

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Board of Education**  
**Midland Park, New Jersey**  
April 28, 2015

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Maryalice Thomas, at 8:00 p.m. and the following statement was read:

"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 2014 elective year. A notice was also posted outside of 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. In addition, all questions must be presented to the Board of Education during the public session and prior to the adjournment of the meeting."

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	Sandra Criscenzo	
	Richard Formicola	Brian McCourt
	Robert Schiffer	William Sullivan
	Timothy Thomas	Peter Triolo

Maryalice Thomas

Excused: James Canellas

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Mission Statement**

**The Midland Park School District as part of a strong, dedicated community, provides students with a comprehensive, adaptive education in a positive environment by maximizing all resources and empowering them to realize their individual worth and responsibility with the expectation that all students achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.**

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### +Approve the following resolutions:

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

1. **BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 022515224 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. 030315225 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

Presentation of the proposed 2015-2016 School Budget and Public Hearing.

Mr. Schiffer presented the proposed school budget for the 2015-2016 school year. He explained that the additional funds being added to the budget from Capital Reserve account are to renovate the maintenance garage storage area to create office space. This would be done in order to move district administration out of the high school which would open additional classroom space.

Board Member questions:

Mr. Sullivan asked if state aid funding was flat for next year. Ms. Garvey replied yes.

Mr. Triolo asked if we are adding a computer lab. Dr. Cirasella answered the computer lab was already created by funds donated by the Education Foundation.

Mr. Formicola wanted to know if State Aid was cut, could we be forced to use the Capital Reserve funds for the general fund support after the budget is approved. Ms. Garvey answered no. Once the funds become part of the capital budget they cannot be reallocated.

Ms. Criscenzo asked what office staff would be relocated. Dr. Cirasella answered that it would be only district level administration.

Open to the Public

Ms. Kim Rupp asked where will the new kindergarten classrooms going to be located. Dr. Cirasella answered that there will be a Kindergarten Program held for the public and this is where specifics will be discussed.

Mr. David Gorman commented that he read the article regarding the Mechanical Upgrades at Highland School and their bid being below the estimated budget. He asked what happens with the extra funds.

Dr. Thomas replied that the remaining funds can be used for other referendum projects.

Ms. Pat Fantulin questioned what staff would be moving to the maintenance building. Dr. Cirasella replied it will be board/central office staff.

Ms. Fantulin had a question regarding adding new electives and asked how do you know what students are going to sign up. Dr. Thomas replied some are already registered for these items.

Mr. David Gorman commented the 2% budget cap and the increase over for health care costs. He asked if the philosophy is to try to keep the increase as low as possible. Mr. Schiffer answered 90% of the budget is contractual and increases well beyond 2%. If you look at the past budget increases, the Board always accepted a tight budget and gave back funds to offset tax base. Taxes are also impacted by the County and the Town. Always try to keep lower than 2% if possible.

Ms. Fantulin commented that some things are not mentioned for example, New Jersey underfunded schools by billions over the years. Funding was lost years ago and shifted to the rise in the tax base creating mandates that cost more-now PARCC – and the district does not receive any additional dollars.

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

Mr. Schiffer read this Resolution into the Minutes . . .

1. Resolution to Approve the 2015-2016 School Year Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the final 2015-2016 school year budget, as follows:

Current General Expense (Funds 11)	\$20,554,426
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	\$ 678,275
Special Schools (Fund 13)	\$ 756,140
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$21,988,847
Special Revenue (Fund 20)	\$ 363,595
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$ 910,587

TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS \$23,263,023

Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve- Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is \$600,000 for other capital project costs for renovations to the maintenance garage storage area in order to relocate administrative and support staff office space. This effort will result in the reclaiming of instructional/classroom space for student and staff use at Midland Park Junior Senior High School (MPHS). The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$600,000 which represents 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 \$18,705,258 is approved to support Current General Expense and \$910,587 to support Debt Service, for the 2015-2016 school year budget. Included in the General Fund Tax Levy is a Health Care Cost Adjustment in the amount of \$136,319.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public:

To discuss action items on the Agenda.

No items were brought before the board for discussion.

## BOARD MOTIONS

## APPENDIX

Motion – Mr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .

1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on:  
March 9, 2015

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Triolo, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on:  
March 17, 2015

Roll Call: 6 Yes (Criscenzo, Schiffer, Sullivan, Thomas, Triolo, Dr. Thomas)  
2 Abstain (Formicola, McCourt)

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

2. Approve the schedule of meetings from May 2015 through December 2015, which is attached as  
an appendix. BM-2

Roll Call: All Yes

### A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2014-2015 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. Thomas, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

To approve the following block motion . . .

1. Approve an extension in the unpaid child care leave for Michele Maietta, elementary school  
teacher in the Godwin School for the 2015-2016 school year.
- +2. Approve the appointment of the following teachers to provide home instruction for one  
high school classified student. They will be paid for two hours per week, per subject, and  
will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract, effective retroactive from April 13,  
2015 through June 19, 2015:**

**Michelle Janus  
Allyson LaMarca  
Paul Marino  
Jason Whelpley**

**English I  
Algebra I  
Economics/Modern World History  
Biology**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

- +3. Approve the following addition to the list of Spring Athletic Coaches at the high school for the 2014-2015 school year:**

<b>Add: John Macari Substitute Baseball Assistant Coach</b>	<b><u>Stipend</u></b>
<b>on term of assignment)</b>	<b>\$4359 (prorated based</b>

- +4. Approve a paid maternity leave for Jamie Scura, elementary school teacher, effective June 8, 2015 through June 30, 2015; an unpaid child care leave, effective September 1, 2015 through November 23, 2015, as per the NJ Family Leave Act and an unpaid child care leave, effective November 24, 2015 through June 30, 2016.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Thomas . . .

To approve the following block motion:

- +5. Approve a paid child care leave for Jill Klaasen, elementary school teacher, effective September 1, 2015; an unpaid child care leave, effective September 2, 2015 through November 24, 2015 as per the NJ Family Leave Act and an unpaid child care leave, effective November 25, 2015 through January 29, 2016.**
- +6. Approve the appointment of Maher Boules as a full-time Day Custodian. He will be paid a salary of \$40,117.00 (Step 12 on the Custodial salary guide + Head Custodian stipend), prorated effective May 1, 2015 (or sooner) through June 30, 2015.**
- +7. Accept the resignation of Lauren Castiglia as a 1:1 Instructional Aide in the Highland School, effective May 15, 2015.**
- +8. Accept the resignation of Catherine Caccamo as a Building Aide in the Highland School, effective May 1, 2015.**
- +9. Approve the appointment of Jenny Cho as a part-time Aide for the Midland Park Continuing Education Before and After School Child Care program, effective April 29, 2015 through June 30, 2015.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

- S-1. Approve the change in assignment for Joseph Bounassi from Head Custodian to split-shift Custodian at the high school with Night Stipend, effective May 1, 2015 (or sooner) through June 30, 2015.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-2. Approve the suspension with pay for Jason Gangi and authorize the School Business Administrator to provide appropriate notice to the employee.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-3. Approve the suspension with pay for Justin Soccol and authorize the School Business Administrator to provide appropriate notice to the employee.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (R. Schiffer, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of March 31, 2015, 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. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the following block motion:

- a. March 2015 direct pays in the amount of \$297,481.67.
- b. March 2015 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$64,377.04.
- c. March 2015 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$29,188.48.
- d. April 2015 claims in the amount of \$704,737.50.

3. Approve the following block motion:

- a. Second March 2015 payroll in the amount of \$530,429.44.
- b. First April 2015 payroll in the amount of \$577,988.11.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

4. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary for the period March 1 – 31, 2015, which are attached as an appendix. B-4

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

To approve the following block motion:

5. Approve the removal of the following items from Godwin School:

2 Quik Pads (H45 Technology), Inventory #'s 1344 and 1343

**+Audiotronics 180 tape recorder, Inventory # 1105**

- +6. Approve the removal of 630 outdated books from the Highland School Media Center.**

- +7. Approve the 2015-2016 Cafeteria Prices, which are attached as an appendix. B-7**

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

To approve the following block motion:

- +8. Approve the use and rental of the Highland School gym, cafeteria and field to Summer Heatt, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for the Summer Basketball Camp, effective July 6, 2015 – July 31, 2015, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

- 9. Authorize the investment of the Bond Referendum proceeds in the New Jersey Asset and Rebate Management Program through PFM Asset Management LLC.**

- +10. Approve the resolution for the Electrical & Ceiling Upgrades Bid, which is attached as an appendix. B-10**

Mr. Thomas asked about the bid results?

Ms. Garvey answered they are slightly above, but decided to do all alternates and use the dollars from other projects ?

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the proposed 2015-2016 Holiday Schedule for 12-Month Personnel, which is attached as an appendix. C-1

Roll Call: All Yes

2. Approve Music in the Park XVIII to be held at Indian Hills Regional High School on October 11, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.

3. Approve the proposed overnight trip for the Marching Band to the New York State Field Band Championships at Carrier Dome, Syracuse, NY from October 30, 2015 through November 2, 2015.
4. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
<b>Theodore OBrien</b>	<b>An Introduction to Google Drive</b>	<b>Paramus, NJ</b>	<b>\$81.20</b>	<b>May 14, 2015</b>
Danielle Bache Megan Martinez Stacy Boufford Kristie Fucarino	Teaching of Writing	Paramus, NJ	\$1,350.00	July 27 – 30, 2015
<b>Kristie Fucarino</b>	<b>Orton-Gillingham Training</b>	<b>Hasbrouck Heights, NJ</b>	<b>\$1015.30</b>	<b>Aug. 17-21, 2015</b>

- +5. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school classified student on home instruction, effective retroactive from April 13, 2015 through June 19, 2015.

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

1. Approve the revised Mandated policies, which are attached as appendices:

<b>Student Assessment</b>	<b>Policy Section 2622</b>	<b><u>D-1a</u></b>
<b>Substance Abuse – Teaching Staff Members</b>	<b>Policy Section 3218</b>	<b><u>D-1b</u></b>
<b>Substance Abuse – Support Staff Members</b>	<b>Policy Section 4218</b>	<b><u>D-1c</u></b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Policy Section 5200</b>	<b><u>D-1d</u></b>
<b>High School Graduation</b>	<b>Policy Section 5460</b>	<b><u>D-1e</u></b>
<b>Early Graduation</b>	<b>Policy Section 5465</b>	<b><u>D-1f</u></b>
<b>Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility</b>	<b>Policy Section 8630</b>	<b><u>D-1g</u></b>

Mr. Sullivan questioned the policy regarding Bus Drivers/Bus Aide and if the bus routes we bid out follow the same requirements. Ms. Garvey answered that the routes are bid through consortiums like Region I and the South Bergen Jointure which are also school districts with the same requirements to follow.



E. Legislative Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

No Report.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

The following items have been reported on as job commencing or completed as follows:

Highland School-

Install curtains

Basketball Court

HVAC Project Began

High School-

Fields have begun

Score Board- waiting on Public Service & Gas

G. Negotiations Committee - (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

No Report.

H. Public Relations Committee – (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

No Report.

I. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (S. Criscenzo)

Spring Plant Sale by June 1, 2015.

Elementary School PTA- (P. Triolo)

No Report.

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

No Report.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The Musical Concert is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2015.

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

The open barn nights run until the end of the year.

Education Foundation – (R. Formicola)

The following items were mentioned:

Scholarship interviews  
Looking for sponsors for the 5K

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (Aidan MacLean)

The following items were reported on:

The Ellis Island Trip  
New Mac Lab

Borough Town Council – (M. Thomas & J. Canellas)

No Report.

Ad Hoc – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

J. Old Business

No items were brought before the board at this time.

Motion - Mr. Formicola, seconded :Mr. Sullivan . . .

To go into closed session for the purpose of HIB Parent Hearings and to discuss a grievance hearing held in the prior closed session. Action will be taken upon returning to open session.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Dr. Thomas invited the public to address the Board

Ms. Pat Fantulin asked who would be paying for insurance for the new Chrome Books.

Dr. Cirasella stated the district would be covering the insurance.

Moved into closed session at 8:50 pm

Mr. Thomas excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

Reconvened public meeting at 11:50 pm

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Formicola . .

S-4. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 1122514356 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

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

S-5 Approve the appointment of Todd Gentile as a Maintenance worker. He will be paid a salary of \$38,367 (Step 11 on the Maintenance salary guide + Maintenance stipend), prorated effective May 11, 2015 (or sooner, pending completion of all mandatory testing) through June 30, 2015.

Roll Call: All Yes

K. New Business

Motion – Mr. Formicola, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of May 5, 2015, for the purpose of reviewing the hiring of personnel and confidential student HIB case reviews.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion -Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary