

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Board of Education**  
**Midland Park, New Jersey**  
February 5, 2013

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by William Sullivan, 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 2012 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. The Board announces that under its long-standing policy, it will not discuss in public any comments made by members of the public concerning individual staff members. In addition, all questions must be presented to the Board of Education during the public session and prior to the adjournment of the meeting."

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	James Canellas	Sandra Criscenzo
	Richard Formicola	Robert Schiffer
	Peter Triolo	Maryalice Thomas
	Timothy Thomas	
	William Sullivan	

Excused: Brian McCourt

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff: Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools  
Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS**

*Ms. Stacy Garvey*

**BOARD PRESIDENT ITEMS**

*Mr. William Sullivan*

***Midland Park Public School District 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.***

The following items were discussed at the School Safety Forum, as follows:

- Communication was a key item that was stressed between Administrators and Law Enforcement.
- MOA
- Communication with parents without developing protocol.
- SRO
- Building Audits
- Training Videos

At the Forum they did not support armed security in schools outside of SRO's. School Administrators should work with Legislators to make security costs outside of the 2% Cap.

Each Board member has an e-mail address on our website.  
Our Annual Bowling Night is scheduled for March 12, 2013.

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS**     *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

Presentation on Board Policy 5460/Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School Graduation Credit Requirements by Mr. Capuano and Mr. Chang. Graduation Credit Requirement – maintaining 126 Credits for MPHS graduation.

Mr. Sullivan commented that the State raised the credits from 110 to 120 –do we know when this happened? John Schembari answered 2009-2010 for the entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Mr. Formicola asked if there are any benefits on having 9 periods. Dr. Cirasella commented that for our program 8 periods give more teaching time, 9 periods would reduce the amount of instruction time per class. Mr. Capuano commented that you will not be able to cover as much content. Ms. Fantulin questioned who enrolls in AP classes. Mr. Capuano stated that anyone can enroll in these classes.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on February 26, 2013.

C-1 The Board discussed 2013-2014 Calendar and graduation falling on a different night than Friday. The committee will review the calendar again and bring back to the Board for the next meeting.

**Open to Public-** Comments only for action items on the agenda.

No one chose to speak at this time.

#### **Action Items:**

A.     Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .

1. Approve an unpaid leave of absence, as per the NJ Family Leave Act, for Mary Johnston, elementary school teacher in the Highland School, retroactive from January 30, 2013 through February 22, 2013 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Dr. Thomas, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .

- AS2. Approve the appointment of Christopher Swank as the Buildings & Grounds Supervisor. He will be paid a salary of \$85,000, prorated effective March 4, 2013 through June 30, 2013, as per the contract, which is attached as an appendix.

S-1

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance-(R.Schiffer,Chairperson)

APPENDIX

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

1. Approve the Midland Park Technology Inventory deletions for the 2012-2013 school year, as per the attached appendix.

B-1

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Interim Director of Special Services for the continuation of home instruction for one previously approved high school regular education student, through February 4, 2013.
2. Approve the recommendation of the Interim Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school regular education student on bedside instruction at High Focus Center, Paramus, NJ, effective retroactive from January 15, 2013 through March 1, 2013.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Dr. Thomas . . .

3. Approve the following resolution:

Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) Waiver from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for the 2013-2014 school year, due to the fact that there are forty or fewer Medicaid eligible students in the Midland Park School District.

The Board asked for more information on this. Administration explained the initiative further and why the District applies for this waiver. The return for this is quite nominal and not worth administrative and clerical time.

Roll Call: All Yes

## **LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

D. Policy Committee- (T. Thomas, Chairperson)

No report.

E. Legislative Committee- (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

Mr. Triolo reported on the following items:

### **New Jersey Scores High on Ed Week Report**

The 2013 edition of Education Week's Quality Counts report ranks New Jersey schools second in the nation for K-12 achievement.

Only Massachusetts scored higher than New Jersey in K-12 achievement; both states received a grade of B, while the national average was a C-minus.

Besides looking at K-12 achievement, the report also evaluates states on several other benchmarks, including:

- School finance (NJ was ranked seventh nationally, with a grade of B)
- Transitions and alignment between K-12 and preschool and college /workforce (NJ was ranked 20<sup>th</sup> with a grade of B-minus)

Standards, assessments and accountability (NJ was ranked 44<sup>th</sup> with a grade of C

When all benchmarks were tallied, New Jersey's overall state grade was a B-minus, eighth highest in the nation.

### **US Department of Education Addresses Disabled Students' Access to Sports**

The U.S. Department of Education issued a letter on January 25 clarifying school districts' legal responsibilities to give students with disabilities equal access to extracurricular athletics.

In the letter, the department's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) encouraged school districts to work with their state athletic associations to ensure that students with disabilities are not denied equal opportunities to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The letter noted that school districts that offer extracurricular athletics must do so in a way to allow qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate. A school district must make reasonable modifications to its policies, practices and procedures to provide aids and services when necessary to ensure an opportunity for equal participation, unless the district can demonstrate that doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the sport.

While New Jersey has made strides toward providing equal opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in school athletic programs, this latest guidance from the federal government would appear to be broader in scope than the existing New Jersey legislation.

School boards are encouraged to consult with their school attorney for the impact on their particular schools and districts.

F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

No Report.

G. Negotiations Committee- (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

No Report.

H. Public Relations Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

The Board is proceeding with bringing back the Chalk Board issue.  
There is a meeting tonight to discuss further.

I. Personnel Committee- (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

No Report.

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2013.  
Cultural Awareness Week is scheduled for March 18-22.

Elementary School PTA - (P. Triolo)

The following items/events are scheduled:  
Fundraiser on 2/7/2013  
Family Fun Night on 3/1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Highland gym.  
Kindergarten registration is set for March 7, 2013.

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

The following items/events are scheduled:  
Beef steak dinner  
Girls basketball doing very well –are on the second round in the County Tournament.

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

A performance of *Legally Blonde* is scheduled for March 22, 2013.

Special Education – (B. Sullivan)

There is going to be a study to explore funding methods for special education. It is felt that the current system pits *Regular vs. Special Education*.

Education Foundation – (J. Canellas)

Mark your calendars – Blue Jean Ball – April 13, 2013.

Board of Recreation – (T. Thomas)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

The Continuing Education Spring Catalogue has been mailed.

Student Representative to the Board – (H. DeKnight)

Absent.

Borough Town Council – (W. Sullivan)

On January 23 we met with representatives from the Borough.

The following items were discussed:

Recording meetings

Shared Services

Grant opportunities

SRO

Reverse 911 system

Next meeting will take place on 3/6

The police department will view the Board policy on use of assistive technology during the school day.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS**

At this time, nothing else was discussed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No comments at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of February 26, 2013, for the purpose of personnel, negotiations and confidential student and association matters.

Roll Call: All Yes

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Sullivan invited the public to address the Board.

Ms. Colleen Monahan commented that she wanted to discuss the “School Calendar” – the pro’s and con’s to having Graduation on Friday. There is a concern about getting help from the parents on a week day. Dr. Thomas asked if we can look into whether the break-down can occur on Saturday.

Ms. Monahan also discussed what the PTA and the parents are hoping to see with the new Buildings and Grounds Supervisor.

Mr. Brendan Jackson questioned when was the last time for QSAC? Dr. Cirasella responded it was last year. He asked if the facilities passed. Ms. Garvey explained that it is a general review of the facilities. They do not look at every system of the buildings.

Mr. Donald Togneri stated that the minutes of the meetings have not been on the Website since December 2012. In addition, there are no attachments listed.

Ms. Garvey replied that the Board has to approve the following month before they are listed on the website. January’s minutes will be approved at the February meeting and then posted.

Mr. Sullivan commented that all attachments are available at the Board office.

Ms. Criscenzo stated that if you have a question you may also contact an Administrator.

Mr. Togneri also asked about the recording of Board Meetings.

Ms. Ester Vierheilig commented that a recording of the meeting should be available the next day.

Ms. Garvey stated that any recordings would not be available until after the Board approves the minutes.

Ms. Fantulin commented that for us to have solid support in Midland Park we would need the Administrators to be present at the Board meetings. We would be able to stop the rumor process and encourage this with other hot button issues. She also suggested look into small private grants. She also added that the taping of Board Meetings is a parental issue which should be an action item to get done. Would like to see the Board meetings live but should be taped.

Mr. Formicola asked Administrators to look into how much it would cost.

Mr. Canellas suggested looking into live streaming.

Ms. Monahan stated that she is thrilled with Mr. Chang. He is a great asset to the high school. Also, the community is very happy with Mr. Galasso. All three (3) Administrators compliment each other very well.

Mr. James Wheaton commented that the 2010 Goals presentation is on the website. He asked if this presentation will be updated. Dr. Cirasella responded that year should be archived but the current goals should be on the website. I will update and clarify website.

Mr. Scott Meyer asked about presenting a plan for installing irrigation on the fields.

Mr. Sullivan asked that he contact Ms. Garvey.

Mr. Meyer asked Ms. Garvey about fertilizing the fields and having the proper program in place to ensure that the fields would be so much better. Mr. Sullivan commented that he was contacted by another group that would like to contribute to this project. Mr. Sullivan stated that he appreciates all your efforts.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary