

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY  
MAY 4, 2021**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Peter Triolo at 8:00 p.m. and Ms. Garvey read the following statement:

“Both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting were 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’Aglio	Nabil Eliya
	Patricia Fantulin	Richard Formicola
	Maryalice Thomas	Peter Triolo

Excused: Brian McCourt

**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.***

Mr. Triolo wished good luck to those students taking the AP exams.

Presentation of the proposed 2021-2022 School Budget and Public Hearing.

- Mr. Canellas, Dr. Cirasella and Ms. Garvey presented the proposed 2021-2022 School Budget

### Open to the Public

Mr. Triolo asked if there were any programs eliminated. Mr. Canellas stated that none eliminated and nothing was added.

Motion – Ms. Dell’Aglia, seconded – Mr. Eliya

Motion to close the Public Hearing

Motion – Mr. Eliya, seconded – Mr. Canellas...

Resolution to Approve the 2021-2022 School Year Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the 2021-2022 School Year Budget, as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$23,475,753
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 318,275
Special Schools (Fund 13)	\$ 817,700
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$24,611,725
SPECIAL REVENUE (Fund 20)	\$ 605,763
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$ 939,125
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS	 \$26,156,616

Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve- Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is \$295,000 for other capital project costs to complete Phase 3 of the Door Replacement Project and a Partial Roof Replacement at Godwin School. The total costs of these projects represent expenditures for renovation elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the CCCS;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GENERAL FUND tax levy \$21,516,844 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$939,125 to support Debt Service, for the 2021-2022 school year budget. Included in the General Fund Tax Levy is the need for a Banked Cap Adjustment in the amount of \$113,698 to be included in the base budget and used to support current programs as well as funding for curriculum writing and support materials for Science, World Language, and Visual and Performing Arts at both the elementary and secondary levels to align with the new state standards. These purchases will be completed in the 2021-2022 budget year.

Roll Call: All Yes

### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

- Presentation on the New Jersey School Performance Report
  - Mr. Galasso, Ms. Bache and Mr. Capuano presented and spoke about their individual school’s performance.
- Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Grant
  - The first round of relief funding ESSER I was \$63K

- School re-opening update
  - We have been in discussions with regard to students returning to school for more in-person hours, including lunch. This is a very difficult process and I want to thank every collaborator who has been a vital part of this process. We have taken all community input into serious consideration with this and all other decisions, which have the potential to negatively impact the safety and health of our students and staff. Any decision we make must be influenced by discussions with local Department of Health officials and the district physician. We also must be strict in adhering to the Center of Disease Control's Public Health recommendations for K-12 Schools.
  - I will be providing all staff and families with a final determination on what the remainder of the school year will look like in an eblast that we will distribute on May 6. The principals will follow-up with school specific information for parents in their buildings.
  - It is important to note that the re-opening plan has had many successes, which include:
    - Our schools have provided a form of in-person instruction since Sept. 4, 2020 and full day instruction since March 8, 2021 for all students (combined in-person and virtual instruction program.)
    - Elementary schools provided asynchronous (pre-recorded lessons) in Phase I; in Phase II synchronous (in-person lessons) were provided both live and virtual.
    - MPHS has provided synchronous learning to both in-person and virtual learners since Sept. 4, 2020.
    - The number of virtual students has decreased in Phase II.
  - We have already been developing summer plans to address learning loss remediation for students. The district plan will include a variety of initiatives and programs in Math, English Language Arts and more, and we know families will find these summer options helpful for their children.
  - Planning for Sept. 2021 has already begun with several scenarios under consideration based on anticipated health guidance. It is our hope that we will be able to return to school for full in-person instructional days, including lunch, which will be made possible by a continued easing of restrictions.

Approve the following resolutions:

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 03182103156 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.
2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 03192103157 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

**Open to Public – COMMENTS only for action items on the May 4, 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 reappointment of the following non-tenured administrator for the 2021-2022 school year; salary to be paid as per Schedule A of the Midland Park Administrators & Supervisors Association contract:

Glenn Stokes            High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

2. Accept the retirement resignation, with regret, of Magdalene Ptak as a Spanish teacher in the High School, effective June 30, 2021.
3. Approve the reappointment of all non-tenured certificated staff for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached appendix:

A-3

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve Learn Well Academics to provide educational services to a classified high school student for 10 hours per week, effective retroactive from April 21, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the Exhibit A Pricing to include Building Permanent Substitutes as part of the Agreement for Educational Staffing between Kelly Services, Inc. and the Midland Park School District.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the following extended Spring 2021 Courses offered through Midland Park Continuing Education, to be held virtually or outdoors on school grounds, from May 5 through June 30, 2021:

Barre	Pickleball
Oil Painting	Hiking
Pilates	Zumba
Bird Watching	

Roll Call: All Yes

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/Review of May 18, 2021 agenda items**

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

- Turn attention to end of year reconciliation
- Typical items on the next agenda

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

No Report

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

- Committee met on 4/20- Report distributed to the board
- Reviewed the Facility Use Request policy
- Meeting on 5/18 to review the same issues

E. Legislative Committee- (Administration)

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

- Next meeting 5/25

J. Student Representative- (Samantha Padovano)

- AP's started this week, will end on 5/17
- NHS Ceremonies were on 4/29 and all went well
- For Teacher Appreciation week, Girl Scout Troup 468 gave the teachers marigolds
- Emma Douma is nominated for player of the week for softball
- Jason Ballen broke the discus school record on 4/28 by throwing 161.2

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Eliya asked if the policy being reviewed by the committee is the facility use policy. Mrs. Fantulin confirmed that it was that policy.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion- Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Dell'Aglia...

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of May 18, 2021, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel, legal updates and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas informed the board that this is was Samantha Padovano's last Board meeting. It is a special time for me because I know her since she was born. Watching her grow and she is more than ready for college. Congratulations.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-** general **COMMENTS** only at this time are to be directed to the Board President.

Kerri Schaefer- *There now is funding for social & emotional learning. The PTO had Care Plus at their meeting. They help parents navigate through COVID. Would love to see schools more proactive. These times have been challenging for children. Students may be struggling. Think it's important for schools to focus on these issues.*

Lilliana Occhipinti- *Are there any updates from the State regarding new mandates for inclusion? Will we be getting any information?* Dr. Cirasella responded that we do not have that information now but will provide when we receive it.

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

Motion to go into closed session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues. No action will be taken at the conclusion of this session.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Formicola, seconded – Mr. Eliya...

Ms. Fantulin left the meeting.

Motion to return to open session at 9:25 p.m.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stacy Garvey".

Stacy Garvey  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary