had a Holocaust survivor and his daughter come in to speak about his experience
- Tomorrow, 10/18, the Bergen County Prosecutor's office is coming in for a presentation against bias crimes
- The Holocaust Studies class is going to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. in June
- Last week was spirit week with a pep rally at the end of the week to celebrate the fall
- Last week the musical was announced, The Addams Family. Auditions are in December
- Seven students were accepted into the Bergen County Middle School Chorus. Out of 22 schools In the county, we placed third in most students accepted
- Senior games coming up are: 10/18 – girls volleyball, 10/23 boys soccer
- The Marching Band Syracuse trip is coming up at the end of the month

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mrs. Dell'Aglio...

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

September 5, 2023

September 19, 2023

- +2. Approve the tentative 2024-2025 Budget Preparation Calendar, as per the attached appendix.**

Roll Call: All

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

- +1. Approve the appointment of Michael Zimmer as the District Security Officer from January 2, 2024 through June 30, 2024.**

- Dr. Cirasella stated that this position is in addition to our SRO. This is a way to increase security for all of our campuses.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +2. Approve a paid disability leave for Employee No. 1538 effective approximately February 1, 2024 through March 28, 2024 and an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ FMLA, effective March 29, 2024 through June 20, 2024.**

- +3. Approve the Affirmative Action Team for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:**

Chairperson - Danielle Bache
Members - Laurie Belthoff
Savannah Dolianitis
Mary Fezza
Jackie Goodell
David Hershberger
JoAnn Manicone
Meghan Martinez
Russell Quinn

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +4. Approve a paid disability leave for Employee No. 1484 effective approximately January 22, 2024 through March 19, 2024 and an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ FMLA, effective March 20, 2024 through June 19, 2024.**

- +5. Approve 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), effective October 18, 2023 through approximately February 2, 2024, pending submittal of required paperwork and Criminal History Review.**

- +6. **Approve the appointment of Kayleigh Matthews as a school nurse to accompany the Marching Band to Syracuse, NY. She will be paid at the rate of \$175 per diem, effective October 27 through October 29, 2023.**
- +7. **Approve the appointment of Kayleigh Matthews as a school nurse to accompany the Concert Band to Anaheim, CA. She will be paid at the rate of \$175 per diem, effective December 8 through December 12, 2023.**

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (J. Canellas, 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 September 30, 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. **September 2023 direct pays in the amount of \$461,764.63.**
- b. **September 2023 Community School claims in the amount of \$60,370.64.**
- c. **September 2023 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$30,874.84.**
- d. **Second September 2023 payroll in the amount of \$728,628.17.**
- e. **October 2023 claims in the amount of \$480,207.59.**

- +3. **Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period September 1 – 30, 2023, as per the attached appendix.**

B-3

- +4. **Approve the transfers among accounts for the period September 1 – 30, 2023, as per the attached appendix.**

B-4

- +5. **Approve the JTL Pharmacy in Little Ferry, NJ to administer Covid shots to the faculty/staff at Godwin School, Highland School and the Jr./Sr. High School.**

- +6. **Approve the Seasonal Stem After School Children’s Program by Steam to Go sponsored by the MPCs at Highland School cafeteria on Tuesdays, November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

- +7. **Approve the Winter and Spring recess mini-camp programs sponsored by the MPCS at the Midland Park High School Cafeterias and gym from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:**

February 21, 22, 23, 2024

April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 2024

- +8. **Approve the use and rental of Memorial Hall in the Midland Park High School for the theater production of Alladdin, Jr. sponsored by MPCS for 15.5 hours at the rate of \$125 per hour, on the following dates:**

November 28, 2023 – 1 hour

November 29, 2023 – 5 hours

November 30, 2023 – 2 hours

December 1, 2023 – 4.5 hours

December 2, 2023 – 3 hours

- +9. **Approve the revised resolution for Consultant Services between the Midland Park School District and Gravity Goldberg, LLC, not to exceed \$16,000 of which \$11,935 will be paid out of Title II A funds, or 75%, effective August 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

- +1. **Approve the placement for a classified elementary school student at William Paterson University Child Development Center in Wayne, NJ effective, retroactive from October 13, 2023 through June 30, 2024.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Dr. Cirasella stated that the committee will be looking at the most recent update listing and will have policies on the 11/14 agenda for approval.

- E. Legislative Committee – (Dr. Marie Cirasella)

- New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Task Force took testimony during the first week of October in two public hearings, one in person and one virtual. The purpose of these hearings was to provide stakeholders the opportunity to share experiences regarding the implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act in the state's schools.

The Anti-Bullying Task Force is charged with examining the impact of New Jersey’s Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and making recommendations for improving the way acts of HIB are addressed in schools.

New Jersey’s Acting Commissioner of Education Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, spoke to the work of the task force in noting, “The input of people who have been most affected by bullying is crucial to inform the work of the task force. The recommendations of the task force can provide legislators the direction needed to ensure students have access to a safe and supportive learning environment.” The task force will report its findings to the Governor by the end of the year. We will keep you posted as to any further developments in this area.

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

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

+1. Approve the Midland Park Public Schools Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports on the following dates and locations:

- 9/26/23 Midland Park High School, Midland Park, NJ, Route # 1, 7:40 a.m.**
- 9/27/23 Godwin School, Midland Park, NJ, Route #1, 12:30 p.m.**
- 9/28/23 Holmstead School, Ridgewood, NJ Route #4, 8:00 a.m.**
- 9/28/23 Fusion School, Englewood, NJ, Route #4, 10:20 a.m.**
- 10/2/23 Highland School, Midland Park, NJ, Route #1, 8:15 a.m.**
- 10/11/23 CTC Academy, Oakland, NJ, Route #3, 9:09 a.m.**

+2. Approve the following resolution and attached appendices:

F-2

Whereas, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

Whereas, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Midland Park School District are consistent with these requirements, and

Whereas, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Midland Park School District hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and Form M-1 for Midland Park in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

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

- We met this evening and began reviewing the results from the community survey on fields. We will be continuing to review that data.

K. 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)

- Annual staff appreciation breakfast
- Thanks to the PTA for all the ways they celebrate our staff and students

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

- Dr. Cirasella and Mrs. Fantulin attended the last meeting and discussed the role of the Board
- District progress over the past 10 years
- Annual Back to School Night supply drive
- Pizza picnic welcome back party
- T-Shirt sale
- Harvest Festival
- Read-A-Thon
- Math-A-Thon

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

- We will meeting shortly and I will have an update then

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Triolo)

- Music in the Park was this past Sunday
- Poinsettia sale
- Drama in Nov. will be The Adams Family
- The band is going to Syracuse at the end of the month

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

No Report

Board of Recreation – (J. Canellas)

No Report

Community School – (N. Eliya)

- Summer camp and Park Players Theater Company continues to be very successful. We employ over 30 staff members, including high school, college students and volunteers.
- Our Before and After School Child Care Program is at capacity. We continue to offer assemblies throughout the year and have incorporated more weekly activities, ie. Bingo, crafts, games, etc. into our routine.
- Youth activities for the 2023-2024 school year include basketball, track & field and volleyball camps in addition to workshops and clinics, ie. Little Cooks, Youth Golf, Tennis and more.
- New to this school year, we are offering a February break mini-camp and Spring break mini-camp for grades K-5 to be held at the Midland Park High School.
- A trip to Italy in April 2024 is being offered, as well as many other exciting day and extended trips, as our clients are looking to travel again.
- Our co-op relationship with Ramsey and Glen Rock has enabled us to offer a wide variety of classes and trips to our community and patrons.
- In the current Fall 2023 season, we were able to offer over 60 classes with many of them at capacity.
- There are a total of 18 days trips/shows and 9 away trips. We are looking to increase these offerings for the Spring 2024 season.

L. Old Business

No Report

M. New Business

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Eliya...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of November 14, 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.

Mallory Nemiroff, newly elected President of the MPEA, stated she is looking forward to working with the Board this year and thank you for all you do.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary