

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
November 17, 2009

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 (work obligations)
	Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff: William Heebink, Superintendent of Schools

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of Minutes

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

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on October 20, 2009.

Roll Call: All Yes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report.

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 the-m 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 that a list of achievements of our students and the system is available for distribution.

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. Moraski, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the change in salary for Thomas Steinfeld, as a .5 special education teacher at the high school from \$24,512.50 (MA Step 4) to \$27,339 (MA + Step 4), retroactive from September 17, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
2. Approve the following additions to the list of substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year (support material attached):

(s) Lee Ann Ganley Substitute School Nurse
(s) Susan Hartmann

(s) = County Substitute Certificate
3. Approve the following addition to the list of substitute workers for the 2009-2010 school year (support material attached):

Frances Shabrack Substitute Building Aide

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- AS-1 Accept the retirement resignation of Kathleen Farago, health/physician education teacher in the elementary schools, effective February 1, 2010 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following block motion:

- a. October 2009 Midland Park Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$39,760.54.
- b. November 2009 supplemental claims in the amount of \$233,613.41.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Roberts, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

2. Approve the following block motion:

- a. October 2009 direct pays in the amount of \$221,573.00.
- b. October 2009 cafeteria direct pays in the amount of \$26,161.99.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the November 2009 payroll in the amount of \$1,122,676.96.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Roberts, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

To approve the following block motion:

- 4. Approve Bergen County Special Services/Educational Enterprises – Sound Solutions to provide Speech: Midland Park's SLS to co-treat for transition of services from November 2009 to April 2010 two times per week for thirty minute sessions for one special education student. The approximate cost for forty sessions @ \$65 for thirty minutes is \$2,600.
- 5. Approve the use of Rickard Rehabilitation Services, Inc. to provide occupational therapy services (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Schiffer further reported that the Finance Committee had met with the auditor and all Board members have received the audit. The Auditor will be at the December 1st Board meeting to discuss said audit.

Mr. Schiffer reported that the Bond and Certificate of Deposit have been renewed and the interest earned from the Certificate will be a small amount higher than the Bond interest due.

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

APPENDIX

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

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 November 9, 2009.
2. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school regular education student on home instruction, effective November 18, 2009 through January 4, 2010.
3. Approve the list of staff members requesting workshop attendance, as follows (support material attached):

Name	Workshop	Location	Date
Jennifer Finnerty Therese Seiders	Autism and Asperger's Syndrome: Understanding How Student's Learn	New Providence, NJ	Dec. 1, 2009
Sheralyn Gottlieb	Preschool Outcome study Technical Assistance	East Orange, NJ	Dec. 1, 2009
Jennifer Langenfeld	Using Literature and Memoir: Red Scarf Girl, Memoir of the Cultural Revolution	New York, NY	Dec. 9, 2009
Rosemary Ferullo Tarra Matway	Aligning NJCCCS Within the Least Restrictive Environment	East Orange, NJ	Dec. 15, 2009
Danielle Bache Sheralyn Gottlieb Patricia Terraciano	Using NJ Quality Indicators for Inclusion to Plan for change	East Orange, NJ	Dec. 16, 2009
Sheralyn Gottlieb Catherine Prinsell Therese Seiders	Community-based Instruction Job Coach Training	East Orange, NJ	Jan. 12, 2010
Sheralyn Gottlieb Catherine Prinsell Therese Seiders	Using Community-based Instruction to Teach Social Skills	Morris Plains, NJ	Feb. 3, 2010, March 16, 2010
Sarah Berninger	Curriculum Conversation: The Scarlet Letter	Annandale-on-Hudson, NY	March 19, 2010
Sheralyn Gottlieb Catherine Prinsell Therese Seiders	Community-Based Instruction Supporting Job Coaches	East Orange, NJ	April 14, 2010
Sheralyn	CBI Job Development in	Morris Plains,	April 27, 2010,

Gottlieb Catherine Prinsell Therese Seiders	Career Exploration for Students with Disabilities	NJ	May 18, 2010
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Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the appointment of Carole Steel as a member of the Local Professional Development Committee at Highland School for the 2009-2010 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

5. Approve the acceptance of a \$500 grant from the All State Insurance Company to support additional substance abuse prevention activities by the Take Action Drug and Alcohol Prevention Club (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Dr. Heebink pointed out that Mr. Ed Purcell the office Vice President for All State Insurance on Godwin Avenue was responsible for gaining these funds. Mr. Moraski asked that a thank you letter be sent to Whitey Purcell and Mr. Schiffer asked if he could hand deliver it.

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

To approve the following block motion:

6. Approve the establishment of two new clubs/activities (support material attached):

Primary Mathematics Club

Middle School Musical Play Producer

7. Approve the revised “Request for Textbook/Instructional Materials Approval” form, which is attached as an appendix.

C-1

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. Approve the revised academic criteria for the scholar-athlete awards (support material attached).

Dr. Heebink commented that the Scholar Athlete award would now include a weighted GPA for honors and AP students and not just the Honor Roll as a decision for the award. The GPA would be 3.75 weighted.

Mr. Canellas asked if that would mean that a grade of C in an Honors program would allow a student to be awarded Student/Athlete.

Dr. Heebink explained the weighted GPA and agreed that a C in an honors program would count for the award.

Mr. Schiffer asked that all students receiving GPA's totaling 3.75 be awarded the Student/Athlete recognition.

Dr. Heebink agreed.

Mr. Venditti then further clarified that every student would get two looks.

Ms. Jane Bandstra, 64 Hill Street, asked how the grade in Math for this semester in the 10th and 11th grade would be handled since it will be pass/fail.

Mr. Schiffer and Dr. Heebink both noted that any P/F grade would be eliminated from the decision of GPA.

Ms. Criscenzo stated the P/F might actually hurt an Honor student who would get an A+ in that P/F class as the weighted average would create a much higher GPA.

Roll Call: (1 No- Mr. Canellas)

(7 Yes – Ms. Criscenzo, Mr. Moraski, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Sullivan, Dr. Thomas,
Mr. Schiffer, Mr. Venditti)

Ms. Bandstra then asked who picks the student athletes who will receive this award? Dr. Heebink responded that Mr. Salvi who is the Athletic Director.

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

No Report.

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

The “Lame Duck” period has potential to pass legislation that might not pass under the newly elected Governor who officially assumes the office on January 1, 2010.

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

Ms. Criscenzo reported that the hand sanitizers and equipment are now in all three schools.

In addition, an underground pipe was broken and fixed at the Godwin School with an unbudgeted price of \$6, 800.00.

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

Mr. Roberts reported that the next meeting with the Teachers/Secretaries/Custodial union is set for 12/7/09.

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

No Report.

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

No Report

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

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Personnel committee met on 11/17/09 and approved 8 job descriptions to be moved along to the full board.

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

No Report.

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

Mr. Moraski reported that The Town Council now has a third option for The Vietnam Veterans Field to discuss even though the Council voted option #2 as its final choice on 11/12/09. More information will follow when available.

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

No Report.

N. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

The following items were commented on:

Market Day pick-up is Friday, November 20, 2009 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the High School Cafeteria.

Andrew Donofrio will be a guest speaker on Wednesday, January 20, 2009. The topic is internet safety.

The directory winners were:

- a. Front cover: 11th grade – Nick Damiano
- b. Back cover: 7th grade – Rachel Bornstrager

Elementary School PTA – (J. Canellas)

No Report.

Booster Club – (W. Roberts)

Mr. Roberts reported that the Booster Club would be awarding plaques to the BPSL Champion Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball teams.

Performing Arts Parents – (R. Moraski)

No Report.

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

Dr. Thomas reported that a Special Education Advisory Group has been formed.

Education Foundation – (P. Lein)

The following items were mentioned:

- a. The committee is anxiously awaiting Dr. Heebink's "district plan".
- b. Thursday, December 3 is the Barnes & Noble fund raiser. Coupons were E-blasted out.
- c. At 4:30- there is going to be a "Teacher's Theater" planned by Ms. Bache & Mrs. Piscitello.
- d. The 5th & 6th grade Chorus will be performing under Ms. McDowell.
- e. Don't forget about Amazon shopping. If you are ordering holiday gifts, go through the MPPEF website to get to Amazon. They receive a % of the proceeds.

A question was raised as to what is the status of the Carol Carlisle Memorial Garden? Did the teachers and the PTA come up with a plan?

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

P. New Business

Motion to go into closed session before the meeting of December 1, 2009, for the purpose of personnel and negotiations.

Open to the Public

Mr. Venditti invited the public to address the Board.

Motion – Mr. Roberts, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .
To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Schiffer,
Vice President of the Board