

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
SEPTEMBER 5, 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’Aglio	Nabil Eliya
	Richard Formicola	Maryalice Thomas
	Peter Triolo	Patricia Fantulin

Brian McCourt

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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.***

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

- Tomorrow is the first day of school and we are sure to have a terrific opening. Our staff has already had two days of professional development and preparation for the new school year. We are looking forward to our students to return. Any questions and concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher or principal at any time.
- Back to School nights have been scheduled. MPHS's is on September 27, Godwin's is September 21 and Highland's is September 28. 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 on October 17. 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. The presentation will also be posted on the district website immediately following the Board meeting.

### Presentation: WIDA/ACCESS for ELLS, 2023 Results:

- NJ is a member of the WIDA Consortium. WIDA is the acronym for World Class Instructional Design and Assessment. WIDA assessments are mandatory for identified English Language Learners in grades K-12.
- We use the WIDA assessments as tools to measure the proficiency of English Language Learners in the English language. These students may speak English as a second language, may be newly arrived in the country, or have parents who do not speak English.
- Students are assessed in four domains: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. The results provide teachers with information to enhance instruction. WIDA students receive supplemental instruction for English language acquisition.
- At the end of the school year, students are tested to see if they may graduate the program. In making this determination, we look at WIDA scores, standardized assessments, teacher input and grades.
- For the 2022-2023 school year, we had 14 students in our ELL program. 21% were determined to be proficient and exited the program. 79% will continue to receive services.

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

**Open to Public – COMMENTS only for action items on the September 5, 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 – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mrs. Criscenzo...

1. Approve the appointment of Peyton Mulligan as a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade maternity leave replacement at the Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,500 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

2. Approve the appointment of Rachelle Filippone as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade maternity leave replacement at the Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$51,500 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) effective September 11, 2023 through February 2024.
3. Rescind the appointment of Samantha Torres as the Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Approve the appointment of Eric Ferro as a Volunteer Football Coach for the 2023-2024 fall season.
5. Approve the resignation of Employee #2194 as of August 29, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

6. Approve Mark Schaefer as a volunteer Truck Driver for the Marching Band during the 2023-2024 season.
7. Approve the following appointment for 6<sup>th</sup> period teaching assignment at the High School. She will be paid an additional salary of 5% of her base salary, as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Yana Seminara                      ESL

8. 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:

Elissa Adamo  
Samantha Cebulski  
Ashley Pigg  
Ashley Kasbarian (Sub)

9. Approve Amelia Rodger to work an additional 14 hours, retroactive, during the month of August at the Midland Park Guidance Department. She will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA Agreement.
10. Approve the appointment of Heather Corey as an activity advisor for the National Art Honor Society. She will be paid a stipend of \$473.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the salary increase for the following teacher, effective September 1, 2023:

Stefanie Greenberg    MA Step 9 (\$75,270) to MA +30 Step 9 (\$82,820)

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-2. Rescind motion S-5 from the June 20, 2023 Meeting- 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 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- S-3. Approve Brianna Brislin as a long term substitute teacher at Highland School. She will be paid a prorated salary of \$51,500 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2023 through TBD.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance-(J. Canellas, Chairperson)

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

- 1. Approve the Partnership Agreement between the Midland Park School District and West Bergen Mental Healthcare, Inc. to provide a licensed clinician to assist at-risk students for thirty-five hours per week at the cost of \$79,500, to be paid entirely through ESSER funds, effective retroactive from September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- 2. Approve the Annual Contract for Non-Public Nursing Services for the 2023-2024 school year with the County of Bergen, Department of Health Services and the Midland Park Board of Education/Eastern Christian School/Green Twig School.
- 3. Approve the use and rental of the Highland School Gym by Hoop Heaven, sponsored by Midland Park Community School at a rate of \$70 per hour, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following date:

October 8, 2023

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- 4. Approve the use and rental of the Highland School Gym by GOATS Basketball, sponsored by Midland Park Community School at a rate of \$70 per hour, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Mondays: September 11, 18, October 2, 9, 16

Tuesdays: September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas stated there are the typical motions for finance on the next agenda as well as 2 facility rental requests at this time.

- C. Curriculum- (M. Thomas, Chairperson)  
No Report
- D. Policy Committee- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)  
No Report
- E. Legislative Committee- (Administration)  
No Report
- F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (N. Eliya, Chairperson)  
No Report
- G. Negotiations Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)  
No Report
- H. Technology & Public Relations Committee- (M. Thomas, Chairperson)  
No Report
- I. Town Council- (B. McCourt, P. Fantulin)  
No Report
- J. Diversity Committee – (C. Dell’Aglia, Chairperson)  
• Committee meeting will be next month

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No Report

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion – Mrs. Criscenzo, seconded – Mr. Triolo

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of September 19, 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. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Eliya  
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary