

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
FEBRUARY 16, 2024**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McCourt at 5:00 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 2024 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:	Sandra Criscenzo	Christine Dell’Aglio
	Nabil Eilya	Richard Formicola
	Daniel McCarthy	Maryalice Thomas
	Peter Triolo	Brian McCourt
	Patricia Fantulin	

**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 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

Dr. Cirasella reported that the Highland School Centennial celebration has been scheduled for May 30, 2024, which is the anniversary of the date the first Cornerstone was laid. The Centennial Committee is busy finalizing special events for the day. We will be sure to keep everyone posted on what is sure to be a special day for Highland School students, alumni, teachers and everyone in the district.

Approve the following resolutions:

- Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Mrs. Criscenzo...
- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 1214233187 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.
  - b. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 1214233188 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.
  - c. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 1214233189 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

Roll Call: All Yes

Student Representative to the Board – (Declan Feehan)

Declan apologized for his absence the past few Board meetings because he is busy working hard on the Musical this year.

- Seth Sverdlov won the Independent Fencing Championship and will move on to the State Championship on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Riley Butler qualified for Track and Field Nationals and throwing events for Indoor Shot Put.
- Jake Douma holds the new school record for Indoor Shot Put with a throw of 48' 4.5".
- Samantha Cebulski holds the new indoor Long Jump record with a jump of 16' 7.25".
- We had six students compete in the Super Bowl and our team was first runner up for the second year in a row.
- The Art Center of Northern New Jersey held an art exhibition and three MPHS students won an award for their works: Atlas Ceryansuyu won second place in Painting, Olivia Dell'Aglio won third place in Digital Art and Sophia Southey received honorable mention in Digital Art.
- Boys Basketball and Girls Sideline Cheer had their Senior Night against Woodridge and won 67 to 38.
- The College Board awarded our AP Computer Science principals for their female diversity in class.
- The High School Musical, "The Adams Family" is coming up on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. and March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

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

None

## BOARD MOTIONS

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

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

January 2, 2024  
January 30, 2024

Roll Call: All Yes

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

1. Approve the following teachers to provide Home Instruction for an elementary school classified student. They will be paid at the rate of \$43.26 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract for up to ten hours per week, effective February 14, 2024 through April 1, 2024:

Jenna Abballe  
Nicole Marino  
Shawn Savage  
Amy Tamburri

2. Approve an additional position for Rasha Alhomsy as a .5 Instructional Aide in the Kindergarten class. She will be paid a salary of \$13,000 (Category V, Step 1 on the Secretarial/Clerical salary guide) prorated, effective **retroactive from** February 14, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
3. Approve the appointment of Martina McCarthy as a 1st grade special education leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$55,000 (MA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective February 26, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
4. Approve a paid medical leave of absence for Employee No. 0207, effective February 7, 2024 through approximately March 1, 2024.
5. Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Employee No. 1423, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, effective April 9, 2024 through May 6, 2024.
6. Approve the following Aides for the Midland Park Community School Youth Basketball Camp, effective February 21, 22 and 23, 2024:

Sean Fells  
JT Graham  
Sean Murray  
Ryan Natoli

Roll Call: All Yes

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

7. Approve the following Aides to work for the Midland Park Community School February Break Mini-Camp, effective February 21, 22 and 23, 2024:

Declan Feehan  
Sharon Focaccia  
Grace Pagano

8. Approve the following Aide for the Midland Park Community School Before and After School Child Care Program, effective February 14, 2024 through June 30, 2024:

Camila Granados

9. Approve Kayla Zapata, Passaic County Community College student, to observe Mrs. Kirsch's class for six hours as part of her teacher prep requirements, effective approximately March 18, 2024.

10. Approve the following Aide to work for the Midland Park Community School Kindergarten Readiness Program, effective July 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2024:

Vinnette Komjian

Roll Call: All Yes

- B. Finance Committee – (C. Dell'Aglio, Chairperson)

Motion – Mrs. Dell'Aglio, 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, 2024, 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 2024 direct pays in the amount of \$1,354,305.74.
- b. January 2024 Community School claims in the amount of \$73,667.61.
- c. January 2024 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$41,983.61.
- d. Second January 2024 payroll in the amount of \$703,571.93.

e. February 2024 claims in the amount of \$780,381.61.

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary’s Report for the period January 1 – 31, 2024, as per the attached appendix.

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4. Approve the transfers among accounts for the period January 1 – 31, 2024, as per the attached appendix.

B-4

5. Accept the following donations toward the purchase of a new digital sign at the High School, as per Board Policy 7230:

\$25,000 Midland Park Community School  
 \$ 500 Midland Park Education Foundation

6. Approve the updated Region I List of Independent Evaluators for the 2023-2024 school year, as per the attached appendix:

B-6

7. 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 **2024/2025** 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.

8. Approve the submission of the SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) Waiver for the 2024 – 2025 school year to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Danielle Bache	Science of Reading	On-line	\$ 200.00	2/14/2024
Patrick Clark	DAANJ Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	\$1,055.48	3/11-14/2024
Jean Swanson	Practical Strategies and Resources	On-line	\$ 295.00	4/17/2024
Margaret Owens	School Counseling Conference	Kansas City, MO	\$ 399.00	7/13-16/2024

2. Approve the Academic Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, as per the attached appendix:
3. Approve the non-resident enrollments of the children of Employee No. 0115, in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class in the Highland School and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class in the High School, for September 2024, as per Board Policy 5111.
4. Approve the proposed overnight trip to Quebec City, Canada for Grades 8-12 students in the French program and active members of the French Club, from November 6 – 9, 2024.

Mrs. Fantulin indicated that she is particularly happy to see trips restored since COVID.

5. **Approve “The Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials 2023 Revisions”.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

No report

- E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No report

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

No report

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

No report

- H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (P. Fantulin, Chairperson)

No report

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

No report

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

Mrs. Dell’Aglia said the committee has been struggling to hold a meeting with the weather issues and that she hopes to have a meeting before the next Board meeting.

K. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (C. Dell'Aglio)

No report

Elementary School PTA- (P. Fantulin)

Mrs. Fantulin reported that a few events are coming up:

- Elementary Spirit Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Read Across America which starts March 4 – 8

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

Mr. Formicola reported on the success of Pack the House nights. Boosters will be meeting soon and he will have an update.

Performing Arts Parents – (N. Eliya)

Mr. Eliya said that the Performing Arts Parents would like to thank everyone for supporting the Valentine Candy Gram fundraiser.

The Adams Family musical tickets went on sale today. New this year, you can purchase tickets on line and select your own seats. You can get there by [mphis.ludus.com](http://mphis.ludus.com). Cash/check will only be accepted during lobby sales starting 45 minutes before each show.

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

Dr. Thomas reported that all students completed their semester exams and are grateful for the upcoming break.

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

Mrs. Criscenzo reported that March 9, 2024 will be “Battle of the Bands” held at Macaluso’s. There will be four bands and a DJ. There is an After Party at 11 Central and 10% of their proceeds will also go to the Ed Foundation.

Board of Recreation – (D. McCarthy)

Mr. McCarthy reported that basketball season is under way and everyone is having a fun time. They are looking for volunteers to re-form a Basketball Board and to ease the strain of one single person handling all the duties. Baseball and Softball registration is open for Spring. Follow the links there for registration. Waldwick Lacrosse died off since COVID and Midland Park students played for Waldwick. La Crosse moved to Highlands. Highlands is offering to let anyone play, just GOOGLE Highland Lacrosse and follow the link.

Continuing Education Program – (P. Triolo)

No report

L. Old Business

None

M. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of March 19, 2024, 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.

None

Motion – Mr. Formicola, seconded Mr. Triolo...

To adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary