

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
Board of Education  
Midland Park, New Jersey  
October 6, 2015**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Maryalice Thomas, 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 2015 elective year. A notice was also posted outside of 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. In addition, all questions must be presented to the Board of Education during the public session and prior to the adjournment of the meeting."

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Richard Formicola	Brian McCourt
	Robert Schiffer	William Sullivan
	Timothy Thomas	Peter Triolo

Maryalice Thomas

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**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.**

Dr. Thomas stated this was a very difficult week with the loss of Mr. Leon Varjian. The amount of students at his wake was remarkable. He has inspired many students. A Moment of Silence in honor of Mr. Varjian was observed.

## AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on October 20, 2015.  
No one chose to speak.

**Open to Public-** Comments only for action items on the agenda.

No comments at this time.

## **BOARD MOTIONS**

### **Action Items:**

A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

APPENDIX

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2015-2016 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. Sullivan, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Accept the resignation of Christina Gouraige, Director of Special Services, effective November 27, 2015.
2. Approve the revision to the previously approved maternity leave request for Patricia Sicree, Speech Language Specialist in the Godwin School, to commence retroactive from October 5, 2015, instead of October 12, 2015.
3. Approve the revision to the previously approved paid maternity leave request for Megan Martinez, elementary school teacher in the Godwin School, to commence October 12, 2015 through November 1, 2015; a paid child care leave, effective November 2, 2015 through December 13, 2015 and an unpaid leave of absence as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective December 14, 2015 through March 6, 2016.
4. Approve the appointment of Katelyn Amuso as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade maternity leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$45,000 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), prorated effective October 7, 2015 through approximately March 11, 2016.
5. Approve the appointment of Barbara Goldin as a Speech Language Specialist maternity leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$60,500 (MA Step 13 on the MPEA salary guide), prorated effective October 7, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
6. Approve the appointment of Joanne Manicone as the English Enrichment teacher at the high school. She will be paid 3% of her salary, as per Article XIII, Section F, effective October 7, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

7. Approve the appointment of Elizabeth Chase as an Anti Bullying Specialist at the high school for the 2015-2016 school year. She will be paid a stipend of \$515, as per Schedule F of the MPEA contract.

8. Approve the following addition to the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the high school for the 2015-2016 school year:

Add: Emily Walker National Honor Society Advisor	<u>Stipend</u> \$1,478.
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9. Approve the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the Highland School for the 2015-2016 school year, as per the attached appendix. A-9

10. Approve a paid sick leave of absence for Cesar Palacios, Custodian in the Highland School, effective September 28, 2015 through November 13, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Criscenzo . . .

To approve the following block motion:

11. Approve the following additions to the list of substitute workers for the 2015-2016 school year:

Ricky Racines	Custodian
Luz Denise Rivera	Bus Driver

12. Approve the following appointments for the Winter Ski Program sponsored by the Midland Park Continuing Education program:

David Hershberger	Co-advisor
Jeffrey Peters	Co-advisor
Edward Salvi	Volunteer Chaperone

13. Accept the resignation of Jean Swanson as a Homework Aide for the After School Child Care program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, effective retroactive to October 6, 2015.

14. Approve the appointment of Megan Conklin as a Homework Aide for the After School Child Care program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, effective October 7, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

15. This item was pulled from the Agenda.

16. Approve April Smith, William Paterson University student, to observe classified students in physical education and/or physical therapy classes for 10 hours, as her final project requirement, effective October 8, 2015 through November 30, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

S-1. Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .  
Approve the following addition to the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the high school for the 2015-2016 school year:

Add: Danielle Vandenberghe	Math Team Advisor	<u>Stipend</u> \$1,079
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S-2. Approve the appointment of Karen Fracassini as an Aide for the After School Child Care program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education, effective October 7, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance- (R. Schiffer, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the purchase of an augmentative communication device in the amount of \$8,045 for an elementary school special education student attending the Children’s Therapy Center in Midland Park.

Funds transferred from: 11 000 100 566 91 40

Funds transferred to: 12 000 217 320 04 40

2. Accept the grant moneys from the 2015 Bergen County Utilities Authority Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant awarded as follows:

Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School - Nancy DeRitter	\$1,000.00
Highland Elementary School - David Hershberger	\$ 896.99

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the “The Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials”.
2. Approve the Annual Contract for Non Public Nursing Services for the 2015-2016 school year with the Bergen County Health Department, at Eastern Christian Elementary School.
3. Approve the Nursing Services Plan for the 2015-2016 school year, which is attached as an appendix. C-3

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

4. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Teresa Mallon	NJ Science Teachers Workshop	Princeton, NJ	\$217.66	Oct. 13, 2015
Jason Whelpley	NJ Science Teachers Workshop	Princeton, NJ	\$217.66	Oct. 14, 2015
Nancy LoPresti	AP Government Workshop	Verona, NJ	\$196.35	Oct. 31, 2015

5. Approve the following program for the Midland Park Continuing Education program:

Winter Ski Program (Ski Club)

Roll Call: All Yes

### **LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- D. Policy Committee- (T. Thomas, Chairperson)

No Report.

- E. Legislative Committee- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

No Report.

- F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

#### **Facility Update:**

- The new boilers in Highland School have had their test run
- The new track running surface is being installed.
- Godwin classroom lighting is complete.
- MPHS cafeteria lighting is complete.
- New generator installation to begin soon.

#### **District Happenings:**

- Installing new closet doors at Godwin School in 7 classrooms.
- Installed 4 new ECO- Friendly water fountains in MP Jr./Sr. High School.
- 3 SGI rooms in Highland School are very close to being completed.
- Hung several smart boards at Godwin School.
- Repaired several A/C issues.
- Boilers at MP Jr./Sr. High School, Highland and Godwin School have been serviced and inspected.
- Repaired many restroom plumbing issues district wide.

G. Negotiations Committee- (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

No Report.

H. Public Relations Committee- (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

No Report.

I. Personnel Committee- (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

Christina Gouraige has resigned and the position of Special services has been advertised.

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Looking for new Fund Raiser ideas.

Speaker to talk about the stress that children face in school

Elementary School PTA - (P. Triolo)

The following items were reported on:

-The website for the PTA is up and running.

-The website can produce a handbook on site.

-Candidate's Night will be October 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 in the Highland Media Center.

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

No Report.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The following items were discussed:

-The Band will be performing on Sunday, October 11 at Ramapo Indian Hills in Oakland.

-Wine and Food Tasting at the Fire House

- Lord & Taylor Shopping Coupon Night

- \$5.00 Fundraiser

- Plant sale

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

The Barn activities are continuing for the new school year.

Education Foundation – (R. Formicola)

The following items were reported on:

-Grant information is coming soon

-Gala event planned at Maculuso's

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

It was reported that Stage 1 of VanDerMeer Field is finished.  
The field will not be able to be used during Stage 2.  
We will be discussing the plans with all organizations.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (Aidan MacLean)

The following items were reported on:  
Mr. Leon Varjian's passing was devastating to the students. The school came together to memorialize him.  
Students like using the Chromebooks.

Borough Town Council – (M. Thomas and J. Canellas)

No Report.

Ad Hoc – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS**

Mr. Formicola wanted to share the fact that Mr. Varjian sent his son who was in Boot Camp a hand written note wishing him luck. Mr. Formicola commented that Mr. Varjian was one in a million.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No one chose to speak about anything at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Triolo . . .

To go into closed session prior to the close of this meeting for the purpose of reviewing confidential personnel issues. No action will be taken upon the return to the public session.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of October 20, 2015, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

## Open to the Public

Dr. Thomas invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Fantulin commented on the resignation of the Director of Special Services. She commented on the changeover in this position and the possible reasons. Dr. Cirasella responded the personnel committee discussed the position tonight. She further stated people leave for many different reasons. However, we will look for the best candidate.

Mr. Sullivan commented that this is not an easy position to fill. There are not many people qualified to fill this position.

Ms. Fantulin commented that the new Chromebooks do not have some capabilities the students need. The software is much simpler. She asked if there is a way for the students to use some of the apps that are available. Dr. Cirasella responded we still do have the carts to use and we are still in the learning process. However, we will discuss this with the staff.

Ms. Fantulin commented there is some printing difficulty when the students are working during their lunch break. Ms. Garvey commented Mrs. Fantulin needs to discuss these issues with the Principal. Dr. Thomas stated that there will be a meeting to discuss and get some feed-back from the community, which will be planned by the Principal.

The Board convened into Closed Session at 8:25pm, after which no action will be taken.

The Board reconvened at 10:08 pm.

Motion - Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .  
To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary