

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
JUNE 20, 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
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff: 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.**

Mr. McCourt presented Mrs. Sandra Criscenzo and Dr. Maryalice Thomas with NJ School Boards Association milestone award for 15 years of service.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

No Report

Student Representative to the Board – (Declan Feehan)

No Report

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

BOARD MOTIONS

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

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

May 2, 2023

May 16, 2023

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Dell'aglio, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

2. Approve the establishment of Petty Cash funds for the 2023-2024 school year for each of the following locations, specified in Policy Book Section 6620, as follows:

Superintendent's Office	\$100.00
Business Administrator's Office	\$100.00
Midland Park Jr. /Sr. High School	\$200.00
Highland School	\$100.00
Godwin School	\$100.00
Special Services Department	\$200.00
Continuing Education	\$300.00
Curriculum Office	\$100.00

3. Authorize the Superintendent to hire staff over the summer months with retroactive Board approval.

- +4. Approve the submission of the updated Safe Return to Schools Plan in accordance with state requirements.**

Roll Call: All Yes

- A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2022-2023 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 Marie Theodorides as the Midland Park Community School Before and After School Child Care Program Coordinator for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
2. Approve the summer hours for the following Midland Park Community School program staff:

Jo Ann Francolino	Program Co-Coordinator/Financial Manager for up to 150 additional hours
Beth Kasbarian	Youth Program Coordinator for up to 150 additional hours
3. Approve the summer hours for the following Secretaries, for up to 20 additional days each:

Michele Callesano	Highland Secretary to the Principal
Barbara Rasmussen	High School Secretary to the Principal
Christina Scott	Godwin Secretary to the Principal
Carol Weaver	High School Secretary to the Assistant Principal
4. Approve the appointment of Danielle Bache as the Affirmative Action & Title IX Officer, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
5. Approve the appointment and stipend in the amount of \$2,000 for Nicholas Capuano as the School Security Specialist for the 2023-2024 school year.
6. Approve the summer hours for the following appointments for Highland S.O.A.R. Academy, to be paid 100% through ESSER III funds per Schedule D of the MPEA Agreement, effective July 10 – July 27, 4 days per week, not to exceed 36 hours.

Debbie Lelinho	(Grade 3/4) - Math
Traci Audino	(Grade 3/4) - ELA
Jenna Abballe	(Grade 5/6) - Math
Christine Hirsch	(Grades 5/6) - ELA
Maureen O'Hara	(Substitute if needed)
7. Approve the summer hours for the following appointments for Godwin S.O.A.R. Academy, to be paid 100% through ESSER III funds per Schedule D of the MPEA Agreement, effective June 10 – July 27, 4 days per week, not to exceed 36 hours.

Stacy Boufford	Kindergarten
Caitlin Neville	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Holly Neville	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
8. Approve the summer hours for the following Child Study Team members to work up to 10 days each during the months of July and August 2023. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:

Christy Kearney	Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant
Jennifer Liss	School Social Worker

Catherine Prinsell                      School Psychologist  
Emily Trent                                School Psychologist  
Pamela Vermaas                         Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant

9. Approve the employment contract for Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2023-2024 school year, as approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

10. Approve the summer hours for the following Certified School Nurse to review student records to ensure that required immunizations are complete prior to the start of school. They will each work for two additional days, not to exceed 15 hours, and will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:

Karen Corcoran  
Lauren Fenning

Roll Call: All Yes

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

11. Approve the summer hours for Karen Corcoran, Certified School Nurse, for the physical examinations/health related paperwork for the Athletic teams. She will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, not to exceed 7 days.

12. Approve the appointment of the following HIB positions for the 2023-2024 school year. They will be paid a stipend of \$630.00, as per Schedule F of the MPEA contract:

Craig Rush                                 District Anti Bullying Coordinator  
Margaret Owens                         Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School Anti Bullying Specialist  
Kelly Scala                                 Godwin/Highland Elementary School Anti Bullying Specialist

13. Approve the appointment of Danielle Vandenberghe as the Option II Coordinator at the high school for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be paid a stipend of \$1,786.00, as per Schedule F of the MPEA contract.

14. Approve the following staff to work at the Midland Park Continuing Education Park Players Summer Theater Workshop starting on July 11, 2023 through July 28, 2023:

Mattia Thomson (Volunteer/CIT)  
Julianne Quinn (Volunteer/CIT)  
Declan Feehan (Counselor)

15. Approve the summer hours for the following staff at Midland Park High School guidance department, during the months of July and August 2023. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA Agreement.

Margaret Owens – Guidance – up to 91 hours  
Amelia Rodgers – Guidance – up to 21 hours  
Craig Rush – SAC – up to 12 hours

16. 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:

Marissa Gordon  
LaTaya Sinclair

17. Approve Mackenzie Kamp as the Assistant Director at the Midland Park Continuing Education Park Players Summer Theater Workshop starting on July 11, 2023 through July 28, 2023.
18. Approve the building transfer of employee #0193 from Godwin to Highland School, effective September 1, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +19. Approve the staff appointments for the Extended School Year Program, effective July 5, 2023 through July 27, 2023, as per the attached appendix.

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Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +20. Approve the following appointments as summer Custodial/Maintenance workers, pending submittal of required paperwork and Criminal History Review. They will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective June 22, 2023 through August 31, 2023:

Luke Brogan	Julianna Butler
Christopher Canellas	Ryan Clark
Brayden Crean	Michael Feuilly
Daniel Formicola	Jorge Hernandez
Liam McElwain	Sean Peterson
Mary Rodriguez	Joshua Schott
Ralph Warner	Dylan Zikos
Tyler Zikos	

Roll Call: Yes (6), abstain (2) Mr. Canellas, Mr. Formicola

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

- +21. Approve the appointment of Katy Hildebrand as a Kindergarten teacher at Godwin 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.
- +22. Approve the appointment of Riley Murray as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher at Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$54,999 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- +23. Approve the appointment of Jennifer Amoroso as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Special Education teacher at Godwin 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.

+24. 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 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024:

Ava Agrati	Jeanne Bartlam
McKenzie Cieri	Anthony Cornetta
Gabriella DelValle	Janet Dribnack
Nareka Hartmann	Vinnette Komjian
Linda Loken	Felicia Robinson
Christina Scott	Samantha Tuozzo

+25. Approve the appointment of the following as substitute bus aides, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Craig Irvolino  
Kris Jaje  
Anthony Papapietro

+26. Approve the appointment of Ligia Gomez as a part-time Bus Aide. She will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

+27. Approve the Fall & Winter Coaches at the High School for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix.

A-27

+28. Approve the appointment of Lisa McNerney as a substitute Athletic Trainer for the 2023-2024 preseason and school year.

+29. Approve an unpaid maternity leave extension of Employee #1821 for the 2023-2024 school year.

+30. Approve the increase in salary for Meghan Martinez from \$75,250 (MA Step 10) to \$86,850 (MA +30 Step 10), effective September 1, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

S-1. Approve a stipend payment to the following ABA trained Instructional Aide, in accordance with the MPEA Agreement:

Godwin School  
Amanda Valcarcel

S-2. Approve Patricia Trava as a substitute nurse for the ESY program at a rate of \$400 per hour, effective July 5, 2023 through July 27, 2023.

S-3. Approve the resignation of Employee #2193, effective June 30, 2023.

S-4. Approve Anja Lubbe, summer office support, pending Criminal History Review. She will be paid \$15 per hour, effective June 26, 2023 through August 31, 2023.

- S-5. 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-6. Approve the appointment of Jaimie Synnott as an Art teacher at Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$55,500 (MA Step 2 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- S-7. Approve the appointment of Alexander Sienko as a Special Education teacher at Highland School. He will be paid a salary of \$54,999 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA guide), effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of May 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. May 2023 direct pays in the amount of \$479,340.64.
- b. May 2023 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$108,690.97.
- c. May 2023 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$52,025.34.
- d. First May 2023 payroll in the amount of \$690,445.73.
- e. Second May 2023 payroll in the amount of \$695,421.52.
- f. June 2023 claims in the amount of \$323,273.27.
- g. First June 2023 payroll in the amount of \$790,105.41.

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period May 1 - 31, 2023, as per the attached appendix.

B-3

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

B-4

5. Approve the Annual IDEA Agreement between the Bergen County Special Services School District and Midland Park Public School District for the provision of educational services for non-public school students through IDEA funding for the 2023-24 school year.

6. Approve the tuition rate for out-of-district students to attend the Midland Park Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year, as follows:

Pre/K - \$19,118  
Grades 1-5 - \$22,986  
Grades 6-8 - \$22,732  
Grades 9-12 - \$28,899

7. Approve the following resolution for the transfer of current year surplus to reserve:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-13 permit a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a Board of Education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by Board resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Midland Park Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into a Capital Reserve account at year end, and

WHEREAS, the Midland Park Board of Education has determined to retain as yearend unreserved undesignated fund balance for the year end June 30, 2023 an amount not-to-exceed the state mandated 2% cap plus an additional \$275,000.00; with the excess above this amount, in an amount not to exceed the maximum allowable amount defined by the district's Long Range Facility Plan is to be transferred to the Capital Reserve Account subject to the verification upon completion of the Audit;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Midland Park Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

8. Authorize the Business Administrator to cancel outstanding checks in the various accounts, in accordance with the Auditor's recommendations, as per the attached appendix. B-8

9. Approve the schedule of tax payments request from the Borough of Midland Park for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix. B-9

10. Approve the agreement with StageWorks Theatre Group, Inc. to produce the Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School musical for the 2023-24 school year, at a rate of \$21,360.



11. Approve the appointment of Lerch, Vinci, & Bliss, LLP, to provide auditing services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 and accountant for non-audit advisory services at the contract fees and billable rates as per the engagement agreement.
- +12. Approve the contract for in-school nursing services by Bayada Home Health Care, Inc., effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at the rate \$65 per hour for RN services and \$65 per hour for LPN services for classified elementary school student #1.
- +13. Approve the contract for in-school nursing services by Bayada Home Health Care, Inc., effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at the rate of \$65 per hour for RN services and \$65 per hour for LPN services for classified elementary school student #2.
- +14. Approve the Contract for in-school nursing services between Bayada Home Health Care, Inc., and the Midland Park Public Schools to provide substitute Registered Nurses on a substitute basis, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at the rate of \$65 per hour for RN services.
- +15. Approve the membership resolution in the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association for the 2023-2024 school year.
- +16. Approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Midland Park Public School District and the Camden County Educational Services Commission for the 2023-2024 school year.
- +17. Approve the Software License Agreement with Linkit! and the Midland Park School District for Grades K-6, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$12,178.
- +18. Approve the Agreement for per diem Athletic Training Services between SD Gameday and the Midland Park School District, effective, August 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- +19. Approve the Bergen County Special Services contract for services required under Chapters 192 and 193 of the Laws of 1977 for the 2023-2024 school year.
- +20. Approve the clinical staffing agreement between Horizon Healthcare Staffing and the Midland Park Board of Education to provide a full range of staffing services on an as-needed basis, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- +21. Approve Educational Translation Services, Inc., for translation and interpretation services. Their fee is \$150.70 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year.
- +22. Approve the Cafeteria price lists for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix.
- +23. Approve the following service providers for July & August:

Franny Renshaw	ABA Therapist/Consultant	\$125.00 per hour
Amanda Parsons	ABA Home Program	\$170.00 per hour
A New Day	ABA Home Program	\$125.00 per hour
Joan Moscarello	Occupational Therapist	\$110.00 per hour

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<b>Melissa Bengal</b>	<b>Speech Therapist</b>	<b>\$110.00 per hour</b>
<b>Julia Bean</b>	<b>Physical Therapist</b>	<b>\$110.00 per hour</b>
<b>123 ABA</b>	<b>Parent/Home Training</b>	<b>\$75.00 per hour</b>

- +24. **Approve Good Talking People to provide social skills support, for a special education student, two week session at a rate of \$1,425.00.**
- +25. **Approve Bergen County Special Services to provide transition job coaching at a rate of \$80.00 per hour.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

- 1. **Approve the transportation and placement of a classified school student at ECLC of New Jersey, a private school for students with disabilities, from July, 2023 through June 30, 2024.**
- +2. **Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Eurico Antunes</b>	<b>Genetec Support Certification</b>	<b>Secaucus, NJ</b>	<b>\$2,028</b>	<b>9/12-15/23</b>
<b>Morgan Altemus</b>	<b>AP English Language &amp; Composition</b>	<b>On-line</b>	<b>\$495</b>	<b>7/10-13/23</b>

- +3. **Approve the decommissioning of 24 Physics books from the High School.**
- +4. **Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the special education placements and transportation for the Extended School Year 2023, as per the attached appendix.**

C-4

Roll Call: All Yes

Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mrs. Dell’Aglia...

- S-1. **Approve the Course/Program for STEM (Innovative Design II).**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mrs. Criscenzo, seconded – Mrs. Fantulin...

- +1. **Approve the following Mandated Policies, as per the attached appendices:**

- a. **Board Member Orientation and Training** **Policy Section 0144 D-1a**
- b. **Use of Corporal Punishment** **Policy Section 3217 D-1b**

c. **Use of Corporal Punishment (New)** **Policy Section 4217** **D-1c**

d. **Citizens Advisory Committees** **Policy Section 9140** **D-1d**

+2. **Approve the following revised Mandated Policy, as per the attached appendix:**

a. **School District Security** **Policy Section 7440** **D-2a**

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Dr. Marie Cirasella)

No Report

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

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

+1. **Approve the submission of the application for Toilet Room Facilities for Early Intervention, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Classrooms in the Godwin School to the NJ Department of Education.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No Report

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

No Report

I. Town Council Committee – (B. McCourt, P. Fantulin)

- We met last night, we will be scheduling another one shortly

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

- Met prior to last meeting
- The Mission Statement change to include some notes/words about diversity to show How much we encompass our diverse population
- We will meet again to review samples for the next meeting

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (C. Dell’Aglia)

- Thank you to all they have done for our students this year, especially at the high school level
- The students benefited from the jolly trolley and therapy dogs

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

- Last meeting of the year was on 5/22
- Teacher of the Year awards
- Thank you to the out-going officers and welcome the new executive committee
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade flag day performance at Godwin School
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade clap out at Highland School
- Pre-k graduation at Godwin School

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

- We had a successful year
- Requests were received from Mr. Stokes for equipment
- The club went out of their way to fundraise

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Triolo)

No Report

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

- Congratulations to all the students

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Seven grants were given to teachers
- \$2500 scholarship was given to a senior
- 5K is on 9/9

Board of Recreation – (J. Canellas)

- Thanks to the town sports at the senior awards ceremony

Continuing Education Program – (N. Eliya)

- Registration is open for summer camp and some additional programs

L. Old Business

No Report

M. New Business

Motion – Mrs. Criscenzo, seconded – Mr. Eliya

Motion to go into closed session after this meeting at 8:50 p.m., no action will be taken.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of July 18, 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.

Officer Tilson thanked the board and administration for the opportunity to be the SRO for the past 5 years. He spoke about the program, the relationships he created with the students and community and how much he enjoyed the time he spent in the position.

Crystal Desane spoke to the board about how dissatisfied she was about how the lockdown was handled and the emails that went out notifying the parents of the event. She was also dissatisfied with the response she received from the superintendent when she contacted the office to get further information on the event.

Dina Catuogno, Griffen Kutcha, Chris Weston, Dana Dispoto, Jessica Haftek and Antoinette Gillespie all addressed the Board regarding the SRO program and gave reasons why it should stay intact. They spoke of their concerns for the safety of their children and liked having the Midland Park Police Department directly involved with school security and present in the school buildings.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary