

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Board of Education**  
Midland Park, New Jersey  
November 2, 2010

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Schiffer, at 8:00 p.m. and the following statement was read:

"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 2010 elective year. A notice was also posted inside the office of the Midland Park Board of Education in a place reserved for such announcements."

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Richard Formicola	Paula Lein
	Brian McCourt	Raymond Moraski (arrived 8:07)
	William Sullivan	Maryalice Thomas

Robert Schiffer

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Public Hearing on the Bond Ordinance-

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .  
Approve the following resolution regarding the Bond Ordinance:

Refunding Bond Ordinance of the Board of Education of the Borough of Midland Park in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, providing for the refunding of all or a portion of the outstanding school bonds of the school district, dated August 15, 2003, issued in the original principal amount of \$5,873,000, appropriating not to exceed \$4,250,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$4,250,000 refunding bonds to provide for such refunding.

Mr. Schiffer invited the public to address the Board.

No questions were brought to the floor



Roll Call: All Yes

### Approval of Minutes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on October 7, 2010.

Roll Call: (6 Yes) Canellas, Criscenzo, Formicola, McCourt, Dr. Thomas, Sullivan,  
(2 Abstain) Lein, Schiffer

### PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Schiffer reported that he was in contact with Ridgewood Board of Education President and trying to set up meeting with Mr. Russo to discuss funding and state issues.

### **Mission Statement**

**The Midland Park School District as part of a strong, dedicated community, provides students with a comprehensive, adaptive education in a positive environment by maximizing all resources and empowering them to realize their individual worth and responsibility with the expectation that all students achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.**

### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

-Presentation of the Electronic Violence & Vandalism Report (EVVRS)

Mr. Schiffer observed that there are fewer students but it looks like more incidents. He asked if that was due to repeat offenders. Dr. Cirasella answered yes; there were multiple incidents by some students.

Mr. Formicola asked if teachers are being instructed on how to recognize students abusing drugs. Mr. Moraski commented that there had been an in-service for staff last year.

Dr. Thomas asked if this data gets reported to NJ Monthly. Dr. Cirasella replied that we would not know until after it is published.

-Boys and girls soccer teams and girls volley ball team accomplishments.

-Congratulations to the Band for their placement of 4<sup>th</sup> this past weekend at the competition.

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2010-2011 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.

#### A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the appointment of Tarra Matway to accompany a high school special education student as his Aide on the choir Trip to Orlando, FL, from March 24, 2011 through March 28, 2011 at a total cost of \$1,099.80.



2. Approve the following addition to the list of substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year (support material attached):

(s) Shannon Hall

(s) = County Substitute Certificate

3. Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Walter Santana, Custodian at the high school, effective retroactive from September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.
4. Approve the appointment of John Turkousky as a part-time Custodian at Godwin School. He will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective November 8, 2010 through June 30, 2011 (support material attached).
5. Approve the appointment of Ariane Naghshinen as a volunteer Aide for the Midland Park Continuing Education After Care Program, effective November 3, 2010 through June 30, 2011 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the November 2010 claims in the amount of \$594,950.20.
2. Approve the second October 2010 payroll in the amount of \$478,024.74.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

3. Accept the donation to paint the High School Gym and replace the banners by the Booster Club for a total amount of \$8,909, as per Policy Section 7230.

Mr. Schiffer asked if the Boosters are purchasing the banners. Mr. Formicola replied yes.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

4. Accept the donation of computer equipment for the Highland School by James Farinella of Integrated Capital Partners, Inc. for a total amount of \$3,640, as per Policy Section 7230 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Sullivan advised the Board that the Committee would be meeting with the Auditor on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.



C. Curriculum Committee – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the grants funded by the Midland Park Public Education Foundation for a total amount of \$7,495.00 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the list of staff members requesting workshop attendance, as follows (support material attached):

Name	Workshop	Date	Location
Nicole Heid	Integrating Applied Behavioral Analysis Into Therapies	Nov. 30, 2010	Montvale, NJ
Brian Ersalesi	Fine Tuning the Writing Workshop w/Ralph Fletcher	Dec. 7, 2010	East Windsor, NJ
Jack Ferriday	Track & Field and Cross Country Clinic	Dec. 17, 2010	Atlantic City, NJ
Nicholas Capuano	Director of Athletics Association of NJ Workshop	March 14-17, 2011	Atlantic City, NJ

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .

3. Approve the following resolution regarding School Choice:

RESOLVED: on the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to PL2010, C65 and subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, the Midland Park Board of Education will limit the number of students eligible to participate in the newly adopted School Choice program as follows:

10% of students per grade level or 15% of the total population as reported on the ASSA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the district has chosen not to participate as a receiving or “choice” school for the 2011-2012 school year. The Board of Education under recommendation of the Superintendent will annually re-examine its participation in the IPSCP.

Mr. Canellas asked how do we determine who attends if the 10% limit is reached. Mr. McCourt replied that this is based on a lottery system. The Board discussed Choice Schools

Open to the Public-

Ms. Vander Pyl asked if Midland Park elected to be a Choice School, would other students be able to come to Midland Park. Mr. Schiffer replied yes. Ms. Vander Pyl asked if a student wanted to go to the Choice School would they be able to attend without tuition. Mr. Schiffer replied yes.



Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Ms. Lein . . .

4. Approve the following resolution of appreciation for Dr. Aaron R. Graham, Executive County Superintendent of Schools:

WHEREAS, Dr. Aaron R. Graham is retiring after more than forty-one years in education as a science teacher, educational specialist and educational planner, assistant director of curriculum and instruction, assistant professor, county superintendent of schools, and executive county superintendent of schools; and,

WHEREAS, he has always put the interests of children first in each capacity in which he has served; and,

WHEREAS, as Bergen County Superintendent of Schools, he has continually exhibited intellect, fairness, understanding, diligence, selflessness and responsibility in the conduct of that office; and,

WHEREAS, he has provided great leadership, support and guidance for each Bergen County district and its constituents; and,

WHEREAS, he is the consummate professional who has earned the respect, admiration and affection of the entire educational community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education, on behalf of its administrators, faculty, staff and residents congratulated Dr. Graham on his magnificent career and wish for him a long retirement during which he and his family will experience only the kindness, generosity and love which he has given to others these many years.

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Rochelle R. Hendricks, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, State Senator Kevin O'Toole, Assemblyman David Russo and Assemblyman Scott Rumana; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Bergen County Association of School Officials, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Roll Call: All Yes

- D. Policy Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

Ms. Lein asked do we have a policy on bottled water at a student's desk in the classroom. Dr. Thomas replied I don't believe so. Ms. Lein commented that the approval of having a bottle of water at the student's desk seems to vary from class to class. Dr. Thomas commented that you cannot always assume that there is water in the bottle.

Mr. McCourt commented that this issue would be more a procedure and not a Board policy

- E. Legislative Committee – (B. McCourt, Chairperson)



State Law Makers introduced laws to strengthen the bullying laws.  
Anti-bullying Bill of Rights  
Bills to restrict temporary teacher assignments.  
Survey on School Board Conference – The Board discussed the Conference.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

The following work has been completed:

- a. Planted two non-fruit bearing purple plum trees at Highland school to replace dead/diseased trees that were removed over the summer.
- b. Rebuilt condensate pump on Godwin School heating system.
- c. Replaced two exterior lights at the high school- one was on the side of the band room and one on the barn.
- d. Repaired pole lights on walkway at the high school
- e. Replaced four defective air bleeders on the high school heating system
- f. Replaced four boards on bleachers at the high school stadium.

Dr. Cirasella reported on the water main break.

There will be meeting November 23, at 7:00 to discuss the energy audit.

G. Negotiations – Teachers/Secretaries/Custodians - (P. Lein, Chairperson)

No Report.

H. Negotiations – Administrators – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

No Report.

I. Public Relations Committee – (P. Lein, Chairperson)

Dr. Cirasella commented that Chalk Board is being reviewed and it will be returned to the committee as soon as possible.

J. Personnel Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

There is a meeting scheduled for December 8, 2010.

K. Service Review Committee – (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report.

L. Technology Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

We will be scheduling a meeting during November.

M. Liaison Committee:



High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

November 10<sup>th</sup> is the PTA/Booster/PAP Combined Meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center. It will be followed by a program hosted by the Midland Park Alliance and the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey 15-minute Child Break program at 8:00 p.m. at the Midland Park High School Auditorium. The 15 minute Child Break is a one-hour multi-media presentation, which provides information on the importance of the parent or caregivers role in substance abuse prevention.

Market Day Orders are due by Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

There is a scheduled General Meeting on November 14, 2010.

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

There is a scheduled meeting on November 3, 2010.

Performing Arts Parents – (R. Moraski)

No Report.

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (J. Canellas)

The Military Bridge Night is scheduled for November 11, 2010.

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

The Board of Recreation would like to thank the district for use of the gym for the Halloween parade.

Continuing Education Program – (B. McCourt)

No Report.

N. Old Business

Mr. McCourt commented that at the Goal Setting Meeting there was a discussion on the Board having a Work Session meeting once a month and then a Regular Meeting of the Board. The Board discussed and asked Ms. Garvey to provide the Board with information on Work Session meetings.

O. New Business



Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Ms. Lein . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of November 16, 2010, for the purpose of personnel and negotiations.

Open to the Public

Mr. Schiffer invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Teri Shaffer discussed the NJ Monthly ranking asking when will there be a presentation on steps to be taken. Dr. Cirasella answered that at the next meeting there will be a presentation of the district assessment profile where action plans for improvement will be discussed.

Ms. Vander Pyl asked what was the percentage of seniors going to a 2 or a 4 year college. Dr. Cirasella stated that she would have to call the high school for that information.

Ms. Sue Vander Pyl asked how often is a Curriculum updated. Dr. Cirasella stated that she could not speak to what happened in prior years but going forward – every 5 years. New Jersey is likely to adopt National Standards and when they do this may have to change.

Motion – Ms. Lein, seconded – Mr. Canellas. . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary