

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
July 14, 2020**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Formicola 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 2020 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.”

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Christine Dell’Aglio	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin	Brian McCourt
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Richard Formicola

**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 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.**

Public Hearing to discuss the Superintendent's contract

Ms. Garvey reviewed the terms of the Superintendent's contract;

Term of contract 7/1/20 – 6/30/25, five-year contract

Compensation for 2020-2021 will be \$214,000 with incremental increases of 2% each year, thereafter.

One additional personal day and one additional vacation day.

Mr. Formicola thanked Dr. Cirasella for her vision and guidance especially during the Pandemic; she is doing an unbelievable job.

Mr. Canellas stated that locking Dr. Cirasella in for five years is the best thing for our students; stability is necessary during this time.

Mr. Triolo echoed Mr. Canellas and stated that the stability we have in leadership and the teacher's union, give the best opportunities for students. We need the right people in place, for what we have ahead and what we do not know. Happy we have union cooperation and great leadership.

Mr. Eliya commented that Dr. Cirasella has done a fantastic job during a difficult time. He stated his vote tonight has nothing to do with her or her performance, just the process.

Ms. Dell'Aglio agreed with Mr. Eliya. She stated her vote has nothing to do with her performance and that she is not happy with the process.

Ms. Fantulin agreed that the process is rushed but chose stability especially during the Pandemic.

Open to the Public

There were no questions asked by the public.

Motion to close the Public Hearing

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

Approve the revised employment contract for Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025, pending approval by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

Roll Call: 7 Yes, 2 No (Dell'Aglio, Eliya)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

District Reopening Plan for School Families – On June 26<sup>th</sup>, the NJ Department of Education released its guidance document for school reopening, "The Road Back, Restart and Recovery Plan for Education." This document was developed to provide districts with information to

ensure schools may reopen safely and to accommodate students' unique needs. Due to the individualized nature of school districts, a great deal of latitude was provided to enable each district to develop a plan that is unique to the needs of its specific student population and school footprints. Here is a brief summary of elements contained in our plan thus far:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. School Day Timeframes                                      | 10. Physical Education, Athletics                   |
| 2. Instructional Schedule                                     | 11. Isolation Locations, Contact Tracing Procedures |
| 3. Delivery of Instruction                                    | 12. Social Emotional Learning                       |
| 4. Student Attendance   | 13. School Culture and Climate                      |
| 5. Entrance Screening Protocols for Students, Staff, Visitors | 14. Technology                                      |
| 6. Enhanced Hygiene Practice                                  | 15. Curriculum/Assessment of Learning Loss          |
| 7. Face Covering Requirements                                 | 16. Fiscal Management                               |
| 8. Food Service   | 17. Special Education                               |
| 9. Physical Guidelines/Signage                                | 18. Cleaning/Sanitizing                             |
|   | 19. Transportation                                  |
|   | 20. Recess  |

In our efforts to remain proactive, our district team will continue to meet on plan development. Our Taskforce will meet on July 20<sup>th</sup> for a broader discussion. Our Taskforce consists of the Midland Park Police Department, the Borough's Office of Emergency Management, Board of Education, school health staff and teachers. In addition, principals have established subcommittees and continue to meet with stakeholders to discuss school-specific reopening needs. We want to thank the families who participated in the district survey, your feedback was very important to us. Bergen County Superintendents were advised that school families are to be made aware of individual school schedules four weeks prior to the start of school, for us this would be on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have worked very hard to anticipate required plan elements and reviewed available guidance. We feel we are well on our way to plan completion and anticipate having the plan in place by August 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will keep you posted as to any additional developments. What is on everyone's mind is "Will districts reopen in September at all for in-person instruction?" It is important for everyone to remain aware that districts have been repeatedly reminded that the switch back to full virtual learning may be mandated by the Governor should the statistics regarding the rate and spread of COVID-19 infections continue to warrant such action. We will keep staff, families and the community advised of changes as we are made aware of them.

School Safety Data System report (formerly EVVRS/HIB) – This report is for the Reporting period 2 – January 1, 2020 – June 19, 2020. The report shows HIB Investigations, HIB Training Conducted Programs Implemented and District Initiatives.

Bosch Grant Award – We are pleased to announce that Midland Park Junior/Senior High School was awarded a three-year grant from the BOSCH Community Fund. This was the largest sum we have requested since we started three years ago. BOSCH will provide the Junior/Senior High School, over the next three years, approximately \$57,000. The district will use the grant monies to purchase:

- 2020-21: purchase science online textbooks for the new school year; \$3,000 worth of science supplies; and a new smart projector for the Computer Science room.
- 2021-22: four new smart projectors for the Middle School science and math classes.

- 2022-23: iPads and other computer science materials/hardware to enhance student learning in the field of Computer Science and clubs at the middle and high school levels.

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

There were no comments from the public.

## BOARD MOTIONS

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

1. Approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled public meeting held on June 16, 2020.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the date of July 16, 2020 as the Graduation for the Class of 2020, with a rain date of July 17, 2020.

Roll Call: All Yes

### A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

### APPENDIX

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2020-2021 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. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Triolo...

1. Approve the payment of stipends for curriculum writing during the 2019-2020 school year, as per the attached appendix.
2. Approve the payment of stipend for Academic Support Lab paid through Title I funds for the 2019-2020 school year, as follows:

Joanne Manicone	15 hours	\$648.90
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3. Accept the resignation of Employee No. 1723, effective retroactive to June 24, 2020.
4. Authorize the payment in the amount of \$27,788.60 to Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools, for attainment of the 2019-2020 Merit Goals, as approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.
5. Authorize the payment in the amount of \$3,007.00 to Stacy Garvey, School Business Administrator, for attainment of the 2019-2020 Merit Goal, as approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

A-1

6. Approve the list of High School staff members to assist in the Class of 2020 Graduation. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, as per the attached appendix.
7. Approve the retroactive appointment of the following elementary school teachers to provide BSI Math and Language Arts intervention during the virtual ESY program for students in need of more seat time with teachers due to the Pandemic. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract for a maximum of 18 hours from July 6 – 24, 2020:

Jenna Abballe	Deborah Lelinho	Stephanie Mont
Stacy Boufford	Malissa Lemanski	Maureen O'Hara
Suzanne Kelly	Alyssa Maimone	Shawn Savage
Christian Lawlor	Meghan Martinez	Ashley Smith
		Cassandra Smith

8. Approve the appointment of Kristen Sullivan as a math teacher at the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,000 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
9. Approve the following teachers to receive Math professional development during the summer months. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, to be paid through Title funds:

Rosemary Filev	3 hours	Tarra Lawlor	3 hours
Gwenn Hendrick	6 hours	Therese Seiders	3 hours
Cristina Horuzy	12 hours	Lawry Stein	3 hours
Allison Kilgallen	12 hours	Kristen Sullivan	6 hours
Danielle Kirsch	12 hours	Lori Thiemann	12 hours
Katherine Kuperus	3 hours		

10. Approve Kelly Scala to provide summer counseling to Godwin and Highland School students. She will work up to a maximum of 120 hours and will be paid through Title I funds, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

11. Approve the appointment of Christina Scott as the Secretary to the Godwin School Principal. She will be paid a salary of \$37,000 (Category II, Step 12 on the Secretarial/Clerical guide), effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
12. Approve the summer hours for Christina Scott, Secretary to the Godwin School Principal, to work 11 additional days. She will be paid at her per diem rate.
13. Approve the following addition to the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year:

Add: Zachary Spadaccini	AV Club Advisor	<u>Stipend</u> \$997.00
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14. Approve the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs for the 2020 Marching Band Season, as per the attached appendix. A-14
15. Approve the appointment of Lawrence Schupner as the summer session COVID Coordinator. He will be paid at the rate of \$60.90 per hour, not to exceed 80 hours.
16. Approve the appointment of Lisa McNerney as a substitute Athletic Trainer for the 2020-2021 preseason and school year.
- Roll Call: All Yes
- Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Formicola...
17. Approve the list of Fall Coaches at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the attached appendix. A-17
- Roll Call: 8 Yes, 1 Abstain (Dell’Aglio)
- Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo...
18. Approved the amended salaries for three non-certificated staff members for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the attached appendix. A-18
19. Approve the list of salaries for all certificated staff for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the attached appendix. A-19
20. Approve the appointment of Glenn Stokes as the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at the High School. He will be paid a salary of \$113,189 prorated, effective September 14, 2020 (or sooner) through June 30, 2021.
21. Approve the change in assignment for Michael Gaccione as the Assistant Principal at the High School, effective September 14, 2020 (or sooner) through June 30, 2021.
22. Approve the appointment of Ashley Rose Sherman as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade maternity leave replacement in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$52,250 (MA Step 3) prorated, effective September 1, 2020 through February 1, 2021.
- Roll Call: All Yes
- B. Finance Committee – (B. McCourt, Chairperson)
- Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Canellas...
1. Approve the following resolution:
- RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of June 30, 2020, 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.
- Roll Call: All Yes

- Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Canellas...
2. Approve the following block motion:
- a. June 2020 direct pays in the amount of \$420,075.46.
  - b. June 2020 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$66,431.33.
  - c. June 2020 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$10,067.75.
  - d. Second June 2020 payroll in the amount of \$620,770.74.
  - e. June 2020 supplemental claims in the amount of \$166,211.00.
  - f. July 2020 claims in the amount of 255,146.70.
3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's report for the period June 1 – 30, 2020, as per the attached appendix. B-3
4. Approve the transfers between accounts for the period June 1 – 30, 2020, as per the attached appendix. B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

- Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Triolo...
5. Approve the list of scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year, as per the attached appendix. B-5

Roll Call: All Yes

- Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Mr. Canella...
6. Approve the following Physical Therapists from Kaleidoscope Educational Services to provide Physical Therapy for students during the ESY program at the rate of \$83 per hour from July 6 – 23, 2020:
- Christine Bilello  
Ancy George
7. Approve the Substitute Placement Addendum with Insight Workforce Solutions for the 2019-2020 school year.
8. Approve the Amendment between Midland Park School District and Insight Workforce Solutions Extension of Term effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
9. Approve the renewal of the Student Accident Insurance Policy through Monarch Management Corporation, effective August 1, 2020 through July 30, 2021.
10. 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, as per the attached appendix. B-10

Roll Call: All Yes

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

11. Approve the resolution to reject all bids for the Steel Lintel Replacements at Highland School, as per the attached appendix.

B-11

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...

12. Approve Conquer Math to provide professional development for teachers during the summer months at the rate of \$800 per day to be paid through Title funds.
13. Approve the use of SD Gameday for substitute trainers for the 2020-2021 preseason and school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...

1. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Julie Dorlon	Art & Design: APSI Online @ Rutgers University	N/A	\$1,025.	7/20–23/2020
Patricia Sicree	PECS Training – Level 1	New York, NY	\$525.86	11/12, 13/2020

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...

2. Approve the submission of the ESEA application for Fiscal Year 2021 to the NJ Department of Education.
3. Approve the recommendation for the placement of a classified student in the Bridges Program, Fair Lawn, NJ, effective retroactive from July 6, 2020 through June 22, 2021.
4. Approve the revised 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, to reflect the first day of school for students as Thursday, September 3, 2020, as per the attached appendix.

C-4

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...

5. Approve the following revised curricula, which is aligned to the NJ Student Learning Standards:

Drawing 1  
Drawing 2  
Painting 1



6. Approve the start date of August 10, 2020 for preseason football and August 17, 2020 for all sports, in order to comply with the State mandated heat acclimatization period for athletes

Mr. McCourt asked about the official start dates. Dr. Cirasella answered the district did not get official dates and will revise if needed.

Roll Call: All Yes

7. This item has been tabled.

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

No Report

- E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

No Report

- F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (P. Fantulin, Chairperson)

- Committee will have virtual tour after all plans are in place

- G. Negotiations Committee - (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

No Report

- H. Technology & Public Relations Committee – (C. Dell’Aglio, Chairperson)

No Report

- I. Town Council – (R. Formicola, P. Triolo)

- Ms. Fantulin asked when will we be told if taxes are not going to be paid. Ms. Garvey responded that we will only hear if there is a problem, the Borough is very cooperative and has no intention of not forwarding the district our portion of the tax levy.

- J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (J. Canellas)

No Report

Elementary School PTA- (C. Dell’Aglio)

No Report

Booster Club – (N. Eliya)

No Report

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Fantulin)

No Report

Special Education – (P. Triolo)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

No Report

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

No Report

Continuing Education Program – (M. Thomas)

No Report

Student Representative to the Board – (Samantha Padovano)

No Report

K. Old Business

No Report

L. New Business

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of August 18, 2020, 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.

Mrs. Goodell had numerous questions via email. Below are the questions and Dr. Cirasella's answers.

1. When will the parents be told of the re-opening plan? On or before August 3, 2020.
2. Can parents opt out of having their children attend school (in person) and choose virtual instead? As confirmed from Gov. Murphy, if parents believe their child is not safe, they have the option to learn from home with an acceptable reason.
3. Should there be a spike in virus activity will the district go back to remote learning? The Governor will make that determination.

4. What (if any) sport will be open? As of this point the start of all high school sports have been pushed to October. Here are some facts that we know now:
  1. All sports will follow NJSIAA and NFHS guidelines regarding spacing, masks, etc.
  2. Temperatures will be taken and logged each day.
  3. Students will be required to wear masks when not participating in physical activity.
  4. If coach or any participant of a Midland Park or away team is over necessary temperature, game will be postponed.
  5. If a Midland Park athlete has a temperature excessive of defined number, they will not be permitted to participate and will need to be picked up by a parent.
  6. No handshakes or unnecessary close contact will be permitted before/after game play.
  7. All shared equipment (bats, balls, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized.
5. If a child/parents allowed to choose remote learning, are they allowed to play sports? No, if a parent is uncomfortable with in-person learning, the same would hold true for in-person sports.
6. Will there be daily temperature checks? Yes
7. Will parents need to notify the school, should a child have a temperature that their child is not infected (proof of negative test)? We are awaiting further Dept. of Health/NJDOE guidance on this and all other medical issues.
8. How are we supporting our teachers? Will more staff be needed? Will volunteers be needed as hiring emergent staff may not be in the budget? We have been working collaboratively with MPEA executive reps on all reopening issues. At this time we do not anticipate the need for more staff. We will not be using volunteers to keep the number of people in schools as low as possible.
9. Will the BOE consider waiving tuition fees for out of town residents? Teachers who live out of town and send their children to district schools do not pay any tuition.

Mr. Formicola thanked Mr. Gackowski for his services for filming and editing the virtual graduation

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

To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary