

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Board of Education**  
**Midland Park, New Jersey**  
May 27, 2008

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Richard Venditti, 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 2008 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: | James Canellas   | Sandra Criscenzo |
|          | Paula Lein       | Wayne Roberts    |
|          | William Sullivan | Robert Schiffer  |

Richard Venditti

Excused:        Raymond 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 – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Roberts . . .

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings:

April 29, 2008

May 13, 2008

Roll Call:

Mr. Roer publicly read the Code of Ethics and the Board conducted its annual discussion of the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics

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

Adopt the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics, which are attached as an appendix (support material attached):

A

Roll Call: All Yes

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Venditti commented on the following items:

- a. Mr. Venditti reported that Mr. Moraski has earned a prestigious recognition and certification by the New Jersey School Boards Association.
- b. 'On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Mr. Mamola, the Central office and in particular Anne Schaper for making a smooth transition for an Interim Superintendent possible.'
- c. He met with Dr. Heebink to continue the smooth transition
- d. He advised the Board to check out all the June events

In addition, Mr. Roer reported that Mr. Schiffer was recognized by the New Jersey School Boards Association for his twenty year milestone as a School Board member.

### **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

Mr. Mamola commented on the following items:

- a. The Biology Team came in first place in a highly competitive contest on April 10, 2008. The students and their teacher were recognized by the Board of Education, at the meeting
- b. Leaders Beyond Borders – There were thirty (30) High School students who participated. There was a slide show presentation by the students, Mrs. Wecht and Mrs. Halliwell. In addition some of the parent volunteers addressed the Board and complimented the students.
- c. The Annual Spring Concert was excellent
- d. He complimented the Godwin/Highland staff for their Annual Field Day. It was a success
- e. Spring Concert --- It was excellent.

Motion Mr. Schiffer, seconded - Mrs. Lein.....  
To briefly recess the meeting.

Roll call:

All Yes

The meeting was recessed at 8:32 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

|          |                  |                  |
|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Present: | James Canellas   | Sandra Criscenzo |
|          | Paula Lein       | Wayne Roberts    |
|          | William Sullivan | Robert Schiffer  |
|          | Richard Venditti |                  |
| Excused: | Raymond Moraski  |                  |

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 - Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Accept the resignation of Jennifer Hunt as a Learning Disability Teacher/Consultant for the district, effective June 30, 2008 (support material attached).
2. Approve an unpaid medical leave for Tara Psomiadis as an English teacher at the high school, effective retroactive from May 20, 2008 through June 20, 2008 (support material attached).
3. Approve the following retroactive addition to the list of advisors to clubs and activities at the elementary school for the 2007-2008 school year (support material attached):

|                     |                    |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Add: Jeffrey Peters | Stage Crew Advisor | <u>Stipend</u><br>\$355 |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|

4. Amend Motion A-2 of the December 18, 2007 Board Agenda approving a prorated stipend for Donna Halliwell and Terri Wecht as co-advisors of Leaders Beyond Borders from \$124.25 each to \$177.50 each, effective retroactive from September 1, 2007.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

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

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of April 30, 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 – Mrs. Lein . . .

2. Approve the following block motion:
  - a. March 2008 Midland Park Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$50,193.15.
  - b. May 2008 supplemental claims in the amount of \$59,700.60.
3. Approve the May 2008 payroll in the amount of \$995,872.36.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

4. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the period April 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008, which are attached as an appendix. B
5. Approve the transfers among accounts, according to prescribed accounting procedures, for the period February 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008, which are attached as an appendix. C

Roll Call: All Yes

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

6. Approve the transfer of \$319,046.00 from the elementary school project #445 to the high school project #446, as per the auditor's recommendation.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum Committee – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

Motion – Mrs. Lein, seconded – Mrs. Criscenzo . . .

1. Approve the proposed 2008-2009 Academic Calendar (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Lein, seconded – Mrs. Criscenzo . . .

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school special education student on home instruction, effective retroactive from April 14, 2008 through June 14, 2008.
3. 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 May 21, 2008 through June 20, 2008.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mrs. Lein, seconded – Mrs. Criscenzo . . .

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

| Name  | Workshop                           | Location       | Date             |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Barbara Pierro<br>Louis Roer<br>Ristem Sela | Direct Certification<br>Workshop   | Newark, NJ     | June 3, 2008     |
| Michael Healy                               | Free and Reduced<br>Lunch Workshop | Hackensack, NJ | June 26,<br>2008 |

Roll Call: All Yes

D. Policy Committee – (P. Lein, Chairperson)

No Report.

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

The following items were reported on:

Bill A15 – This Bill abolished the vote on school budgets and shifts school board elections to November, was passed by the Senate Assembly on Monday, May 19. The Bill now moves to the Senate, where the Senate Education Committee Chairperson has introduced bill S-1861.

Bill A10 – seeks to limit the per pupil administrative costs of certain districts to 90 percent of the regional administrative costs per pupil for the 2008-2009 school year. Currently, there is no Senate counterpart bill for A10.

Bill A1113 – was approved by the Assembly Education Committee. The bill seeks to abolish the requirement to provide superintendents notice of contract-non-renewal one year prior to expiration.

Bill S1137 – was pulled for consideration by the Senate Labor Committee at the request of its sponsor (Senator Jeff Van Drew). The bill sought to expand the scope of negotiations to include all matters regarding the terms and conditions of public employment that are not specifically exempt from collective bargaining.

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

The following items were discussed/commented on:

- a. We will have the additional wood chips installed in the highland School play area by the end of this week.
- b. We are applying for an emergent project for high school roofing.
- c. The leak at Godwin was a result of a custodial oversight; the drains were clogged.
- d. The new Lighting prediction system at the high school is functional and works.

G. Negotiations – Teachers/Secretaries – (W. Roberts, Chairperson)

The committee met this evening regarding the Confidential Secretaries.

H. Public Relations Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

No Report.

I. Personnel Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

There will be a short meeting after the Public meeting, this evening.

J. Service Review Committee – (W. Roberts, Chairperson)

No Report.

K. Town Council Special Projects Committee – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

No Report.

L. Special Recreation Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

No Report.

M. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Food orders pick up 5:30-6:30

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

New officers installed

They are :

President Diane Borntrager

1st Vice President Debbie Cirino

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kristine Fiore

There will be new fundraisers this Fall.

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

Two scholarships will be awarded at tomorrow's meeting  
Spring Booster ad journal is ready for print.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

The Band will be performing in Atlanta later this week.

Mr. Canellas thought that a wonderful job was done by the performances of the high school Spring Choral group at their May 15, 2008 concert.

Mr. Canellas was totally impressed with the students' performances (middle school and high school bands) at their May 22, 2008 concert.

Mr. Venditti commented that Mr. Bartasik was a guest conductor.

It was noted that the students were playing buckets as instruments.

Special Education – ( )

No Report.

Education Foundation – (R. Moraski)

No Report.

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

There was a meeting with Mr. Salvi to ascertain exactly how the program works.  
The next meeting is in June.

N. Old Business

Mr. Venditti referenced the status of the consideration of a student representative on the Board. Mrs. Criscenzo referenced the Livingston School district practice.  
Mr. Venditti invited Dr. Heebink for Clarkstown's perspective and input

New Business

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .  
To go into closed session before the meeting of June 3, 2008, for the purpose of discussing personnel items.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Mr. Venditti invited the public to address the Board.  
Dr. Heebink publicly thanked Mr. Mamola for his cooperation in transition.

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mrs. Lein . . .  
To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Roer,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary