

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

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
	Nabil Eliya	Richard Formicola
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt

Excused: Christine Dell’Aglia

**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 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.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

- NJQSAC Review was completed at the county and state levels. The placements for the district in the five QSAC areas were determined to be:

Instruction & Program:	87%
Fiscal Management:	100%
Governance:	93%
Operations:	100%
Personnel:	100%

As the district has exceeded the percentiles required for each of these indicators, the Commissioner of Education will recommend to the State Board of Education that the Midland Park Public School district be designated as a "High Performing" district for a period of three years until the next QSAC review. We have been congratulated by the NJDOE officials for this accomplishment.

- Back to School nights have been scheduled and we hope you will mark your calendars for these important events: Godwin's is September 21; MPHS's is September 27 and Highland's is October 4. This and other important information may be found on each school's website.
- We will be presenting a district Back-to-School update at the Board meeting of October 3. This presentation will highlight new and noteworthy information about each of our schools, curriculum and instruction updates, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights and more. We will also post the presentation on the district website immediately following the board meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD - Declan Feehan

- Annual marching band car wash was this past weekend, raised a lot of money
- Two marching band competitions this upcoming weekend, one in Pequannock, NJ and one in Copiague, NY
- We have a new Athletic Director, Patrick Clark. He is a great addition to Midland Park
- Our football team is currently 3-0 and beat the sixth-ranked team in North Jersey
- The girls volleyball team is 3-1
- The girls soccer team is 1-1, they have only had two games due to rain cancellations
- The girls soccer team also qualified for the USC National Team Academic Award Program for the third year in a row. All of the players had to maintain a GPA of 3/25 or higher throughout the season
- Middle school cross country is being opened up to 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Upcoming events:
  - Back to School night on Wednesday, September 27
  - Underclass and staff photos on Thursday, September 28
  - The week of respect October 2-6

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

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

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

August 22, 2023

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the revised Emergency Management Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

1. Approve the job description for the District Security Officer. A-1
2. Approve the appointment of Mackenzie Conroy as an Instructional Aide at the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$27,060 (Category IV, Step 3 on the Secretarial/Clerical Guide) effective, retroactive, from September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
3. Approve the appointment of Brianna Brislin as a Special Education teacher at Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,500 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 6, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
4. Accept the resignation of Employee #1497, effective September 22, 2023.
5. Approve the appointment of Ashley-Rose Hook as the website liaison for the Godwin School for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be paid a stipend of \$488.
6. Approve the following aides to work for the Midland Park Community School Before and After School Child Care Program for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 20, 2023 through June 30, 2024:

Albana Skenderi – MPHS student

Grace Pagano – MPHS student

7. Rescind motion A-5 from the August 22, 2023 meeting - Approve the following teachers to participate in the Orton Gillingham Reading Training Cohort Group through Fairleigh Dickinson University, 28% to be paid from ESSER III funds:

**Amanda Ackerman  
Alexis Biagi  
Christine Hirsch  
Jennifer Stalb**

8. **Approve the following teachers to participate in the Orton Gillingham Reading Cohort Group through Fairleigh Dickinson University at a cost of \$21,216, of which \$10,608 or 50% will be funded from the ESSER III Accelerated Learning Grant:**

APPENDIX

**Amanda Ackerman  
Alexis Biagi  
Christine Hirsch  
Jennifer Stalb**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

9. **Accept the resignation of Employee #1742, effective September 30, 2023.**
10. **Approve a paid medical leave for Employee No. 0649 effective, retroactive from September 1, 2023 through approximately November 3, 2023.**
11. **Approve a paid disability leave for Employee No. 1826 effective approximately October 5, 2023 through December 18, 2023, an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ FMLA, effective December 19, 2023 through March 12, 2024.**
12. **Approve a paid leave for Employee No. 2128 effective, retroactive from September 14, 2023 through October 26, 2023, and unpaid family care leave as per the NJ FMLA, effective October 27, 2023 through approximately February 2, 2024.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

13. **Accept the retirement resignation, with regret and best wishes, of Dr. Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools, effective June 30, 2024.**

Mr. McCourt thanked Dr. Cirasella for her 13 years of service. She is leaving the school system in a much better position than when she started and handled the COVID years so well. Again, Mr. McCourt thanked Dr. Cirasella on behalf of the BOE.

Mrs. Fantulin added that our children are the first thing Dr. Cirasella is thinking of in the morning and the last thing before bed. She also thanked Dr. Cirasella for her years of service to the district.

Mr. Formicola stated, there is a night and day difference in all aspects of the district from before Dr. Cirasella arrived. He hates to see her leave.

Mrs. Criscenzo added she has seen 100% growth in the years Dr. Cirasella has been with the district.

Mr. Eliya also thanked Dr. Cirasella for all of her hard work and all she has done for the district.

Roll Call: Yes (7), No (1) – Mr. Canellas

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

- S-1. Approve Jim Trommelen as a back-up volunteer Truck Driver for the Marching Band during the 2023-2024 season.
- S-2. Approve the appointment of Jackie Sarracco as a long term substitute at the Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$150 per day to conduct band lessons as well as morning band, effective September 26, 2023 through November 3, 2023, or before, pending submittal of required paperwork and Criminal History Review.
- S-3. Approve the non-tenure reappointment and employment agreements for the following individual bus drivers, effective October 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. They will be paid based on an annual salary of \$48,000 (prorated):

Yahely Cepeda  
Luz Perez  
Maria Valenzuela

- S-4. Approve the non-tenure appointment and employment agreement for Martha Ceballos Bolano as a bus driver effective October 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. She will be paid based on an annual salary of \$48,000 (prorated), pending criminal history review.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Canellas, 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 August 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. **August 2023 direct pays in the amount of \$1,251,701.30.**
- b. **August 2023 Community School claims in the amount of \$100,264.84.**
- c. **Second August 2023 payroll in the amount of \$175,279.86.**
- d. **September 2023 claims in the amount of \$837,980.46.**
- e. **First September 2023 payroll in the amount of \$673,327.67.**

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's Report for the period August 1 – 31, 2023.

B-3

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

B-4

5. Approve the use and rental of the High School Gym for the Gem Show, sponsored by Midland Park Community School on the following dates and times:

Set up Friday, April 12, 2024 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

April 13 & 14, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

6. Approve the use and rental of the High School Schiffer Field to NFL Kids Football Camp, sponsored by Midland Park Community School from July 22 – 26, 2024 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. One additional hour of training will be held on Tuesday – Thursday during that week.

7. Approve the JTL Pharmacy in Little Ferry, NJ to administer flu shots to the faculty/staff at Godwin School, Highland School and the Jr./Sr. High School.

8. Approve Staff Pickleball, sponsored by the Midland Park Community School, at the Highland School Gym from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursdays: October 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2, 16, 30

December 7, 14, 21

9. Approve the participation in OMNIA Partners international cooperative purchasing group.

10. Approve the transfer of \$85,000 from the Capital Reserve Account to the General Account #12-000-400-450-91-75 for the acquisition and installation of a replacement office trailer at Highland School.

11. Approve the purchase and installation of an office trailer from Willscot Mini Solutions in the amount of \$77,696.03 through the OMNIA Partners international cooperative purchasing group.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Christine Carr	NJASL Fall Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	672.10	12/3/23-12/5/23

Stacy Garvey Scott Collins Patricia Fantulin Richard Formicola Brian McCourt	NJSBA Fall Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	\$6500	10/22- 26/2023
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2. Approve the Nursing Services Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Approve the decommissioning of the following outdated books at the High School:

Physical Science (purple)  
Glencoe/McGraw Hill – 2012  
ISBN: 978-0-07-888004-9  
38 books

Life Science (green white leopard)  
Glencoe/McGraw Hill – 2012  
ISBN: 978-0-07-888002-5  
46 books

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

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

No Report

- F. Buildings & 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:

9/12/23      The Venture Program, Paramus, NJ, Route # 2, 9:06 a.m.

9/12/23      Career Crossroads, Paramus, NJ, Route #2, 10:30 a.m.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

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

- Minutes of the Council meeting were submitted to Ms. Garvey

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)

- Attending the next meeting with Dr. Cirasella next week, will have a report after the meeting

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is on 9/20

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Triolo)

- Music in the Park on 10/8
- Working on the fundraisers for this year
- Good luck to the marching band for another good season
- Looking for volunteers to run the candy table at Music in the Park

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- 5K was a big success, their goal was to get 200 runners and they got 198
- Working on their Spring fundraiser for March

Board of Recreation – (J. Canellas)

No Report

Community School – (N. Eliya)

No Report

L. Old Business

No Report



M. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of October 3, 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.

Nancy Peet thanked Dr. Cirasella for her 13 years of leadership. She stated, the education system is dear to me, so thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary