

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
March 25, 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	Anne Polhemus
	Wayne Roberts	Robert Schiffer
	William Sullivan	Joan Vandervliet
	Richard Venditti	
	Ray Moraski	

Excused: Paula Lein (medical illness)

OTHERS PRESENT

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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board Secretary's Certification

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 reported on the following items:

The Superintendent Search process is continuing and is on-going. The Board goal is to make an appointment in April.

There will be a Dedication Ceremony of the August C. DePreker Media Center in April.

The Board is reminded about the Memorial Day parade. Please let Anne Schaper know of your intent to participate.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Roer introduced Mr. Robert Schiffer, Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Schiffer provided the public with an overview of the Budget process. He emphasized that this budget included a significant return of tax dollars (over \$205,000) as tax relief and that over \$2,000,000 have been used for that purpose since 1997. In addition, the District will return to the State Health Plan effective in June, yielding a premium savings of over \$300,000 to be incorporated into the 2008-2009 budget, (this savings was in addition to a \$100,000 saving that the District realized when it left the State Plan previously. Comparative shopping was maximized for the District.)

He introduced Mr. Mamola, Interim Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Mamola presented and highlighted the proposed 2008-2009 School Budget with the assistance of a power-point presentation. He referenced the Expenditures in the budget, including new textbooks in grades 2-6 and in Physics. Mr. Roer then provided the Revenue portion of the budget, demonstrating that the budget was in balance and that it had received Bergen County Superintendent of Schools approval for the public hearing and for the vote on April 15, 2008.

Mr. Schiffer and Mr. Roberts expanded on the budget, Mr. Roberts highlighted that there is \$70,250 reserved for a number of capital projects including sidewalk repair and a base security system at Highland School, additional new doors and cameras at the high school and additional new classroom floors and major hall painting at Godwin. Internet upgrading is also planned.

Open to the Public

The public was satisfied with the presentation and had no questions or comments.

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

To close the Public Hearing

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a school district Budget for the FY 2008-2009 school year for submission to the voters of Midland Park, as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
Total General Fund	\$18,531,084	\$ 15,538,133
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 593,852	n/a
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 451,615	\$ 451,615
Totals	\$19,576,551	\$ 15,989,748

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Roll Call: All Yes

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. Polhemus . . .

1. Approve an extension in the unpaid leave of absence for Victoria Schoeler, elementary school teacher, for the 2008-2009 school year (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mrs. Polhemus . . .

2. Approve an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act for Michael Montelbano, custodian at the high school, effective retroactive from February 26, 2008, for a period of twelve calendar weeks (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mrs. Polhemus . . .

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

			<u>Stipend</u>
Delete:	Nicholas Capuano	7 th & 8 th Grade Baseball Coach	
Add:	Michael Kilgallen	7 th & 8 th Grade Baseball Coach	\$2,267
	Brian DeCarlo	Volunteer Coach in the Baseball program	N/A

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mrs. Polhemus . . .

4. Approve the following additions to the list of substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year (support material attached):

* Ramesha Francois
(s) Jeffrey Monsma

* = NJ permanent certification
(s) = Bergen County Substitute Certificate

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

5. Approve the appointment of Carolyn Asch as an Aide to work on an as needed basis for the Midland Park Continuing Education After Care program, effective March 26, 2008 through June 30, 2008 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of February 29, 2008, 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. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

Approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the March 2008 supplemental claims in the amount of \$180,993.96.

3. Approve the March 2008 payroll in the amount of \$971,690.87.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

4. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the period February 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008, which are attached as an appendix.

A

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

5. Approve the resolution to authorize participation in the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program Act of the State of New Jersey, effective June 1, 2008, which is attached as an appendix.

B

Mr. Venditti inquired about the threshold for benefits eligibility. Mr. Roer twenty (20) hours.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

6. Approve the Licensing and Maintenance Agreement between Educational Data Services and the Midland Park Board of Education, as per the attached appendix.

C

Mr. Venditti inquired about the relationship between this agreement and the previously adopted agreement with the Glen Rock School district. Mr. Roer responded that Glen Rock was the 'lead agency' and Ed-Data performs the actual services to the Districts.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mrs. Polhemus, seconded – Mrs. Vandervliet . . .

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school regular education student on home instruction, effective retroactive from March 18, 2008 through May 18, 2008.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Polhemus, seconded – Mrs. Vandervliet . . .

2. Approve the list of staff members requesting workshop attendance, as follows (support material attached):

Name	Workshop	Location	Date
Marilyn DeLuccia	NJ ASK Coordinator Training, Grades 5 & 6	Parsippany, NJ	March 31, 2008
Anne Schaper	Regional Training Session for Licensing	Parsippany, NJ	April 3, 2008
Patricia Sicree Patricia Zarpaylic	Supporting Pre-Schoolers on the Autism Spectrum in Integrated Pre-K Classes	Oradell, NJ	April 10, 2008
Teresa Isik	Guidance Counselor Fly-In Program	Waltham, MA	April 10, 2008
Mary Johnston Deborah Lelinho	100 Great Books to Inspire Every Reader & Writer	Fairfield, NJ	May 6, 2008
Connie Cervati	Healthy Choices for Healthy Children	Paramus, NJ	May 15, 2008
Raina Dawson	Biology Performance Assessment Scoring	Montvale, NJ	June 2, 2008

Roll Call: All Yes

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

The committee met this evening at 6:30. There will be a first reading of new policies at the next meeting; Mr. Roberts noted that there may be a requirement to add certain informational items to the Mission Statement; such as students meeting Core Curriculum Contents Standards; We may have to revise the Mission Statement.

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

The following items were reported on:

Today was the last day to register to vote to be eligible to vote in the April 15th election.

There are two topics still in discussion in the legislature:

Possibly moving the school elections to either November or combining all nonpartisan elections on a single date in May.

There is proposed legislation that would require boards of education to set aside a portion of every meeting for public comment. Many school boards (such as Midland Park) already do this.

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

The following items were reported on:

- a. The Borough is going out to bid for the irrigation system.
 - b. The lightning detection system will be installed during the Spring Break on the roof of MPHS.
 - c. There was an incident of a car driving on the back field—concern for the future irrigation system.
 - d. Mr. Salvi – has provided the committee with a list of his walkthroughs of the three schools; the board would like to see a follow up list of completed items.
- Mr. Venditti – Can we find out the status of the tennis court update? Mr. Roer will report at the next meeting.

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

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

It was reported that the committee is starting to collect data for next issue.

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

L. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

The following items were reported on:

- a. The next Market Day pick-up is Friday, March 29, 2008 at 5:30-6:30 in the High School Cafeteria.
- b. Cultural Awareness week is March 31-April 4th, 2008.
- c. Thursday, April 3rd is the Wheelchair Basketball Game/NJ Nets vs. Midland Park faculty at 7:30 p.m. in the High School gym.

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

There is an Art Auction at Kennedy Hall on April 11, 2008
Cultural Awareness week is March 31-April 4, 2008

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

No Report.

Performing Arts Parents – (A. Polhemus)

Cudo's to the students for the successful production of Grease.

Special Education – (J. Vandervliet)

No Report.

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

The Midland Park Girls Softball Association is interested in improving the infield surface on the Highland school field. The Association is planning to purchase 'Turface' for the Highland School field this Spring.

Education Foundation – (R. Venditti)

The Gala was a great success.

Continuing Education Program – (J. Vandervliet)

No Report.

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

No Report.

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

Mr. Schiffer reported that NJSBA has stopped building its new facility; all the regional offices will stay in the old building.

O. Old Business

Mr. Venditti questioned that, on April 10 both the World Language Society and the Honor Society awards are planned Back to Back at 6:30 and at 7:30

Mrs. Terraciano confirmed that both teachers agreed that it can be done with the World Language Society ceremony conducted in 30 minutes.

P. New Business

Motion – Mrs. Vandervliet, seconded – Mrs. Polhemus . . .

To go into closed session after the March 25, 2008 meeting and before the meeting of April 8, 2008, for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Moraski introduced Mr. Robert Jacobs, Board Attorney, to the public.

Open to the Public

Mr. Moraski invited the public to address the Board.

Mr. Scott Polhemus, high school student, read a prepared statement on the positive influence Mr. Arroyo has had on him.

Ms. Beth Adams – Was the Board aware of the allegations?

Mr. Jacobs responded that all allegations were not brought to anyone's attention until much later on.

Ms. Gonzalez—Asked the same question--- Mr. Jacobs responded with the same answer.

Ms. Debbie Cirino –Did she address this issue to the Administration—Mr. Jacobs; Yes

Did she make allegations? Her concerns were addressed by the teachers and the administration, according to Mr. Jacobs.

Ms. Beth Adams –was Mr. DePreker informed of the situation?

Mr. Jacobs declined to answer this question.

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mrs. Polhemus . . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9: 07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Roer,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary