

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
November 20, 2007

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
	Wayne Roberts	Robert Schiffer
	Joan Vandervliet	Richard Venditti
	Ray Moraski	
Excused:	William Sullivan	
	Anne Polhemus	

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: August C. DePreker, Superintendent of Schools
Louis Roer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of Minutes

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

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings held on October 16, 2007 and November 6, 2007.

Roll Call: Yes 6 (Criscenzo, Lein, Roberts, Schiffer, Venditti, Moraski)
Abstain 1 (Vandervliet)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There will be a Long Range Planning meeting including Mr. Venditti, Mr. DePreker, Mr. Roer and himself to plan and implement the transition to the interim and replacement Superintendents.

The Board has set dates for the Interim Superintendent candidates to be interviewed.
Mr. Moraski offered his compliments to the Boy's soccer team and the Girl's Volleyball for their respective achievements this past season.

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DePreker introduced the Marching Band and Color Guard. They performed the music they played this past year and were in full attire. Mr. DePreker thanked everyone for their efforts and thanked the Board for their continued support of the high school music program. There has been tremendous pride in the program.

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 – (A. DePreker)

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

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

Delete: Bradley Sakevich Assistant Wrestling Coach

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

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

(s) Karen Hutton

(s) = Bergen County Substitute Certificate

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

Karen Campbell Substitute Instructional Aide

Kim Englehart Substitute Instructional Aide

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

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 September 30, 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.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the following block motion:

- a. Approve the October 2007 Midland Park Continuing Education Claims in the amount of \$75,200.83.
- b. Approve the November 2007 supplemental claims in the amount of \$161,453.61.
- c. Approve the November 2007 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$9,123.98.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the October 2007 lunch program direct pays in the amount of \$58,945.55.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the November 2007 payroll in the amount of \$1,037,938.50.

Roll Call: all Yes

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

5. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the period September 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, which are attached as an appendix.

A

Roll Call: All Yes

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

6. Accept the donation of the supply and installation of a Slave Scoreboard for Highland School from the Midland Park Basketball Association, as per Board Policy Section 7230 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school regular education student on bedside instruction, effective retroactive from October 16, 2007 through December 16, 2007.
2. 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 November 1, 2007 through January 1, 2008.
3. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one elementary school regular education student on home instruction, effective retroactive from November 16, 2007 through January 16, 2008.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

Name	Workshop	Location	Date
Linda Carr, Dianna Grasso, Rachel Grotsky, Eileen Horn, Rosemary Konde, Lynn Snyder	How to Handle the Hard to Handle Student	Newark, NJ	Nov. 29, 2007
Tarra Bergonzi	Assessment of Children on the Autism Spectrum	Montvale, NJ	Dec. 4, 2007
Katherine Gordon	Integrating Math Games into the Classroom	Piscataway, NJ	Dec. 4, 2007
Teresa Isik	Career training in Cosmetology	Paramus, NJ	Dec. 7, 2007
Lee Tracy	Annual Baseball Coaches Clinic	Flemington, NJ	Dec. 7, 2007
Nancy DeRitter	Performance Assessment in Biology and NJ Science Licensure & Certification	Somerset, NJ	Dec. 12, 2007
Edward McDonough, Andrew Peritore	Living in a Divided World	Mahwah, NJ	Jan. 8, 2008
Lori Thiemann	3 rd & 4 th Grade Teachers Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Jan. 25, 2008

*Motion reflects Strategic Planning Goal Area: Curriculum

Motion – Mrs. Lein, seconded Mrs. Vandervliet

To approve the following block motion:

5. Approve the implementation of the new club, Elementary Vocal Ensemble (Grades 3-6) at the Highland School for the 2007-2008 school year (support material attached).

6. Approve the implementation of the new club, 6th Grade Publication & Journalism at the Highland School for the 2007-2008 school year (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

The committee met this evening – There will be new and revised policies at the next meeting. He referenced a letter from the P.T.A. regarding the Prom bids; that they be contingent upon subscribing to the bussing component. The committee supports their recommendation but elects to not make it a policy. A letter will be sent to PTA that the decision to use the offered bussing will remain a student's choice, but the Board will 'encourage the bus use' (as compared with the establishing of a policy).

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

The new law on drug testing is in effect.

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

No Report.

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)

John Baumgartner – helping out with Chalk Board – The committee is getting his resume and his proposed costs.

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)

There will be a Town Meeting to Support Drug Alcohol prevention on 11/29 at 6:00
Market Day is going well
There will be a new project for fundraising- a Sock Hop.
There were six PTA Grants awarded totaling \$1,250.

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

The Holiday Boutique will be held in the Highland gym on 12/1/07.
There will be a fundraiser at the Blue Moon Café
The winter concert for Godwin will be on 12/4
The winter concert for Highland will be on 12/11

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

He echoed the compliments to the Soccer / Volleyball teams.
The Fall Awards meeting is on 11/29
The first part of the Face Lift in the gym has started.
There will be a Dance on 1/19/08; theme “Pack the House”. This is a new initiative to attract student support

Performing Arts Parents – (A. Polhemus)

No Report.

Special Education – (J. Vandervliet)

The following students had their poems published in the “Young American Poetry Digest 2007 Book”:
Mia Sclafani
Kelly Boland
Sophie Camardo
Maggie Hagarty
Shannon Gleba
Ava Wollner

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (R. Venditti)

Their last meeting was held to recognize the Founders–There was also a nice presentation on a District Technology initiative
They have received pledges in the amount of \$75,000
The 50th Gala Event will be on 3/14/08
They are considering a Virtual Classroom in the H.S. Media Center

Continuing Education Program – (J. Vandervliet)

The next meeting of the Adult Advisory Council will be on 11/27/07.

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)

No Report.

O. Old Business

Mr. Venditti; Can we get the Attorney's written opinion on the Audio surveillance taping issue?
The Finance Committee is researching a more advanced audio taping system of Board meetings.

Mr. Venditti; regarding Security Tags at the High School—What procedures are in place?

Mr. DePreker; It is a work in progress. There are some issues to address. He has asked for feedback

Mrs. Criscenzo suggested that we put this on website

Mr. Moraski referenced that this is part of the Strategic Plan –The police asked for this.

P. New Business

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

To approve the following block motion:

To go into special closed sessions on November 27 and 28, 2007, for the purpose of interviewing and negotiating with prospective candidates for the Interim Superintendent position at 5:40 p.m. in the Highland Media Center.

To go into closed session before the meeting of December 4, 2007, for the purpose of litigation, negotiations and Superintendent vacancy.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Mr. Moraski invited the public to address the Board.

Chris Hildebrand – On the badges... She wears it everyday at work; once people get used to it, it is not a bad idea –Mr. DePreker referenced that the staff supports it.

Dan Robles

1. He said that it is important that tags are there; he was involved in an issue as a student

2. It helps control student access to building.

3. The tags do not replace personnel; we should get more security guards on duty.

Mr. Schiffer: after the Columbine incident the Bergen County Police commended us on our lockdown procedures. We do have things in place.

Mr. Moraski: He will refer to the 'Rice Info to public' at future meetings.

1. Jean Pennington – She complained about how the Administration is blocking the getting of the information out. The project being referred to as Leaders Beyond Borders; they

accept 26 students who can help with Katrina relief, the teachers went to the H.S. P.T.A. for funding and the Administrators vetoed the funding request because they were a club.

She also asked why can't we earmark money to a Club? Answer the concept and purpose of Clubs is to be self sufficient and guided to develop plans and scope for their plan.

Mrs. Vandervliet: if PTA funds this club, they should fund all other clubs as well.

Mr. DePreker on the Katrina project; –the facts are: the parents are paying for the air fare (approximately \$280) out of an estimated total cost of \$750.00

She claimed that the Market Day was also vetoed by the Administration.

Mr. Venditti: They (the PTA) have their own bylaws and they can choose their project.

2. Jean Pennington represented herself as a taxpayer (although she acknowledged that she is an employee of Pomptonian Food Service)

She complained about the serving trays. She understood that the school is 'Going GREEN' with biodegradable trays, but she doesn't think they work;–

She complained about the 'Sporks', they are difficult to open them for a Napkin

The chicken nuggets are smaller in size —and breaded too much and are coupled with bread and tater tots and these could lead to Gluten allergies

Mr. Moraski – Thanked her for her feedback

Mr. Schiffer asked that Mr. Roer look into these complaints.

Mr. Venditti asked Mr. DePreker if there were any complaints about portions. Mr.

DePreker; not really

Mrs. Lein: parents can contact Pomptonian through the District Website

Jean Pennington: the other employees are afraid of losing a job if they complain, but she was not.

Mr. Roer will confirm that the menu's and the email address for parent suggestions is on the website.

Mrs. Vandervliet: These topics have been discussed forever, such as starchy foods at Godwin, meal cost at the High School

Mrs. Criscenzo: when we used Styrofoam, we got complaints

Mr. Venditti reminded the public that any complaints should go to the building Principal first.

Erin Fogelstrom—She would like to be on the community Advisory Committee. Mr. Roer appreciated her offer and will include her on the Forum.

Mr. Venditti reminded the public that we are not the first district to use this company.

The Board's expectation was that the use of an outside company was to be an improvement.

Mr. Moraski The Board felt it was worth implementing the change to enhance quality

Mrs. Pennington—The Board should seek parent involvement

Motion – Paula Lein seconded – Bob Schiffer . . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Roer,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary