

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 15, 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’Aglia	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 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.

I wanted to say a few words with respect to the Board Meeting of September 1st. As some of you are aware, there was an unfortunate technological error which impacted the live streaming of part of the meeting, and limited the submission of public questions. Please know immediately following the close of the meeting, administration sought legal advice from Board Attorney Stephen Fogarty, and he upheld the decision made to continue the meeting. Mr. Fogarty stated that the Board was completely in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, the actions taken by the Board at that meeting were correct, and there was no unethical behavior taken. Despite the technical issues, the Board continued to check for public comment and entertained comments that were posed in compliance with the requirements of the OPMA. Whether the emails were not read word-for-word during the meeting, the substance of all comments was addressed.

Although the actions taken by the Board were correct, tonight we are allowing for additional public review and comment on what occurred at the meeting of September 1st and reaffirming prior Board actions in order to eliminate any doubts as to their validity.

I also want to remind everyone that the Board Agenda is provided to the public on the Friday afternoon prior to each meeting, giving you four days to review the agenda and email any questions or comments to Ms. Garvey at the email address provided. The Board and I encourage the community to provide input and hope that you will take advantage of this email opportunity in the future.

Finally, I just want to provide a word of caution about using social media as the source for school and district information. Unless it is the district's social media, I don't recommend that anyone rely on what is posted by community members, it is unreliable sources and should not be thought of as anything but. Please contact teachers, principals, and district administrators with your questions or concerns for the correct answers, and do not believe everything you read on social media sites. Thank you.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Dr. Marie Cirasella

Graduation Pathways presentation – Districts are mandated to provide this report on the Class of 2020 Graduation Pathways to the Board and Public on or before 9/30. We have provided information on the total number of students graduated and the number of students denied graduation, which was zero. We also provided information on graduation pathways in Math and English Language Arts.

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. Criscenzo...

1. Approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled public meeting held on August 18, 2020.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Ms. Dell'Aglia...

2. Ratify and reaffirm the actions taken by the Board of Education at the public meeting held on September 1, 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. Triolo, seconded – Dr. Thomas...

1. Approve the appointment of Alexandra Kulesha as a Certified School Nurse in the Highland School. She will be paid a salary of \$49,000 (BA Step 1 on the MPEA salary guide) prorated, effective September 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
2. Approve the additions to the list of Coaches at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the attached appendix.
3. Approve the following Truck Drivers for the Marching Band during the 2020-2021 school year:

A-2

Mark Schaefer
Joseph Statuto

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Dell'Aglia, seconded – Mr. Triolo...

- S-1. Approve the retroactive payment of 8.5 additional summer hours for Karen Corcoran, Certified School Nurse at the High School.

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 August 31, 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 supplemental payroll in the amount of \$6,757.16.
- b. August 2020 direct pays in the amount of \$1,163,242.68.
- c. August 2020 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$12,434.96.
- d. August 2020 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$537.80.
- e. Second August 2020 payroll in the amount of \$125,242.21.
- f. September 2020 claims in the amount of \$530,320.16.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the cash reports and the Board Secretary's report for the period August 1 – 31, 2020, as per the attached appendix. B-3

4. Approve the transfers between accounts for the period August 1 – 31, 2020, as per the attached appendix. B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

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

5. Approve the contract with Mary Oates to provide BSI teachers with Math support to assist at risk/struggling learners. She will provide two professional development sessions at \$750 per session, for a total amount of \$1,500 to be paid through Title I funds from the 2019-2020 carry over funds.

6. Approve the Agreement for Consultant Services between the Midland Park School District and Mary Oates to provide professional development at a daily rate of \$800 per

day, not to exceed 45.5 days or 273 hours, paid through Title I and II funds, effective September 14, 2020 through June 24, 2021.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Kristen DiPaola	Orton-Gillingham Training	Virtual	\$1275.00	10/5-16/2020
Karen Corcoran	School Health Conference	Virtual	\$200.00	10/14/2020

2. Approve the disposal of outdated High School textbooks, as per the attached appendix:

C-2

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the second reading of the following revised Policies:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. Board Officers | Bylaws Section 0152 |
| b. School Year | Policy Section 8210 |

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (Administration)

For the 2nd year in a row, NJ Public Schools earned the top overall ranking in Education Week magazine's annual Quality Counts report. The report grades each state's K-12 academics, chances for Student success, and financial support of schools. This year, NJ finished first among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Governor Phil Murphy recently addressed state education funding in his revised Fiscal Year 2021 State budget proposal, which remains steady from FY2020 despite the historic financial challenges NJ is facing due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Murphy announced that funding for school districts will remain consistent with the figures announced in July, keeping the state on track to fully fund public schools.

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

No Report

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)

- Tentative meeting scheduled for 10/27

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (J. Canellas)

- We are in this together is their slogan
- 1st meeting 9/22
- Registration is open
- New Board members
- Calendar is on their website

Elementary School PTA- (C. Dell’Aglio)

- Registration is open
- Looking for chairs for committees
- First meeting is 9/15

Booster Club – (N. Eliya)

- Agreed to do grant for track boards for the gym
- Student giveaways with MP logos
- Looking for new fundraiser ideas
- New Board members

Performing Arts Parents – (P. Fantulin)

- Band is practicing
- Fundraisers are listed on the website

Special Education – (P. Triolo)

No Report

Education Foundation – (S. Criscenzo)

- Meeting on 9/14
- Oct 13th and 15th Community Thrift Shop. Volunteers needed 10 - 12 or 1 - 3
- Virtual 5K

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

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of October 6, 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.

There were no comments submitted

Motion - Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Ms. Dell’Aglia...
To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy Garvey
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary