

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Board of Education**  
**Midland Park, New Jersey**  
**February 23, 2010**

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 2009 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       | Raymond Moraski  |
|          | Wayne Roberts    | William Sullivan |
|          | Maryalice Thomas | Robert Schiffer  |

Richard Venditti

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff: William Heebink, Superintendent of Schools  
Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Approval of Minutes

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

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on January 19, 2010.

Roll Call: All Yes

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Venditti stated that he was surprised that no one from the community was present after all the news of State cutting and how all of the cuts would affect the School Districts.

### **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**

Dr. Heebink reported on the List of Student Achievements.

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2009-2010 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 – (W. Heebink)**

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the appointment of Karen Fracassini as a full-time one-on-one Instructional Aide for a Midland Park student, placed in the Memorial Middle School, Fair Lawn, NJ. She will be paid a salary of \$24,233 (Category V, Step 1 of the MPESA salary guide) prorated retroactive from February 22, 2010 through June 30, 2010 (support material attached).
2. Approve the appointment of Michael Mayer as a volunteer coach for the high school baseball program for the 2009-2010 school year (support material attached).
3. Approve the following addition to the list of substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year (support material attached).

(s) Melissa Troast (previously on list)

(s) = County Substitute Certificate

Roll Call: All Yes

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

#### **APPENDIX**

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

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 January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010, 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. January 2010 Midland Park Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$40,278.95.

b. February 2010 supplemental claims in the amount of \$269,860.49.

3. Approve the February 2010 payroll in the amount of \$546,577.42.

4. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the period January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010, which are attached as an appendix. F-1

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

5. Approve the transfers among accounts, according to prescribed accounting procedures, for the period January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010, which is attached as an appendix. F-2

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

6. Approve a resolution authorizing the Midland Park Board of Education to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, which is attached as an appendix. F-3

Mr. Venditti asked for an explanation. Ms. Garvey explained that this is a similar cooperative purchasing agreement to the two that we already have approved. We will be looking to see if we can get even better prices on supplies and technology.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

7. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a SEMI (Special Education *Medicaid Initiative*) *Waiver from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for the 2010-2011 school year*, due to the fact that there are forty or fewer Medicaid eligible classified students in the Midland Park School District (support material attached).

Mr. Venditti asked for an explanation. Ms. Garvey responded that our eligible classified students are projected at only 17. Not enough to take time out of the staffs day for the paperwork, the return will be insignificant. The State's minimum cut off is 40 for a waiver- we fall way below.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. Approve the revised fee schedule for the Institute for Child Development, Hackensack University Medical Center (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Schiffer asked why has the price changed?

Dr. Heebink responded that the Institute is on calendar year as opposed to school year.

The Board asked for a comparison of the amounts.

Mr. Schiffer stated that he wanted everyone to realize that there is the possibility of a decrease of 15% in 2010-2011 in State Aid which would substantial impact budget regarding employment and programs.

Ms. Garvey discussed the current year state aide cut of \$183,000.00. This figure is based on Excess Surplus; Projected Excess Surplus; and Percentage of Reserves.

Ms. Garvey commented that the State could only take remaining State Aid payments or it would have been more.

There is an order in which the cuts are to be made; Reason for order – least amount of impact on the tax payers. It must be taken from current year funds.

Will be freezing budget, only necessary purchases will be approved.

Will not affect taxes

Will affect Budget – programs and staffing

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

To approve the following block motion:

9. Approve the appointment of Lacey Pena as a leave replacement ABA Home Therapist for a special education student. Her fee will be \$35.00 per hour (support material attached).
10. Authorize the Board Secretary to draw for candidate's positions on the ballot at the Board of Education office at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 10, 2010.
11. Authorize the Board Secretary to request that the polls be opened from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 for the Annual School Election, and to request that the appropriate number of voting machines be provided by the County Superintendent of Elections.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the 2010-2011 Academic Calendar for the Midland Park Public Schools, which is attached as an appendix.

C-1

Mr. Sullivan questioned if any Holidays have been eliminated.

Dr. Heebink replied only Yom Kippur because it falls on the week-end.

A discussion ensued concerning the week that the schools will be closed will be the same time as the School Board Election.

Roll Call: 7 Yes (Criscenzo, Lein, Moraski, Roberts, Sullivan, Dr. Thomas, Venditti)  
2 No (Canellas, Schiffer)

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Ms. Lein . . .

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the proposed overnight trip to the NJSIAA Wrestling Championships from March

5 – 6, 2010 held in Atlantic City, NJ (support material attached).

Dr. Thomas asked the cost? Dr. Heebink replied that it depends on the number of students.

3. Approve the following forms, which are attached as an appendix:

Staff Development Workshop Request

C-2

Staff Development Follow-Up Report

C-3

4. Approve the acceptance of a Target grant in the sum of \$800 for the Catcher in the Rye Walking Tour (support material attached)
5. Approve the list of staff members requesting workshop attendance, as follows (support material attached):

| Name                              | Workshop  | Location                | Date                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Wayne Roberts                     | Governance II: Finance  | Web-Based               | Jan. 13-March 12, 2010 |
| Traci Audino                      | 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Preparing Students to Succeed in Today's World | Hackensack, NJ          | Feb. 26, 2010          |
| Eileen Ietto<br>Kathleen LePage   | Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in Special Education               | Piscataway, NJ          | March 6, 2010          |
| Eileen Ietto<br>Kathleen LePage   | Instructing Children with Cochlear Implants                                     | Piscataway, NJ          | March 12, 2010         |
| Brian Ersalesi                    | Common Core Standards   | Lyndhurst, NJ           | March 12, 2010         |
| Marilyn DeLuccia                  | NJ ASK Test coordinator Training  | Parsippany, NJ          | March 15, 2010         |
| Michal Edgerton                   | The Scarlet Letter  | Annandale-on-Hudson, NY | March 19, 2010         |
| Terri Isik                        | Directors of Guidance meeting   | Hackensack, NJ          | March 19, 2010         |
| Karen Kantrowitz<br>Caline Treger | North East Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages                      | New York, NY            | March 26, 27, 2010     |
| Patricia Ann Sicree               | Facilitation of Pull-out Social Skills Group in Public Schools                  | Monroe Township, NJ     | April 19, 2010         |
| Carole Treta                      | The New Web 2.0 Practical Classroom Applications                                | Rochelle Park, NJ       | May 4, 2010            |
| Sheralyn Gottlieb                 | Teaching Students with Autism   | Saddle Brook, NJ        | May 7, 2010            |

- D. Policy Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .

1. Approve the first reading of the following revised policies, which are attached as appendices:

|   |                                  |             |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Board Officers  | Bylaws Section 0152<br>(revised) | <u>PB-1</u> |
| Call, Adjournment and Cancellation                                  | Bylaws Section 0161<br>(revised) | <u>PB-2</u> |
| Evaluation of Superintendent  | Policy Section 1240<br>(revised) | <u>PB-3</u> |
| Employment of School Business<br>Administrator/Board Secretary      | Policy Section 1310<br>(revised) | <u>PB-4</u> |
| Job Descriptions  | Policy Section 1400<br>(revised) | <u>PB-5</u> |
| Equal Employment Opportunities                                      | Policy Section 1530<br>(revised) | <u>PB-6</u> |
| Affirmative Action Program for Employment and<br>Contract Practices | Policy Section 1550<br>(revised) | <u>PB-7</u> |
| Class Rank  | Policy Section 5430<br>(revised) | <u>PB-8</u> |

Mr. Sullivan asked for history?

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Dr. Thomas . . .

2. Approve the second reading of the following revised policies/regulations:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Highly Qualified Teachers   | Policy Section 2415.03<br>(revised)            |
| <i>Pulled from Agenda</i><br>Inappropriate Staff Conduct – Teaching Staff | Policy & Regulations<br>Section 3281 (revised) |
| <i>Pulled from Agenda</i><br>Inappropriate Staff Conduct – Support Staff  | Policy & Regulations<br>Section 4281(revised)  |
| Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Pupils                                | Policy Section 5111<br>(revised)               |
| (adding “full time employees” – children may attend.<br>Tuition Income    | Policy Section 6150<br>(revised)               |

Roll Call:

E. Legislative Committee – (P. Lein, Chairperson)

The following items were reported on:

- a. Copying costs may not exceed actual cost – OPRA
- b. A 1.5% of each person's salary will be assessed for Health Benefits and will be paid by the employee.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

The following items were commented/reported on:

- a. The drop ceiling and lighting in the high school room 16 has been fixed;
- b. The new Excel hand dryers are up and running in the Highland gym bathrooms;
- c. A new basketball hoop was installed at Godwin to replace the broken hoop;
- d. Repairs were made to ventilation at the high school server room to lower the room temperature.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2/24/2010.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 3/10/2010.

H. Negotiations – Administrators – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

It was reported that this committee is trying to schedule a meeting during March.

I. Public Relations Committee – (P. Lein, Chairperson)

Discussed the next Chalk Board issue

J. Personnel Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

None

K. Service Review Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

None

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

Have been in touch with the Mayor-he will let us know when he has a better idea of field completion.

M. Technology Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

The following items have been acquired through ARRA Funding Hardware:

- a. One SmartBoard
- b. Whiteboards
- c. LCD projectors

- d. Surge protectors
- e. Kurtzweil 3000 software
- f. Presentation carts
- g. Geosketch Pad software

The District has acquired a lot, both with local funds and through Grant dollars. Mr. Canellas added that amazing progress has been made in a short period of time.

N. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Market Day pick up is 2/26/10 at the high school between 5:30-6:30.

Elementary School PTA – (J. Canellas)

Upcoming events:

- a. 2/26 is a Beach Party.
- b. 3/19 – PTA Volleyball game

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

The Winter Sports Award Dinner is scheduled for 3/11/10.

Performing Arts Parents – (R. Moraski)

The Band performed with the Ridgewood Concert Band. They were very impressive and their performance was broadcasted on MPTV.

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (P. Lein)

The following events are scheduled:

- a. There is a meeting schedule for 2/25;
- b. A blue-jean ball is scheduled for March 13, 2010.

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

There is a meeting next week.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (C. Duane)



No Report.

O. Old Business

The following items were commented on:

Mr. Venditti commented that the Superintendent Search was on-going and that the Public Forum will be the week of 3/8/2010.

Ms. Garvey reported on the Budget/Election Calendar dates:

a. 3/19 will be the Tentative Budget Date at 8:00 a.m.

b. 3/30 The Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Moraski suggested that each committee send info on accomplishments to the Public Relations Committee for Chalk Board.

P. New Business

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of March 9, 2010, for the purpose of personnel and negotiations.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Mr. Venditti invited the public to address the Board.

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

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary