

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
JUNE 1, 2021**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Triolo 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 2021 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
	Patricia Fantulin	Richard Formicola
	Brian McCourt	Maryalice Thomas

Peter Triolo

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

***Midland Park Public School District 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.***

Education Hall of Fame Inductions:

Margaret Behan  
Rosemary Konde  
Leon Varjian

Board Recognition:

Danielle Bache  
Peter Galasso  
Samantha Padovano

Mr. Canellas spoke about Samantha Padovano. He has known her since she was born and stated she is a wonderful young lady and wishes her good luck in college this fall.

Retirees:

Suzanne Esposito  
Teresa Mallon  
Magdalene Ptak  
Patricia Zarpaylic

A 10 minute recess was taken.  
The meeting resumed at 9:05 p.m.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

- Dual enrollment programs allow secondary students to enroll in college courses and receive higher education credit prior to graduating high school. Successful dual enrollment programs provide academic, social, and financial benefits to students by increasing college readiness, improving the college participation rates of at-risk students, and reducing the cost of higher education.

We are pleased to report that MPHS students have the opportunity to participate in 39 classes that offer college credit. MPHS offers 19 Advanced Placement (AP) classes and 20 dual enrollment course offerings. Once the dual enrollment course is completed, a transcript is provided upon request from the higher education institution.

The popularity of the district's dual enrollment program has increased over the past three years as more partnerships with colleges have been established. The impressive number of dual enrollment course offerings for a school our size is truly significant and we are extremely proud of the multi-year effort that has resulted in such an amazing program, one that has benefitted many of our graduating seniors who leave MPHS having completed a semester of credits in higher education. Here is a list of the institutions we have partnered with: Seton Hall University, Bergen Community College, Rutgers University, Kean University and Ramapo College.

- We anticipate many of the challenges of COVID will be behind us in September and we will be reinstating monthly presentations at our live Board meetings, here is the tentative schedule:  
September & February: MPHS  
October & March: Godwin School  
November & April: Highland School  
December & May: Department of Athletics  
January & June: Department of Special Services

Additional presentations will be given in accord with districtwide business and state mandate. We are looking forward to showcasing our amazing students, staff and administrators and are certain these presentations will widen the circle of information and communication for all.

- The Connecting with Coffee and Conversations forums with me will be reinstated and there will be at least two forums next year (schedule TBA). As in the past, any topic may be brought forward at a forum, each will have a defined focus, i.e., elementary, secondary, special education, athletics, facilities and business office. Various members of the administrative team will join me for these interactive experiences, which have been very well received in the past. We will encourage everyone to drop by to share thoughts, questions, concerns and messages of positivity.
- We have been notified that our district will receive another approximately \$770K in ESSER II grant funding. The requirements for spending this allocation are the same as in the prior grant with the application due in November. In consideration of the input from families and staff, which placed social-emotional learning and content area remediation and acceleration as priorities for spending, administrators and school-based teams have already begun planning and program development and we plan to share more information on grant specifics once approval is received. This is the list of the input from families and staff:
  1. Social-Emotional Learning
  2. English Language Arts Remediation
  3. Accelerated Learning and Facilities (tie)
  4. Technology
  5. Math Remediation
  6. Social Studies Remediation
  7. Science Remediation

**Open to Public – COMMENTS only for action items on the June 1, 2021 agenda.**

There were no comments from the public.

## **BOARD MOTIONS**

### **Action Items:**

A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

APPENDIX

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years 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 – Ms. Dell’Aglia...

1. Approve the following appointments as Summer School teachers in the Godwin School. They will be paid \$60.95 per hour through the ESSA Grant (Title I funds) for 3 hours per day, effective July 6 – July 29, 2021:

Sandy Graca  
Jamie Russo

2. Approve the following staff members to provide summer support for identified at-risk students. They will be paid \$60.95 per hour, as per Article XIII, Section F of the MPEA contract through the ESSA Grant (Title I funds), for 3 days per week during the month of July:

Emily Donovan	Math
Maureen Kelley	English
Kristen Sullivan	Math
Jason Whelpley	Science

3. Approve the following appointments as special education teachers for the Extended School Year Program. They will be paid \$60.95 per hour for 4 days per week from 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., effective July 6 – July 29, 2021:

Melanie Keenan  
Jaclyn Kelly  
Christina Nicoletti

4. Approve the staff appointments for the Extended School Year Program, effective July 6-29, 2021, as per the attached appendix:

A-4

5. Approve the appointment of Griselda Valdeon as a Spanish teacher in the High School. She will be paid a salary of \$58,750 (MA Step 9 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
6. Approve the appointment of Ashley-Rose Sherman as an elementary teacher in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$53,250 (MA Step 4 on the MPEA salary guide), effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the Bergen County Special Services contract for services required under Chapters 192 and 193 of the Laws of 1977 for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Approve the Annual IDEA Agreement between 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 2021-2022 school year.
3. Approve the contract between the Midland Park Public School District and 123ABA, LLC to provide behavioral support, ABA therapy sessions/interventions, as needed, at the rate of \$75 per hour for direct support and \$110 per hour for BCBA Supervision, effective retroactive from May 21, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the decommissioning of 700 damaged and outdated library books from the Highland School Media Center.

We are donating 1800 books to Newark Schools

Roll Call: All Yes

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/Review of June 15, 2021 agenda items**

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

- Standard financial reports, review of items on 6/15 agenda

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

- Minutes are out from tonight's meeting

D. Policy Committee- (P. Fantulin, Chairperson)

- Policy 7510 update, 501 C 3 requirement

Mr. Eliya asked about fee changes. Dr. Cirasella responded that they were updated in the regulation which does not require a resolution.

E. Legislative Committee- (Administration)

No Report

F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (C. Dell'Aglio, Chairperson)

- Working with Soccer Assoc. to make improvements on lower sunset field

G. Negotiations Committee- (N. Eliya, Chairperson)

No Report

H. Technology & Public Relations Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

- The next meeting is on 6/15

I. Town Council- (P. Triolo, B. McCourt)

- At our last meeting we had a positive discussion, will be getting information from Buildings & Grounds to stakeholders in community

J. Student Representative- (Sophia Rosenthal)

- Enjoyed having the long weekend
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade moving up ceremony and school awards are coming up
- Preliminary schedules were released, trying to get everything in order before school ends, fun to think about next year being normal
- Baseball and softball qualified for the state tournament and the track and field team will compete in the state sectional, that is exciting
- The madrigals concert was this past weekend, band also had a concert also

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Canellas spoke about the Dual enrollment program and how beneficial it is for our students.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Triolo stated, unless there was an objection by the Board, the opinion letter from Mr. Stephen Fogarty on the matter of the Board doing business with Pennetta Industrial Automation, be made a matter of public record. There were no objections.

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of June 15, 2021, 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.

Jill Mulder – I would like to appeal again for the use of microphones at the meetings and that they be broadcasted so others who cannot attend can see the meetings. Tonight was beautiful, it would be great if others saw the speeches. Council members use microphone, great to hear and share with the community.

Motion – Mr. McCourt, seconded – Ms. Fantulin...  
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary