

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
OCTOBER 3, 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    Nabil Eliya  
                          Richard Formicola     Maryalice Thomas  
                          Peter Triolo            Patricia Fantulin

Brian McCourt

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

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

***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.***

Mr. McCourt stated he wanted to clarify the survey sent out to the public on district field. He noted that it was not part of a referendum that the school intended on bringing forward.

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

District Back-to-School Update, 2023-2024 – Presented by Mrs. Fantulin, Mrs. Bruder, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Clark, Ms. Bache and Mr. Galasso. They will each present on their area of responsibility. They provided information about the Board, schools, and district information.

Mr. Formicola thanked Administration, faculty and staff for all of the improvements that have been made over the recent years.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD** *Declan Feehan*

- This week is the week of respect and to honor it, orange ribbons were given out to homerooms for students to wear/put on their backpack
- Assemblies coming up:
  - A presentation for grades 7-12 called “Game time Excellence” with Mr. Shamiel Gary on 10/13
  - Holocaust survivor presentation from Mark Schonwetter and Isabella Fiske on 10/16
- On 10/11, MPHS is offering the Pre-Act for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, the PSAT for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders and the SAT for 12<sup>th</sup> graders
- On 10/13, the fall pep rally where students honor fall sports and participate in games
- A musical interest meeting on 10/11
- Both boys and girls soccer teams and the volleyball team were invited to the Bergen County Invitational games
- Karleigh Detrick, the goalie for the girls soccer team, had her 200<sup>th</sup> career save this past week
- Girl’s soccer senior night is this Friday, 10/6 against Weehawken. Other senior nights to be announced
- The football team is currently 4-1 and will be playing Park Ridge this Friday, 10/6 at home
- Music in the Park (the Marching Band’s home competition) is this Sunday, 10/8, starting at 1:00, We are not on until 3:50. Admission fee is \$12 for adults, \$6 for students, senior citizens and Midland Park residents.

### **Open to Public – COMMENTS only for action items on the October 3, 2023 agenda.**

No one chose to speak at this time.

### **Action Items and Committee Reports:**

#### **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 – Mrs. Criscenzo...

1. Approve the appointment of the following teacher as an activity advisor.

Kristen Kramer      Detention Monitor      Stipend: \$1,081.

2. Approve the appointment of Alessandra Borges Da Rocha as a .4 Instructional Aide. She will be paid a salary of \$10,400 (Category IV, Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical Guide, prorated) effective, October 4, 2023 through June 30, 2024, pending a Criminal History Review.
3. Approve the appointment of Alessandra Borges Da Rocha as a Building Aide. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective October 4, 2023 through June 30, 2024, pending a Criminal History Review.
4. Approve the Elementary Clubs with stipends for Highland and Godwin Schools, as per the attached Appendix: **A-4**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the appointment of Kayleigh Matthews as a School Nurse at a rate of \$165.00 per diem, for the following trips:

- Syracuse, NY
- California Trip

- S-2. Approve Therese Seiders, ELA/Math Instructor to provide supplemental instruction at the High School for three days per week, to be paid as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract, During the 2023-2024 school year.

- S-3. Approve the following curriculum writing at the rate of \$50.00 per hour:

Dept.	Class	Teacher	Half/Full Year	New/Revise	Hours
Math	Innovative Computer Design II	Danielle Vandenberghe	Half	New	4

Roll Call: All Yes

- B. Finance- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the participation in the New Jersey School Employees Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to provide health benefits for school district employees for calendar year 2024 at the established rates.
2. Approve the decommissioning and sale of surplus ChromeBooks as per the attached Appendix: **B-2**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-4. Approve the agreement for Newsela ELA for the Highland School, effective retroactive from September 22, 2023 through September 21, 2024 in the amount of \$3,200.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Danielle Kirsch	Linda Mood Bell Verbalizing and Visualizing	Virtual	\$1,228	10/24-10/27/23

2. Approve Migdalia Rodriguez, a college student from Passaic County Community College, to observe in Godwin School for six hours.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-5. Approve the proposed Overnight Trip for students in the High School to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

E. Legislative Committee- (Dr. Marie Cirasella)

- On September 26, Governor Murphy, First Lady Tammy Murphy and the NJDOE have Established the first-in-the-nation Office of Climate Change Education. The goal for this Office is to further climate literacy and environmental awareness among students and Educators and prepare students for the future jobs created by the green economy.

The office will support New Jersey’s schools in implementing the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for Climate Change Education, which present interdisciplinary Opportunities to address climate change during instruction. The Governor said, “In the midst of some of the worst climate related events that our country has ever faced, NJ is taking a proactive stance in combating climate change, and education is the foundation of our efforts. Through this initiative, we are not only fostering environmental consciousness but also preparing our youth to innovate, lead, and shape effective solutions for a greener world.”

- In fiscal year 2023 state budget, the Governor has allocated \$5 million dollars to support schools with the implementation of the NJSLS for Climate Change Education, and has earmarked an additional \$5 million dollars in the FY2024 state budget to continue this support. An announcement regarding the availability of these funds will be provided later through a notice of grant opportunity (NGO).

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

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

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

9/21/23 Windsor School Prep., Paramus, NJ, Route #2, 9:16 a.m.  
9/22/23 Windsor Learning Center/Windsor School, Pompton Lakes, NJ, Route #3, 8:00 a.m.  
9/22/23 Paramus High School, Paramus, NJ Route #2, 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

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

- Next meeting on 10/17

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

No Report

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

- Next meeting on 10/17

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of October 17, 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 – Mr. Formicola, seconded – Mr. Triolo...  
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary