

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

March 19, 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

Approval of Minutes

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

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on February 26, 2013.

Roll Call: 8 Yes(Canellas, Formicola, McCourt, Schiffer, Thomas, Triolo, Criscenzo, Sullivan)
1 Abstain (Dr. Thomas)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Minutes of the March 19, 2013 Meeting

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.

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

To move the April 2nd Public Board meeting to April 9th, 2013.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Sullivan commented that there was a meeting with the Superintendent of Ridgewood and the Board President. We spoke about the possibility of Ridgewood accepting Midland Park high school students. Ridgewood High School does not have enough room to accept any outside students at this time. We have reached out to other districts and will look to set up meetings.

Mr. Sullivan also read a letter received from Orrie Smith, a resident of Midland Park who discussed the idea of the high school students going to another district. He is adamantly opposed to the idea and wanted the Board to be aware of his opinion.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Superintendent reported that there is an article in “Teaching Children Mathematics”, which contains contributions by Barbara Makela, a Basic Skills teacher at Godwin school.

Mr. Ersalesi and his Broadcasting students reported on their trip to Orlando, Florida.

The Department of Education Update included the following key points:

- a. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers: PARCC:
 - Twenty-two State Consortium and the Virgin Islands. New Assessment for 2014-2015 testing 4 times a year
 - Very different from what we are used to.
- b. New Jersey’s Elementary and Secondary Act Waiver: ESEA:
 - Performance targets for 2012—Highland and MPHS met all performance goals and progress targets.
- c. Performance Report replaces School Report Card
 - Uploaded on the NJDOE website soon.
 - Replaces school report card. It will be released to the public on Thursday.
 - New features – District Factor Group (DFG) no longer used as a comparative.
 - Peer School Comparisons (PSC’s) use new metrics to group schools.

Open to the Public:

To discuss action items on the Agenda.
No one chose to speak at this time.

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2012-2013 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 – (M. Cirasella)

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

1. **Approve the appointment of Christina Gouraige as the Director of Special Services for the district. She will be paid a salary of \$90,000, effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Approve the following block motion:

2. **Approve the following changes to the list of advisors to activities and clubs at the high School for the 2012-2013 school year:**

			<u>Stipend</u>
Delete:	Ilya Maslov	Musical Rehearsal Accompanist	
	Ilya Maslov	Musical Assistant Director – Instrumental	
Add:	Terry Alnor	Musical Rehearsal Accompanist	\$788.00
	Terry Alnor	Musical Assistant Director – Instrumental	\$530.00

3. **Approve the following addition to the list of substitute teachers for the 2012-2013 school year:**

(s) Mark Linder

*** Erin Welch**

(s) = County Substitute certificate

*** = NJ certification**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- AS-1. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:30-7, the Midland Park Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") approves a leave of absence for Dr. John Schembari (hereinafter referred to as "Schembari"), together with pay and medical insurance coverage from the period beginning March 19, 2013 through June 30, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board accepts Schembari's letter of resignation effective June 30, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said leave of absence and resignation.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-2. Approve the extension of the employment contract for Jordan Symington, maternity leave replacement for Susanna Caldelas, Spanish teacher at the high school, from March 28, 2013 to April 5, 2013.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

APPENDIX

Approve the following resolution:

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

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of February 28, 2013, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate District officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, subject to the conditions of P.L. 1701.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the following block motion:

- a. February 2013 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$23,956.96.
- b. February 2013 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$33,166.78.
- c. March 2013 claims in the amount of \$350,921.03.

3. Approve the following block motion:

- a. Second February 2013 payroll in the amount of \$513,988.37.
- b. First March 2013 payroll in the amount of \$546,333.34.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the February 2013 direct pays in the amount of \$355,936.99.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

To approve the following block motion:

5. Approve the transfers between accounts for the period February 1-28, 2013, which are attached as an appendix. **B-5**
6. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary, according to prescribed accounting procedures, for the period February 1-28, 2013, which are attached as an appendix. **B-6**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

7. Approve the resolution to continue the Trust & Indemnity Agreement for membership renewal in the Northeast Bergen County School Board Insurance Group (NESBIG) for a three-year period, July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, which is attached as an appendix. **B-7**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

8. **BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a tentative school district budget for the 2013-2014 school year for submission to the voters of Midland Park, as follows:**

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
Total General Fund	\$20,290,010	\$17,847,884
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 444,370	-0-
Total Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 423,669</u>	<u>\$ 423,472</u>
TOTALS	<u>\$21,158,049</u>	<u>\$18,271,356</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That there should be raised an additional \$955,075.00 for General Funds in the same school year (2013-2014). These taxes will be used exclusively for partial roof replacement projects for Godwin School, Highland School and Midland Park Junior/Senior High School. Approval of these taxes will not result in a permanent increase in the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

- C. Curriculum Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

1. Approve the proposed 2013-2014 academic school calendar, which is attached as an appendix. **C-1**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance (support material attached):

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Jacqueline Goodell Teresa Mallon	NJ Assoc. of Middle Level Education	Wayne, NJ	\$64.65 \$64.65	March 22, 2013
Maureen O'Hara	The Tech Savvy Literacy Teacher	On-line course	\$295.00	April 3, 10, 17, 2013
Deborah Kilgore	Interventions for Occupational Therapists	Newark, NJ	\$225.00	April 24, 2013
June Chang Craig Rush	The Essentials of Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Investigations	Montvale, NJ	\$127.90 \$127.90	May 15, 2013
Danielle Bache	Leading NJDOE Administrators	Atlantic City, NJ	\$572.60	May 29, 30, 2013

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

3. **Approve the submission of the Midland Park School District Technology Plan 2013 - 2016 to the State Department of Education.**
4. **Approve all courses and related instructors, programs and trips which are included in the Pre Summer 2013 brochure of the Midland Park Continuing Education program (support material available).**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the first reading of the following new or revised policies, which are attached as an appendix:

Executive Authority (revised)

Bylaws Section 0132
D-1a

Outside Activities – Teaching Staff Members (revised)	Policy <u>D-1b</u>	Section	3230
Outside Activities – Support Staff Members (revised)	Policy <u>D-1c</u>	Section	4230
E-Rate (new)	Policy <u>D-1d</u>	Section	6113
Advertising on School Property (new)	Policy <u>D-1e</u>	Section	6163
Roll Call: All Yes			

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

2. Approve the second reading of the following revised mandated policies:

No Child Left Behind Programs	Policy Section 2415
Athletic Competition	Policy Section 2431
Purchase of Food Supplies	Policy Section 6480
School Nutrition	Policy Section 8505

Roll Call: All Yes

Legislative Committee – (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

NJSBA continue to press Senate on 51191 & 32163. They are asking that all School Boards should work against these two bills.

Buildings & Grounds Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

Mr. Triolo, Ms. Criscenzo & Mr. Canellas met with group to go over ideas for field improvements. The group was directed to meet with Ms. Garvey to review and to begin implementation.

Negotiations Committee - (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

Preliminary meeting is scheduled for 3/21/2013.

Public Relations Committee – (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report.

Personnel Committee – (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

No Report.

J. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (S. Criscenzo)

Cultural Awareness week

Jr./Sr. Class Trip

The theme of this year's Awareness Week was Building for the Future. A variety of activities were planned for the week with the 11th and 12th graders, as follows: going on a field trip on Monday, lunch was brought in on Wednesday from Asian Grill and a wide array of activities were planned for Friday.

On March 20, 2013 there was a combined meeting at 7:00.

Elementary School PTA- (P.Triolo)

Cultural affair theme extended to tomorrow.

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

Two items were mentioned:

Pack the House night

Hall of Fame Dinner at the Brick House.

Performing Arts Parents – (M. Thomas)

Combined meeting on 3/20

Legally Blonde will be performed this week-end.

Special Education – (W. Sullivan)

CPAC Group is happy for new director, effective July 1, 2013.

Education Foundation – (J. Canellas)

No Report.

Board of Recreation – (T. Thomas)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

Brochures were approved tonight.

Economic crisis didn't help develop Adult Education -now it seems to be moving forward.

Student Representative to the Board – (H. DeKnight)

Field trip Jr./Sr. – New York City – Able to see a lot of different places through the Scavenger Hunt. Also, able to see the 911 Memorial. The student representative reported on the Penny Wars game. He felt that they had a terrific response and a lot of money has been collected.

Borough Town Council – (W. Sullivan)
A meeting will be scheduled.

K. Old Business

None at this time.

L. New Business

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

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

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. McCourt reported on the Hall of Fame Committee- they are recommending 2 people- William Brady and Florence Mahon.

Ms. Criscenzo commented that there were a lot of letters submitted. It was a very hard choice.

Open to the Public

Mr. Sullivan invited the public to address the Board.

Mr. James Wheaton spoke about PARCC and asked if the Board was planning to hold an education session for parents.

Dr. Cirasella responded that all depended on information from the State. PARCC will take the place of ASK and HSPA. The administration of the testing is different although the blueprint is the same. However, this will begin in the spring of 2015 and we will hear more when we get closer to the time.

Mr. Wheaton asked are we prepared technically. Dr. Cirasella responded yes we had a technology assessment and passed.

Mr. Wheaton asked how will testing benefit students and teachers and who will be doing the statistical comparisons. Dr. Cirasella answered that the Department of Education is responsible for a lot of what you are asking. Putting clusters together and a comparison report is one idea. The test is a snapshot of student performance on 1 day –what is different is frequency. This will be a better informed assessment on skill achievement. We currently do more assessment than ever before based on individual profiles.

Mr. Wheaton stated that he is concerned with peer groups and developing a system that requires a teacher to teach how to test. Dr. Cirasella asked that he keep in mind this is not a local decision –it is mandated by the State.

Mr. Wheaton commented that he hopes the Board is voicing an opinion against these mandates.

Dr. Cirasella commented that the Board is involved and that she has represented the Board at state meetings and has voiced our opinion.

Witney Galligor asked if you are allowed to advertise on school property.

Mr. Thomas answered that we have the ability to advertise. We do not intend to but have set procedures if we choose to in the future.

Joan Doumas asked if we could make money from advertising. Mr. Thomas answered that theoretically we could but we decided as a Board not to do this. Ms. Doumas asked who would be the contact to help look into this further. Mr. Thomas asked that she contact Ms. Garvey.

Ms. Fantulin commented that she was sad to see Dr. Schembari resign. He seemed well informed, energetic and responded to parents. She also asked if this position will be filled.

Dr. Cirasella responded yes.

Ms. Rita Mana stated that she was happy to see that the district was embracing technology at a younger age. However, there is a concern that the keyboards are not designed for younger hands. She asked if the instructors will be versed in ergonomic skills. Dr. Cirasella replied that we will take this into consideration.

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Triolo . . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary