

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. McCourt 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 21st 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*

- The Apex Leadership Program was a big success at Godwin School. The Apex team taught six leadership lessons to Godwin students during the two-week program. As part of the initiative, students collected pledges for a culminating activity called The Glow Run. The Glow Run was amazing and students raised \$13,729.10 for Godwin School.
- \$5,000 of the proceeds from this leadership program will support painting the Godwin playground to add interactive components. We are also very grateful to the elementary PTA who will also donate \$5,000 towards the playground project. The remaining funds raised through the Flow Run Apex will be used for classroom furniture and murals to be painted inside Godwin School.
- The company painting the interactive playground is called Yellow Door Art Studio. It is owned and operated by art teacher Lauren Mandel, an experienced art educator who now works with districts on a variety of inclusive and motivating art projects. Included in the painting will be a hopscotch grid, Tic Tac Toe games and a sensory path. We hope to have the painting completed over spring break.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE *Declan Feehan*

- This week the Thrive club held their second annual complement fundraiser
- Four MPHS students compete in the Bergen County Consumer Bowl competition about the consumer laws in NJ
- Model UN had their competition and they spent two days debating issues against other surrounding High Schools
- Midland Park/Wyckoff VFW held their Patriot's Pen essay contest and there were three winners: James Tarleton, Riley Clark and Olivia Fallon
- Anastasia, the musical, is March 10-12. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$20 at the door
- Grace Mahoney received a scholastic art honorable mention award for her art piece titled, Early Morning Reminder
- This week is winter spirit week and a pep rally this Friday, 2/17
- The Midland Park /Waldwick cheer team won first place at Ramapo's cheer competition
- Winter break is next week, 2/20-2/24

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

No one chose to speak at this time.

BOARD MOTIONS

- Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Triolo...
1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings held on:

January 3, 2023
January 17, 2023

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 – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mrs. Fantulin...

1. Approve a paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1821, effective February 10, 2023 through April 28, 2023; an unpaid child care leave, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately May 1, 2023 through June 22, 2023 and September 8, 2023 through September 29, 2023.
2. Approve an extension in the unpaid child care leave of Employee No. 2001, effective February 28, 2023 through June 30, 2023.
3. Approve the extended appointment as a 2nd Grade leave replacement for Roberta Carbah. She will be paid a salary of \$49,500 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective February 17, 2023 through June 30, 2023.
4. Approve a paid maternity leave for Employee No. 1246, effective approximately April 10, 2023 through June 9, 2023; an unpaid child care leave as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective approximately June 12, 2023 through June 22, 2023 and resuming September 5, 2023 through November 13, 2023.
5. Approve an unpaid child care leave, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, for Employee No. 1907, effective March 1, 2023 through May 10, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Dr. Cirasella asked for this motion with extreme regret- unbelievably lucky to have had worked with these teachers. They will all be missed. She wished them much health and happiness in their retirement.

6. Approve the retirement resignation of Jeffrey Hackett as the Health/Physical Education Teacher at the High School, effective June 30, 2023.
7. Approve the retirement resignation of Maureen Fister-Donatien as the Health/Physical Education Teacher at the High School, effective June 30, 2023.
8. Approve the retirement resignation of Teresa Wecht as an English Teacher at the High School, effective June 30, 2023.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

9. Approve the following teachers to work before/after school in the Highland intervention program. They will be paid at the rate of \$43.26 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, not to exceed 40 hours each, effective February 16, 2023. They will be paid out of ESSER III funds.

Jenna Abballe – Math	Cristina Horuzy – Reading
Patricia Olson – Math	Danielle Kirsch – Reading
Amy Tamburri – Math	Nicole Marino – Reading
Maureen O’Hara – (Substitute as needed)	

10. Approve the following teachers to work a sixth period teaching assignment at the High School. They will be paid as per Article XIII Section F of the MPEA contract, prorated, effective April 10, 2023 – June 22, 2023.

Danielle Vandenberghe	AP Calculus (AB)
Jessa Cabibbo	Pre-Calc Honors
Jessica Lee	Geometry Honors
Tara Nafash	Geometry Honors
Rosemary Filev	Personal Finance

11. Approve the appointment of Marie Cornetta as the Midland Park Continuing Education Summer Camp 2023 Coordinator for 7 weeks, effective June 26, 2023 through August 11, 2023.

12. Approve the appointment of Caitlin Shannon as the Midland Park Continuing Education Park Players Summer Theater Workshop 2023 Director for 3 weeks, effective July 10, 2023 through July 27, 2023.

13. Approve the following additions to the list of Spring Coaches at the High School for the 2022-2023 school year:

Ryan Rivera	High School Baseball Assistant Coach	<u>Stipend</u> \$5,332
Kayla Miller	High School Track/Field Assistant	Volunteer

14. Approve Kidz Musik for Grades K-3 at the Highland School on March 14, 2023, sponsored by the Midland Park Continuing Education Program.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +15. **Approve the appointment of Jodi Kwasnik as the Payroll & Benefits Coordinator. She will be paid a prorated salary of \$60,000, effective March 6, 2023 through June 30, 2023, as per her employment contract, pending Criminal History Review.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +16. **Approve the revised return date for an unpaid child care leave, as per the NJ Family Leave Act for Employee No. 1915, from March 31, 2023 to March 3, 2023.**
- +17. **Approve the job description for the new Spring Track/Fitness Club Advisor.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- +18. **Approve the appointment of Samantha Severance as a Special Education maternity leave replacement for Kristen Connors. She will be paid a salary of \$50,900 (BA, Step 4 on the MPEA salary guide), effective February 27, 2023 through June 30, 2023, pending Criminal History Review.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the appointment of Ryan Rivera as an Instructional Aide in the High School. He will be paid a salary of \$25,300 (Category V Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide) prorated, effective approximately March 1, 2023 (or sooner) through June 30, 2023, pending Criminal History Review.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

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 January 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. January 2023 direct pays in the amount of \$883,035.59.
- b. January 2023 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$43,456.11.
- c. January 2023 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$69,535.82.
- d. Second January 2023 payroll in the amount of \$684,044.40.
- e. February 2023 claims in the amount of \$463,290.97.

- 3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period January 1– 31, 2023: B-3
- 4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period January 1 – 31, 2023, as per the attached appendix: B-4

5. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Midland Park Board of Education does hereby approve an agreement with the Region 1/Mahwah Board of Education, a Coordinated Transportation Services Agency, for the purpose of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 for the 2023/2024 school year. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, the coordinated transportation of public, nonpublic and special education students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education agrees to abide by the Transportation Services Agreement as published by the Region 1/Mahwah Board of Education and attached to this resolution.

- +6. **Approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between Paterson Public Schools and Midland Park Public Schools for the 2022-2023 School Year.**
- +7. **Approve the Northern Region Educational Services Commission for Special Education students for support services.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Triolo...

- +8. **Approve Team Together (AAU Basketball Team) in the Midland Park High School Gym, as a rental for the Continuing Education Program for the following dates:**

March 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30
April 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28
May 4, 5, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
June 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Triolo...

- S-2. Approve the resolution for award of bid for Rooftop Unit Replacements at Godwin School and Midland Park High School to Pattman Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning, Inc., as per the attached appendix. B. S-2.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Catherine Prinsell	Oppositional Defiant & Disruptive Children	Nanuet, NY	\$249.99	3/22/2023
Glenn Stokes	Directors of Athletics Association of NJ	Atlantic City, NJ	\$807.60	3/15-17/2023
Margaret Owens	American School Counselor	Atlanta, GA	\$399.00	7/15-18/2023

- +2. **Approve the placement and transportation for a classified elementary school student in the Bergen County Special Services Nova Elementary School Program, Emerson, NJ, effective retroactive from February 13, 2023 through June 22, 2023.**
- +3. **Approve the bedside instruction of a classified high school student provided by St. Cloud School District, effective retroactive from January 23, 2023 through approximately April 23, 2023.**
- +4. **Approve the following proposed overnight trip:**

Concert Band Students, Grades 7 – 12, to Anaheim, CA from December 8-12, 2023

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

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

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

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| a. Bilingual and ESL Education | Policy Section 2423 | D-1a |
| b. Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program | Policy Section 2425 | D-1b |
| c. Attendance | Policy Section 5200 | D-1c |
| d. Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying | Policy Section 5512 | D-1d |
| e. Student Enrollments | Policy Section 8140 | D-1e |
| f. Student Records | Policy Section 8330 | D-1f |

Roll Call: All Yes

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

+2. **Approve the abolishment of the following Mandated Policies:**

a. **The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety Policy Section 1648.11**

b. **School Employee Vaccination Requirements Policy Section 1648.13**

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

- The NJ Department of Education has announced that NJ has been awarded a five-year \$14 million federal grant to expand school-based mental health services for students. The funding will be used to expand the number of psychologists, counselors and social workers in NJ schools with the greatest need.
- The NJDOE will distribute funds to school districts through a competitive grant process that will target communities with higher levels of poverty and the greatest need. The program will focus on expanding the number of mental health professionals working in school districts.
- The Ridgewood BOE has approved later start schedule for high school students this fall. The new instructional day will begin at 8:20 and conclude at 3:05, with an additional period until 3:30. Other issues like contractual matters, financial impact and after-school activities that require schedules of other districts to be in alignment still need to be worked out. We are monitoring the progress and are interested in how Ridgewood will satisfy these challenges.

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

No Report

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

- We met tonight, will have report coming shortly

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)

No Report

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (C. Dell'Aglio)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

- Security presentation was held at the last PTA meeting by Ms. Bache and Mr. Galasso
- Other events to date: read-a-thon, pumpkin patch, trunk or treat, book fair, holiday events, talent show, personalized room service

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

- Another successful Pack the House night
- Planning a Spring fundraiser

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Triolo)

- They are meeting right now
- Anastasia, the Musical - 3/10-12

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Tickets are on sale for Flabbers & Gents at Macaluso's – 3/11

Board of Recreation – (J. Canellas)

- Will be contacting Kathy LaMonte

Continuing Education Program – (N. Eliya)

- Hosting holiday camps at the High School over winter and spring break
- STEM, Art & Sports are being offered over winter and spring break

L. Old Business

No Report

M. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of March 7, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, legal updates and confidential student HIB case reviews.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator