

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
March 9, 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
	Raymond Moraski	Wayne Roberts
	William Sullivan	Maryalice Thomas
	Robert Schiffer	
	Richard Venditti	

Excused: Paula Lein

OTHERS PRESENT

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

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .
To Recess into Closed Session for a Residency Hearing:

Roll Call: All Yes

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:05 p.m.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of Minutes

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Mr. Schiffer . . .
Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on February 2, 2010.

Roll Call: 7 Yes (Canellas, Criscenzo, Moraski, Sullivan, Dr. Thomas, Schiffer, Venditti)
1 Abstain (Roberts)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Venditti commented that the Public Forum with the Superintendent Candidates was last night. The Board will make their decision within the next few weeks.

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

APPENDIX

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

Approve the revised “Referrals for Suspected Substance Abuse” form, which is attached as an appendix (support material attached) SR-1

Mr. Sullivan questioned if there is still a question on the form asking for referring party's name. Dr. Heebink replied no, that he read State Statute and found no reference on that issue—conflicting legal opinion and nothing to substantiate a concrete answer.

Ms. Criscenzo commented that there isn't a place for the number of times tested positive. Dr. Heebink said that he will have the form corrected.

Mr. Venditti asked if there is an internal reference of who refers. Dr. Heebink answered that just the principal's name is on file.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Approve the resolution for Disenrollment of High School Student SR-2

Roll Call: All Yes

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

1. Accept with regret the retirement resignation of Helen Snyder as an elementary school teacher, effective June 30, 2010 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the revised paid maternity leave for Jacqueline Goodell, high school teacher, effective February 9, 2010 through February 17, 2010; a paid child care leave, effective February 18, 2010 through March 17, 2010 and an unpaid child care leave, as per the New Jersey Family Leave Act, effective March 18, 2010 through April 30, 2010 (support material attached).
3. Approve the increase in position for Catherine Prinsell, School Psychologist, from a .6 to a .8 position, effective April 5, 2010 through June 30, 2010.
4. Approve the placement of Leah Wasserstrum to do a psychological externship for her Doctorate in the Child Study Team Department for the 2010 – 2011 school year for two days per week (support material attached).
5. Approve the following addition to the list of substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year (support material attached):

(s) Kevin Simmons

(s) = County Substitute Certification

6. Approve the following aide for Indoor Soccer (Girls & Boys) sponsored by the Midland Park Continuing Education Program, effective March 11, 2010 through May 6, 2010 (support material attached):

Julia Bos

7. Approve the following aide for the Midland Park Continuing Education After School Child Care program, effective March 10, 2010 through June 30, 2010 (support material attached):

Lauren Gormley

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Mr. Schiffer commented on the following items:

2010-2011 Tentative Budget

- a. Told to expect a 15% cut in aide; 4% tax cap; cut will be deep; \$440,000.00 from 2011-2012 –will be working on that between now and the tentative Budget approval.

Dr. Heebink presented possible reductions:

1. Non-student/program impacting areas:

Supplies, Text,	\$95,000.00
Reduced Transportation	\$35,000.00
Maintenance	\$25,000.00

2. Student/program impacting areas:

5 Sports Activities
12 Clubs
10-12 positions –eliminated or reduced

The final State Aid numbers are supposed to be received on 17th/18th of March;

Tentative Budget Approval is scheduled for March 19, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.

It is appalling to think that State numbers don't come out until the 17th or 18th and then you have two days to present a Tentative Budget.

In addition, a Public Hearing is scheduled for March 30, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Public:

Ms. Susan Bardzell – questioned the cuts in the programs –Are they at the Middle School or the High School level? Dr. Heebink replied the cuts will affect both.

Mr. Venditti commented that the Board wanted to come forward with some concepts because of the time frame given by the State. The District will keep as many programs in tact as possible. It will be tough to balance a budget and have minimal impact to the students and staff.

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

1. Approve the following block motion:

- a. February 2010 direct pays in the amount of \$365,594.40.
- b. February 2010 lunch program direct pays in the amount of \$28,246.29.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

- 2. Approve the second February 2010 payroll in the amount of \$511,139.53.
- 3. Approve the March 2010 claims in the amount of \$141,048.70.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- 4. Accept the donation of two charter buses by the Powderly family for the 7th grade trip to the Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ on April 15, 2010, as per Board Policy 7230 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one middle school student on bedside instruction, effective retroactive from March 3, 2010 through March 10, 2010, at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Roll Call: All Yes

2. This item was withdrawn from the Agenda.

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

3. Approve the amended ARRA IDEA Grant for Non-Public Funds for the 2009-2010 school year (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

Name	Workshop	Location	Date
Teresa Wecht	Language Arts Literacy	Lyndhurst, NJ	March 12, 2010
Heidi Cassells	Behavior Interventions That Work	Newark, NJ	March 17, 2010
Jane Bandstra	Strategies to Help PT's & OT's Support Students	Newark, NJ	March 23, 2010

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1 Approve “Release the Beat” to be held on April 10, 2010 at the Midland Park High School.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

1. Approve the first reading of the following new/revised policies and regulations, which are attached as appendices.

Nepotism	Bylaws Section 0142.1 (revised)	<u>PB-1</u>
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Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet	Bylaws Section 0169 (new)	<u>PB-2</u>
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Mr. Venditti asked for direction on use of internet/email for Board business. Need way to police. He asked that the committee can come up with recommendation.

Mr. Venditti questioned if the attorney reviewed the policy. Mr. Canellas responded yes and made minor changes.

Legal Services	Bylaws Section 0174 (revised)	<u>PB-3</u>
Internal Controls	Policy & Regulation Section 1570 (revised)	<u>PB-4</u>
Administrative Employment Contracts	Policy Section 1620 (revised)	<u>PB-5</u>
Pupil Smoking	Policy Section 5533 (revised)	<u>PB-6</u>
Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program	Policy & Regulation Section 6111 (revised)	<u>PB-7</u>
Political Contributions	Policy Section 6360 (revised)	<u>PB-8</u>
Purchases Budgeted	Policy Section 6421 (revised)	<u>PB-9</u>
School District Travel Procedures	Regulation Section 6471 (revised)	<u>PB-10</u>
Smoking on School Grounds	Policy Section 7434 (new)	<u>PB-11</u>
Special Interest Groups	Policy Section 9700 (revised)	<u>PB-12</u>

2. Approve the second reading of the following revised policies

Board Officers	Bylaws Section 0152 (revised)
Call, Adjournment and Cancellation	Bylaws Section 0161 (revised)
Evaluation of Superintendent	Policy Section 1240 (revised)
Employment of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary	Policy Section 1310 (revised)
Job Descriptions	Policy Section 1400 (revised)
Equal Employment Opportunities	Policy Section 1530 (revised)

Affirmative Action Program for Employment and Contract Practices	Policy Section 1550 (revised)	
Inappropriate Staff Conduct – Teaching Staff Members	Policy & Regulations Section 3281 (revised)	<u>PB-13</u>
Inappropriate Staff Conduct – Support Staff Members	Policy & Regulations Section 4281 (revised)	<u>PB-14</u>
Class This item was pulled from the Agenda	Policy Section 5430 (revised)	

Mr. Moraski commented that he appreciates the change to the 3rd quarter ranking but more comfortable if implemented after the current 9th grade graduates. Dr. Heebink responded that maybe there can be a middle ground reached.

Dr. Thomas reported that Ms. Terraciano commented that it really does not change that much. If so, then why not wait until 2014?

The Board asked that this policy be tabled and revisited by the committee.

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

No Report.

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

The following items were reported on:

- Compressor at Godwin School is being installed.
- Roof repairs were made to the high school (over library, guidance office, and over the back entrance).

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

There is a meeting tomorrow night with the Association.

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

Need to come up with dates to meet.

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

Dr. Thomas stated that they are working on the budget news letter.

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

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

The work on the town baseball/softball field has begun. Backstop complete –Still have some more work before whole field is complete

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

The committee reviewed 1st draft of the Technology Plan.

The intention of the committee is to bring the plan to the Board for the meeting on the 23rd.

N. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Market Day orders are due Saturday, March 20th, 2010.

A combined general meeting is Tuesday, March 16th, beginning at 7:00 in the High School Media Center.

Elementary School PTA – (J. Canellas)

The following items were reported/commented on:

- a. Beach party is 3/9;
- b. A general meeting is scheduled for 3/19

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

The following items were reported on:

- a. If you would like to place an ad in support of your favorite student-athlete or team, please complete the form available on the Boosters page of the MPHSA website at: <http://www.midlandparkschools.k12.nj.us/6682012218144643/site/default.asp>
- b. We have established a partnership with Fieldhouse.com to make custom Midland Park logo apparel and other items more readily available to the school community. You can access the website directly at: Fieldhouse.com/MPHSPANTHERS.
- c. Our BPSL Carpenter Division Champion Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball teams were presented with hooded sweatshirts honoring their championship seasons at the Boys Basketball “Pack the House Night” game.
- d. The Winter Sports Awards Night is Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.in the MPHS Memorial Hall.

Performing Arts Parents – (R. Moraski)

The musical is scheduled for 3/18

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (P. Lein)

Mr. Canellas reported that he attended the Trustees Meeting. The “Access to All” Grant was reviewed and discussed.

“Blue Jean Ball” Saturday – 3/13

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (C. Duane)

No Report.

O. Old Business

Mr. Venditti asked that the Board please review the surveys regarding the Superintendent Candidates from the Public Forum.

P. New Business

Mr. Canellas commented that the Board meeting e-blast reminder with the agenda or referenced to website.

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of March 23, 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.

Ms. Susan Bardzell and Ms. Maureen LaPuma commented that they have sons in 7th grade and they have concerns with their sons’ Spanish class. They have 30 + students in the class; not best enrollment and their sons are not doing well. Is there a law as to the maximum amount of students in a Spanish class? Can we hire a Part-time Spanish teacher?

Dr. Heebink replied that there is no law, but he does understand their feelings and will check into this situation. A report will be submitted to the Board after the schedule is created for next year.

Mr. Venditti added that maybe some Honor Society Students can tutor.

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .
To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary