

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey

January 22, 2008

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Ray Moraski, President, 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 2007 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."

ROLL CALL

Present:	Sandra Criscenzo	Paula Lein
	Anne Polhemus	Wayne Roberts
	Robert Schiffer	William Sullivan
	Joan Vandervliet	Richard Venditti

Ray Moraski

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: Nicholas Mamola, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Louis Roer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of Minutes

Motion - Mrs. Polhemus, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings held on:

December 18, 2007

January 8, 2008

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Roer announced that there will be meeting consisting of a parent focus group, Mr. Triano and Ms. Cardinale (Pomptonian) on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. The food Service Program is the general topic.

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.

Mr. Moraski acknowledged the staff efforts. He provided a brief status report on the superintendent search.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mamola reported an update to the January 10, 2008 vandalism at the High school. After school activities went on as scheduled and school resumed on Friday. Feedback from staff and a critique of the event will be on the Administrator's meeting agenda on Friday. In addition a memo today from Commissioner of Education Lucille Davy referenced that State seminars on school safety and security will be held in the spring.

Dr. Marie Alcock presented the topic 'Wrestling with Consensus: Developing Essential Maps' at the staff development day yesterday. For the record, as per Heidi Jacobs in *Getting Results with Curriculum Mapping*, "a consensus curriculum map reflects the policy on by a professional staff that targets those specific areas in each discipline that are to be addressed with consistency and flexibility in a school district"

Mr. Triano will once again chair the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program committee to select teachers for consideration in this program. A Board member is needed to sit on this committee. The first meeting is scheduled for the beginning of February. Forms are due by March 31, 2008 and the honoring program will be on May 22, 2008.

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2007-2008 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.

A. Personnel – (N. Mamola)

Motion - Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .

To approve the following block motion...

1. Approve the increase in salary for the following teachers, effective February 1, 2008:

Elementary School

Suzanne Esposito L-MA 16 Exp. Lvl. 20 (\$80,511) to MA+ 16 Exp. Lvl. 20 (\$89,666)

Laurie Troisi -MA 14 Exp. Lvl.16 (\$71,940) to MA+ 14 Exp. Lvl. 16 (\$80,240)

High School

Matthew Arroyo -BA 6 Exp. Lvl. 6 (\$45,221) to MA+ 6 Exp. Lvl. 6 (\$55,989)

Raina Dawson -MA 3 Exp. Lvl. 3 (\$46,367) to MA+ 3 Exp. Lvl. 3 (\$51,504) and \$1,000 for Doctoral Degree

Jacqueline Goodell -BA 7 Exp. Lvl.8 (\$47,132) to MA 7 Exp. Lvl. 8 (\$52,460)

Nancy LoPrestiL -MA 15 Exp. Lvl. 17 (\$77,119) to MA+15 Exp. Lvl. 17 (\$85,850)

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David Marks -MA 10 Exp. Lvl. 11 (\$59,412) to MA+10 Exp. Lvl.11 (\$66,236)
 Deborah Marks -MA 12 Exp. Lvl.13 (\$64,757) to MA+12 Exp. Lvl. 13 (\$72,272)
 Teresa WechtL -MA 17 Exp. Lvl. 21(\$84,531) to MA+ 17 Exp. Lvl. 21(\$94,160)
 (L denotes Longevity added to base)

2. Approve a paid maternity leave for Lisa Guarini, elementary school teacher, effective March 17, 2008 through March 28, 2008; a paid child care leave, effective March 31, 2008 through May 2, 2008 and an unpaid child care leave, effective May 5, 2008 through June 30, 2008 (support material attached).

3. Approve a paid maternity leave for Victoria Schoeler, elementary school teacher, effective March 24, 2008 through April 14, 2008; a paid child care leave, effective April 15, 2008 through May 19, 2008 and an unpaid child care leave effective May 20, 2008 through June 30, 2008 (support material attached).

4. Approve the following addition to the list of coaches at the high school, for the 2007-2008 school year (support material attached):

Add:	Scott Grasso	7 th & 8 th Grade Wrestling Coach	<u>Stipend</u> \$2,267
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5. Approve the following addition to the list of substitute workers for the 2007-2008 school year (support material attached):

Beth Kasbarian Substitute Building Aide

6. Approve the following addition to the list of advisors to activities and clubs at the high school, for the 2007-2008 school year (support material attached):

Add:	Pam Klinger	Musical Director	<u>Stipend</u> \$ 962
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Roll Call: All yes

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

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .

To approve the following block motion...

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of December 31, 2007, 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.

2. Approve the following block motion:

a. December 2007 Midland Park Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$17,963.78.

- b. January 2008 supplemental claims in the amount of \$145,811.86.
3. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the period December 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007, which are attached as an appendix. A
4. Approve the January 2008 payroll in the amount of \$1,010,193.79.
5. Authorize the Board Secretary to draw for candidate's positions on the ballot at the Board of Education office at 9:12 a.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2008.
6. Authorize the Board Secretary to request that the polls be opened from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 for the Annual School Election, and to request that the appropriate number of voting machines be provided by the County Superintendent of Elections.
7. Approve the following resolution:

RESTORE the Principle of Majority Rule in the State of New Jersey as it pertains to Special Budget Questions in School Board Annual Elections.

WHEREAS, New Jersey Public School Districts face increasing budgetary challenges to maintain effective and high quality educational programs, and

WHEREAS, greater budgetary constraints (caps) imposed by recent legislation (Assembly Bill A1 and formally known as P.L. 2007, c62) force many school districts to present high quality educational programs to district voters by means of special questions, and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2007, c62 imposes an unprecedented 60% majority vote requirement for a special question to be successful and further declares that school districts have **no** right of appeal to the local municipality or the Commissioner of Education should such questions fail, and

WHEREAS, low voter turnout (often less than 15%) for school budgetary questions often means that success or failure is often based on very low margins, and

WHEREAS, this requirement violates all principles of majority rule and gives those persons who vote in the negative greater voice and control in their respective communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midland Park Board of Education requests its legislative representatives and Governor Jon Corzine to amend Chapter 62 to eliminate the provision of a super-majority (60%) vote for school district special questions and restore the principle of "one person, one vote" in the State of New Jersey, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to our local legislative representatives in the General Assembly and Senate, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and to the New Jersey School Boards' Association.

Roll Call: All yes

C. Curriculum Committee – (A. Polhemus, Chairperson)

Motion – Mrs. Polhemus, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .

To approve the following block motion...

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the continuation of one high school special education student on bedside instruction, effective retroactive from January 11, 2008 through March 11, 2008.
2. Approve the list of staff members requesting workshop attendance, as follows (support material attached):

Name	Workshop	Location	Date
Nicholas Mamola Louis Roer	Budget Rollout Meeting	Parsippany, NJ	Jan. 30, 2008
Nancy DeRitter	How to Score EOC Biology Test	Montvale, NJ	Feb. 1, 7, 2008
Heidi Cassells Sherri Lange	First Grade Forum: Literacy Instruction in 1 st Grade	Union, NJ	Feb. 6, 2008
Marilyn DeLuccia	Training for Test Administration NJASK 2008	Clifton, NJ	Feb. 7, 2008
Jill Gisondi	AP Exam Administration	Atlantic City, NJ	Feb. 13, 2008
Raina Dawson	AP Biology Exam	Sparta, NJ	March 1, 2008
Karen Corcoran	NJSSNA Statewide Conference	Eatontown, NJ	March 14-15, 2008
Michael Healy	DAANJ Workshop (previously approved, revised request)	Atlantic City, NJ	March 17-20, 2008
David Marks Jeffrey Peters	NYSFBC Director's Conference	TBD	March 19, 2008

Roll Call: All yes

Mrs. Polhemus reported that the County has approved a request to change the GEPA (now NJASK8) testing dates from 4/28- 5/1 to 4/29- 5/2

C. Policy Committee – (W. Roberts, Chairperson)

The committee met earlier this evening and will have a few new first readings at the next meeting.

D. Legislative Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

Governor Corzine signed the following bills;

A-868- requires schools to provide DYFS notification of long term student absences

S-548 -allows school to voluntarily establish sick leave banks, in which an employee could draw accrued leave donated by other employees.

S-984/A-3254- requires fire drills to be conducted twice monthly for schools that are iopen for summer instructional programs.

E. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

There have been 100 lockers installed in the high school music room. Mrs. Polhemus recognized Mr. Roer's efforts in this matter. Mr. Roer indicated that there were many individuals involved in achieving this locker installation and they should be recognized as well.

Mr. Sullivan thanked all the custodians and maintenance staff for their quick response to the incident last week and enabling the school to be fully operational that evening.

The committee will be touring the school buildings on Thursday and will have budget discussions.

F. Negotiations – Teachers/Secretaries – (R. Venditti, Chairperson)

No report

G. Negotiations – Administrators/Custodians – (J. Vandervliet, Chairperson)

No report

H. Public Relations Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

The first draft of the upcoming issue of chalkboard is in. The committee will meet after the meeting this evening to review it.

I. Personnel Committee – (J. Vandervliet, Chairperson)

No report

J. Service Review Committee – (P. Lein, Chairperson)

No report

K. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Market Day pickup is Friday, January 25th 5:30- 6:30

The PTA Education committee has scheduled diversity week for March 31st- April 4th.

It's theme is 'A Walk in your Shoes' and is aimed at disability awareness. If anyone knows of any 'differently-abled' artists, singers or musicians that might like to participate during the week please contact Jane Bandstra at j.bandstra@verizon.net.

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

The Godwin Show Talent is on Friday.

The Committee started the process for obtaining nominations for PTA Executive Board for next school year.

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

No Report.

Performing Arts Parents – (A. Polhemus)

No Report.

Special Education – (J. Vandervliet)

No Report.

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

They held their Reorganization Meeting on 1/7/08. Tom Carey was elected as a new Board Member. Rich Gentile has been elected the new Board of Recreation – President. Mr. Venditti questioned whether we have ever denied them any time. Mr. Roer answered No.

Education Foundation – (R. Venditti)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (J. Vandervliet)

No Report.

L. Town Council Special Projects Committee – (A. Polhemus, Chairperson)

Mrs. Polhemus commented that the agreements are in the packet.

M. New Jersey and/or Bergen County School Board Delegates – (R. Schiffer/A. Polhemus)

No Report.

N. Old Business

None

O. New Business

1. Motion - Mrs. Polhemus, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .

To go into closed session after the open meeting on January 22, 2008 for the purpose of a Superintendent search.

Roll Call: All yes

2. Motion - Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .

To go into closed session on January 23, 2008, January 29, 2008 and January 30, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the August C. DePreker Media Center, Highland School, for the purpose of a Superintendent search.

Roll Call: All yes

3. Motion - Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .

To go into closed session before the meeting of February 5, 2008, for the purpose of litigation and personnel.

Roll Call: All yes

Open to the Public

Mr. Moraski invited the public to address the Board.

No one spoke.

Motion – Mrs. Polhemus, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Roer,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary