

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
March 30, 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
	Robert Schiffer	

Richard Venditti

Excused: Dr. Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT

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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Venditti commented/reported on the following items:

- a. Discussed the 2010-2011 Budget and how it affects the district and impact people;
- b. He said that he is quite proud of this District –the Staff/Administrators have stepped up to help the district, students and peers.
- c. He thanked the fellow Board members because they have worked hard as a team.
- d. He thanked Ms. Garvey and Dr. Heebink.

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

A. Personnel Committee – (W. Heebink)

APPENDIX

Motion – Mr. Roberts, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Midland Park Education Association and the Midland Park Board of Education, which is attached as an appendix .

A-1

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Roberts spoke on the following items regarding Negotiations:

a. 3 yrs K 2010-1013

b. 2010 – there will be a 0% increase; 2011-2013 will be a 2.5 %-3.25 %- depending on clarification of the 1.5% Health Benefit Contribution

Ms. Sandy Peterson thanked the Board for coming to agreement and was saddened that there is a 0% increase but thanked the Association and its people for settling. Hopefully, the majority of people have kept their jobs.

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

- AS-1. Approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for Michelle McKeon, .5 elementary school teacher, effective April 5, 2010 until further notice (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- AS-2. Accept with regret the retirement resignation of Rosemary Konde, elementary school teacher, effective June 30, 2010 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Ms. Anne Polhemus commented that this is a sad day for Midland Park. Ms. Polhemus commented that she wishes her well in her retirement.

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

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

Approve the submission of the Midland Park School District 2010 - 2013 Technology Plan to the State Department of Education.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Moraski . . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2010-2011 TENTATIVE BUDGET

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

Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a school district Budget for the FY 2010-2011 school year for submission to the voters of Midland Park, as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
Total General Fund	\$18,570,806	\$16,818,459
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 413,009	
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 450,990	\$ 450,990
Totals	\$19,434,805	\$ 17,269,449

Mr. Schiffer commented that the Board had 2 days to get the Budget to the County office after learning of a \$1 million + cuts. The Board faced many crunches in the past, but never like this. The Board has always done its best to not cut academics. We have always strived to have higher standards than the State demands—now we are forced to cut academics.

The staff needs to be applauded or we would have to cut \$400K more. The Board had an opportunity to go above the tax cap of 4% but decided not to with fear that the budget wouldn't pass. If the Budget is voted down it will only take away more from the children. Although the cuts are harsh, we hope that the public supports the Board and the District.

Dr. Heebink presented the proposed 2010-2011 School Budget and the effects of the State Aid cuts.

Open to the Public

Mr. Venditti invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Anne Polhemus – former Board member commented on the following items:

I know how much of an impossible task the Board and the Administrators have been faced with. Ms. Polhemus said that tonight she speaks as the Chairperson of the Municipal Alliance—the audience tonight we don't have Personnel information but ask that the Board take a look at the Budget again to keep SAC Coordinator. Ms. Polhemus spoke on behalf of Mr. Rush and asked that the Board not reduce Guidance and the SAC position.

Ms. Laura Fleming commented that she works in another district and she does know the extreme difficulty the district is facing. She said she would like to thank the dedicated professionals. She knows how difficult the economic times are. She suggested perhaps there is a need to investigate a partnership with neighboring towns.

Mr. Perry Polhemus spoke about the \$330,000 increase in health care. He commented that there had been a change to the State Benefit Program to save money. Why such a large increase? Ms. Garvey explained that although the change did save the district a lot of money, the district has no control over the increase imposed by the state. Although it is a large amount, the overall price is still less than a private provider.

A member of the public asked what is the full time equivalent in cuts? Dr. Heebink responded 6 full time; 8 part time and 17 reduced positions.

Ms. Virginia Lissandrello stated that she has 3 children in Special Services. She is quite concerned with cutting the PT position.

Mr. Venditti commented that we may not have a perfect plan; The District may have to make changes, after all the District only had 2 weeks to make major changes.

Mr. Rick Steiner asked what the next steps are. Dr. Heebink replied that if we had more notice we could be more deliberate but the Budget numbers that we have tonight we will have to live with and have to work within these numbers.

Ms. Nancy Bartman asked if there was an outreach plan for the community for votes –maybe take presentation on the road. Mr. Venditti commented that the PTA has always stepped up and helped at getting the word out. Dr. Heebink replied that we will look into it.

Marty Costello thanked the Board and the teachers for stepping up. He also asked about the news article stating that if the staff of the district agreed to a wage freeze that there would be incentives from the state. Ms. Garvey replied that the incentive was stated to be approx. \$75,000 for every \$1million in savings. If it does present itself, our “incentive” would be approximately \$25-30,000.

Ms. Vierheilg questioned if the freeze was on total salaries. Dr. Heebink answered that it was.

Ms. Joyce Peterson stated that on the calendar we have 183 school days but only 180 days are necessary. She asked if the district could change this to offset the dollars and the wage freeze. She also asked about the non program-Band reduction. Dr. Heebink replied that it was the instrumentation and traveling to competitions.

Debbie Dragonetti asked about the cuts in middle school athletics, if you take away some of the programs in the lower grade levels it will have an effect on the high school programs. Dr. Heebink replied yes it will have some impact but every school is cutting back—ultimately you will have no one to play. We also took into consideration sports offered at the Recreation Level.

Ms. Tiffany Gallagher questioned if we doing what other towns are doing. Dr. Heebink replied that with a wage freeze and retirements, the district had to cut much less.

Ms. Julian Buschardo asked if changes were immediate. Dr. Heebink replied that all changes are for next school year.

Ms. Sue Vander Pyle asked if 17 positions have been reduced, does that affect their health care. Dr. Heebink replied that we have tried to keep as much as possible, but in two instances there is loss of health care.

Mr. Russ Kamp said congratulations to all for rallying around this situation, exceptional job under the circumstances. Suggestion: presentation on MPTV

With no other questions being brought forward, the hearing was closed to the public.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary