

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
January 8, 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	Brian McCourt
	Robert Schiffer	Peter Triolo
	Maryalice Thomas	Timothy Thomas

William Sullivan

OTHERS PRESENT

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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

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.

On December 27, 2012 the administrators and Mr. Sullivan had a meeting with Councilwoman Nancy Peet and Mayor O'Hagan. Ms. Peet will remain as liaison to the Board and Mr. Sullivan for Council.

The following items were reviewed:

Looking into Grant opportunity

Integrating Calendars and Notices

Student working with the Borough to learn about local government

Purchasing opportunities

Use of SRO's

Broadcasting of the Board and Council Meetings

We are setting up another meeting for January 24th, 2013.

NJSBA is having a meeting and presentation on School Safety. Ms. Peet may also attend.

Also, would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on 1/11/2013.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

Emergency Management update by Dr. Cirasella.

- As of 10/15/12 – Required to update plans to align with standards.
- Midland Park is in compliance.
- On January 22, 2013 the Midland Park Police Department will be making a presentation at the public Board meeting.
- The MPPD will conduct periodic security checks at all schools.
- Superintendent will supply school building keys and floor plans to MPPD.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on January 22, 2013.

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

Action Items:

No one chose to speak at this time.

A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the amendment to Susana Candelas' previously approved maternity leave, as follows: Approve her paid maternity leave, effective October 15, 2012 through November 2, 2012; a paid child care leave, effective November 5, 2012 through November 30, 2012; an unpaid leave of absence as per the New Jersey Family Leave Act, effective December 3, 2012 through March 8, 2013 and an unpaid leave, effective March 11, 2013 through April 5, 2013.

2. Approve the following changes to the list of coaches at the high school for the 2012-2013 school year (support material attached):

Stipend

Delete:	Chris Terranova	Boys Assistant Basketball Coach	
Add:	William Whitney	Boys Assistant Basketball Coach	\$2,244.50

3. Approve Denise Connelly as an Aide to accompany one high school special education student during Track events on January 3, 7, 16 & 19, 2013. She will be paid at the approved rate of \$20.00 per hour for approximately 25 hours.

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance- (R. Schiffer, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the decommission and sale of one upright Steinway piano and one Baldwin Piano at the high school to Rockaway Piano, Morris Plains, NJ in the amount of \$200.

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 placement of one regular education high school student on home instruction, effective retroactive from January 2, 2013 through January 14, 2013 for a maximum of ten hours per week.
2. Approve the recommendation of the Interim Director of Special Services for the placement of one regular education high school student on bed side instruction, effective retroactive from January 2, 2013 through January 18, 2013, for a maximum of ten hours per week.

Roll Call: All Yes

LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The Policy Committee is meeting tonight. They will bring forward the 1st reading of policies including a number of Technology policies and graduation requirements for the high school.

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

No Report.

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

The Administrators will be reviewing various improvement plans. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss.

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

Teachers are ready to begin negotiation. Dr. Cirasella set up a committee meeting.

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

On January 16 there will be a combined meeting in the high school media center.

Elementary School PTA - (P. Triolo)

The Holiday Party was rescheduled last Thursday.

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

The following events were discussed/reviewed:

- a. 1/26/2013 – Beef Steak
- b. Girls and boys varsity basketball doing very well.
- c. Also, 7th & 8th graders doing very well.
- d. Arie Zuidema broke the school record in a Shot Put event.

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

No Report.

Special Education – (B. Sullivan)

Posting for Special Education Director position.

Education Foundation – (J. Canellas)

The Foundation is preparing for the Blue Jean Ball in April.

Board of Recreation – (T. Thomas)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (H. DeKnight)

No Report.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS

Nothing more to discuss at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Triolo commented that the current Budget is available on line.

Mr. Sullivan stated that Ms. Garvey is setting up e-mail addresses for the Board members but we are waiting for the attorney to provide a disclaimer statement.

NEW BUSINESS

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of January 22, 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.

Elaine Seals – questioned the role of substitutes in the Safety Planning Process.

Dr. Cirasella answered that emergency drill procedures are given to substitutes when they sign in. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sullivan asked are there some confidential items that need to be kept private.

Brendan Jackson wanted to know if there was an update on how board will proceed with referendum. Mr. Canellas will be meeting with Buildings & Grounds on that recommendation and it will come from the committee.

Demitri Pittas- Can parents help in any way? Mr. Sullivan commented that we need to come up with a course of action, first. We will have more information at the 1/22/2013.

Pat Fatulin wishes to extend Kudos to the administration for the changes in Curriculum and procedures in the 4th grade. Students are traveling for Language Arts and Math. This will allow teachers to feed to their strengths. Also, 7th grade teacher- Ms. Walker is doing a great job.

James Wheaton thanked the Board for getting together with the Mayor and Council. He is happy that communication has started and hopes it continues. He also spoke about the taping and pod casting of Board meetings.

Scott Meyer stated that the council is not able to make changes to the Borough budget once it is struck. He asked if the Board is able to make changes to the budget. Mr. Sullivan answered that the Board can make changes through Board approved transfers. Mr. Schiffer also stated that we are audited and transfers are reviewed. Mr. Meyer asked if the public can see that. Mr. Schiffer replied yes it is a public document.

Mr. Scott Meyer asked if the Council can set aside dollars for the Board of Education and was told no. Mr. Schiffer commented that if the Council stated that then it must be no.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Council has helped in the past with grant funding. We are discussing looking at further grant opportunities.

Mr. Meyer asked if there is a written maintenance plan for maintaining the fields.

Ms. Garvey replied that there is not a specific plan for the fields that are approved by the Board.

Mr. Meyer stated that he would like to see a plan and take a look at the fields. He would like to see about raising dollars to do work on the fields.

Amy Biswurm wondered if parents could look into grant possibilities for certain items in the Referendum since the Board is ineligible to apply. Dr. Thomas stated that Community College Grant Writer sometimes will help community groups.

Dr. Cirasella replied that is hard to find large amounts of grant dollars any longer to address our issues.

Joyce Conner commented that people think items were budgeted in the last referendum and never done. I would like to know correct information.

Mr. Schiffer replied that there had been a number of times that we have answered this-everything done with the last referendum was included in the itemized list but because of pricing increases not all projects were able to be completed, including the Highland School boiler.

Mr. Jackson commented that when people found out that the Board is limited on what they can do, parents got together to try to help. We would like to get the information to the community.

Mr. Wheaton commented that there are going to be a separate group of parents to push the correct information to the Community. The people would like to tackle misinformation and would like to educate.

Mr. Schiffer commented that the State has pushed Boards to go to Referendum. It is impossible to do building projects within the 2% budget cap. We have only had one referendum pass in 40 years. Dr. Cirasella commented that there is a lot of misinformation out there and a lot of the time the information is not Board level business. Questions should come to administration and can be answered more swiftly then waiting for a board meeting.

Discussion ensued about the budget and maintenance issues addressed within budget and cuts made over the years. Curriculum has always come first so cuts made first to maintenance will always take back seat.

Ms. Vierheilg commented that the issue of sending /receiving regionalization comes up frequently. Is the Board considering doing a study of feasibility? Mr. Sullivan answered that the Board would need to have the committee look into send/receive relationship.

Ms. Patricia Fatulin commented that all of us do not want to send our children to another school and that the only way to stop people from talking about this is to address it and put it to bed. Even though it is a lot of work parents can maybe help.

Mr. Jackson commented that too many people moved here for the small town high school feel. I think they need to stop worrying about looking into sending/regionalizing and move ahead again with the referendum.

Ms. Biswurm commented that people have also connected buildings that are in need of major/minor repairs with unsatisfactory academics. This misconception needs to stop. Both Dr. Cirasella and Dr. Thomas discussed all of the different ways academics have improved. The district has been moving in a positive direction.

Ms. O'Marra commented that we should be sending out press releases to the local press. Dr. Cirasella commented that we have sent in press releases in the past and will continue with this effort.

Ms. Vierheilg stated that Midland Park has been rated 68 in NJ Monthly. This is almost the top 10% and very good for a small school. The students are getting into good schools and the schools are working on developing sound character which you may or may not have in a larger school.

Motion – Ms. Criscenzo, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .
To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary