

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

February 25, 2014

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 2013 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  
Eurico Antunes, Technology & Data Coordinator

**BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**PRESIDENT'S 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 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.**

Mr. Sullivan announced the sad news of the sudden death of Richard Heddy, our Maintenance/ Grounds Keeper. The Board and the District send their condolences to his family and friends. Rich was a member of the graduating class of 1962. Mr. Thomas added that Rich was part of the 1961 Football team that will be inducted into The Hall of Fame.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Presentation on NJ SMART Technology Information in Schools by Eurico Antunes.

### Open to the Public:

To discuss action items on the Agenda.

Mr. John Meeks asked who has access to information on NJSMART. Mr. Antunes answered that it depended on the information requested the Administrators, teachers, staff, and parents do.

No others have access to information.

Ms. Theresa Sasso commented that she read there is a possibility of having days off in April and adding to the end of the year to make up for snow days. She stated that her opinion is to have students attend school in April.

Ms. Nancy Moore asked if there is a law that states whether a certain percentage of students have to attend school in order to have the days count.

Dr. Cirasella responded that there isn't a percentage that we could find but we will be reaching out to our counsel. Ms. Criscenzo commented that last year there was a 90% or better attendance rate.

## BOARD MOTIONS

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

1. Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings held on:  
January 7, 2014  
Roll Call: All Yes

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

January 28, 2014  
Roll Call: All Yes

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

**February 4, 2014**

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

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

2. Approve the Public Hearing on the 2014-2015 School Budget to be held on March 25, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. in the August C. DePreker Media Center in Highland School.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Authorize the Board Secretary to draw for candidate's positions on the ballot at the Board of Education office at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 13, 2014.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Authorize the Board Secretary to request that the polls be opened from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 for the Annual School Election, and to request that the appropriate number of voting machines be provided by the County Superintendent of Elections.

Roll Call: All Yes

A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

APPENDIX

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2013-2014 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.

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

1. Approve the list of Coaches at the high school for the Spring 2014 season, which is attached as an appendix:

A-1

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. **Approve the appointment of the following teachers to provide home instruction to a high school student. They will be paid the approved rate of \$33.18 per hour, as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:**

<b>Yana Seminara</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>Sarah Berninger</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Ethan Grubman</b>	<b>Math</b>
<b>Nancy DeRitter</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<b>Paul Marino</b>	<b>U.S. History</b>

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. **Approve the unpaid leave of absence for Laurie Owitz, part-time Bus Aide, effective retroactive from February 17, 2014 until further notice.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. **Approve the reassignment of Louis Pellegrino as a part-time Bus Driver to the position of part-time Bus Aide. He will be paid at the approved hourly rate for Bus Aides, effective**

**retroactive from February 24, 2014 through June 30, 2014.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

**1. Approve the following resolution:**

RESOLVED: That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e), we certify that as of January 31, 2014, 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 motions:

**2. Approve the following block motion:**

a. January 2014 Midland Park Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$37,635.04.

b. January 2014 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$38,426.61.

c. February 2014 claims in the amount of \$336,614.00.

**3. Approve the January 2014 direct pays in the amount of \$540,595.70.**

**4. Approve the following block motion:**

a. Second January 2014 payroll in the amount of \$512,097.14.

b. First February 2014 payroll in the amount of \$538,200.86.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

**5. Approve the transfers between accounts for the period January 1 – 31, 2014, which are attached as an appendix.**

B-5

**6. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary for the period January 1 – 31, 2014, which are attached as an appendix.**

B-6

Roll Call: All Yes

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

7. Approve the use and rental of the High School gym to Hoop Heaven, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for Basketball Tournaments on Wednesday evenings, beginning March 24 – June 5, 2014 from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

8. **This item was pulled from the agenda.**

Approve the use and rental of the Highland School field to Summer Heatt, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for a travel La Crosse team on Wednesdays, beginning March 26 – June 4, 2014 and Fridays, beginning March 28 – June 6, 2014 from 3:30 to 5:30pm.

Mr. McCourt commented that this may interfere with the softball program.

Mr. Triolo commented that the nets are not up. Ms. Garvey responded that nets will be put up in time for the season.

Mr. Canellas questioned if students are still playing on the field at 3:30. Dr. Cirasella answered that the students are typically gone by then.

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

9. Approve the Rutgers Summer Enrichment program, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education to be held at the High School on Tuesdays beginning July 1 – 29, 2014.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

10. **Approve the following resolution:**

**WHEREAS, on January 24, 2014 proposals were due in the Board office for the Midland Park School District's food service management operations for the 2014-2015 school year.**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Pomptonian, Inc. (Food Service Management Company) is hereby awarded the food service management contract for the 2014-2015 school year, as follows:**

**The Food Service Management Company shall receive, in addition to costs of operation, a fee of \$.0967 per reimbursable meal and meal equivalent to compensate the Food Service Management Company for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be billed monthly as a cost of operation. The Local Education Agency guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the Food Service Management Company.**

**Total meals are calculated by adding reimbursable meal pattern meals (breakfast, lunch, and after school snack meals) served and meal equivalents. The number of School Breakfast Program, After School Snack Program, and National School Lunch program meals served to the children shall be determined by actual count. Cash receipts, other than from Sales of National Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program meals and After School Snack Program meals served to the children, shall be divided by \$1.00 to arrive at an equivalent meal count.**

**The per meal administrative/management fee of \$.0967 will be multiplied by total meals.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. McCourt questioned how many proposals were submitted. Ms. Garvey responded that only 2 companies requested the documents and both came to the mandatory walk through however only one company submitted a proposal.

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

11. **Approve the submission of the “Application for Funds to Support Implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act” for the period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 in the amount of \$8,642.00 to the New Jersey Department of Education.**

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Schiffer commented that next week we will be discussing the 2014-15 School Budget. The Finance Committee has copies and the full Board will receive a copy next week.

Mr. Sullivan asked about State Aid. Mr. Schiffer replied that the numbers have not yet been received and we are not sure when they are coming. Dr. Cirasella added that Commissioner Cerf shared that if the numbers are the same as 2013-14, we should be grateful.

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

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

1. Approve the following staff members requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
<b>Stacie Millman Maureen Roberts Kelly Scala Craig Rush</b>	<b>School Safety Team Management</b>	<b>Lodi, NJ</b>	<b>\$660.50</b>	<b>2/27/14</b>
Sherri Lange	iPad Apps and Projects for 1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Rochelle Park, NJ	\$77.67	3/11/14
<b>Jacqueline Goodell Teresa Mallon</b>	<b>NJ Assn. of Middle Level Educators</b>	<b>Union, NJ</b>	<b>\$107.99 \$115.03</b>	<b>3/14/14</b>
Michael Gaccione	54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Directors of Athletics Association of NJ workshop	Atlantic City, NJ	\$428.12	3/26-29/14
<b>Susana Caldelas Magdalene Ptak</b>	<b>Enhancing Spanish Language Instruction</b>	<b>Fairfield, NJ</b>	<b>\$464.51</b>	<b>4/4/14</b>

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. **Approve a revision to the School Calendar for the 2013-2014 school year, to allow for the make up of four emergency closing days (to reinstate April 14-17).**

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Sullivan asked for more specific language on when days will be taken if there are too many closings. Mr. Thomas commented that the Board wanted to take back February days, but the Union stated that there was not enough time before the February break to have a calendar change. In addition, Mr. Sullivan added the Board did not have enough time to hold a meeting to vote on a calendar change.

Dr. Thomas commented that the policy states the Board creates the calendar but the Superintendent has the ability to make changes due to emergency closings. We are locked into having Board approval because of a statement on the calendar on emergency closing(s).

Ms. Criscenzo stated that the committee met and wanted to make a change but because of pending litigation could not make the change at a meeting. The committee did speak about changing the language on the calendar.

Dr. Cirasella commented that having the additional four (4) days in April will only help the students with their testing that will be upon them shortly after.

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

3. **Approve the home instruction for a high school regular education student, effective retroactive from February 24, 2014 through approximately March 18, 2014.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. Triolo . . .

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

- |   |                     |             |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| a. Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member | Policy Section 3142 | <u>D-1a</u> |
| b. Certification of Tenure Charges                | Policy Section 3144 | <u>D-1b</u> |
| c. Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Members | Policy Section 4146 | <u>D-1c</u> |

Mr. Triolo asked that we indicate with a notation next to the policies listed on the agenda which include mandatory language changes.

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

No Report.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report.

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

There is a scheduled meeting on March 6, 2014.

H. Public Relations Committee – (P. Triolo, Chairperson)

Chalk Board is ready and we will be speaking to the printer. We will report back at the next meeting.

I. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (S. Criscenzo)

The following events were discussed:

Market Day is 3/15/2014.

A general meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2014.

Elementary School PTA- (P.Triolo)

Next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2014.

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

The following events and sport status were discussed:

a. The Hall of Fame Dinner is scheduled for 3/22/2014.

b. Congratulations to Ron Kruis who hit his 1,000 point mark at the Emerson game.

c. The Basketball State Tournament will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. vs. Walwick.

d. The Lady Panthers started the week with a 17-2 record including 12-1 in the league and they are also ranked number 12 in the North Jersey Top 25. The Lady Panthers also received the #1 seed in the Group 1 Section 1 State Tournament.

e. Lisa Carle placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and won a silver medal in the state group championship meet in the high jump. She qualified for the state meet of champions on Saturday, March 1, 2014 in Toms River. The regular season for Track is now over.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

No Report.

Special Education – (W. Sullivan)

Meeting today at the Recreation Barn and there are about 10 volunteers and 16 students. Children had fun and there was a good turnout. Dr. Thomas asked if the administration could find out if Ms. LaMonte had HIB training.



Education Foundation – (M. Thomas)

The Blue Jean Ball is scheduled for March 1, 2014.

Drawing will take place at the Midland Park Education Foundation's Blue Jean event. Proceeds for the Super 50/50 will go toward improvements for the Highland School Auditorium and the Midland Park High School Memorial Hall Auditorium.

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

The next scheduled meeting is March 3, 2014.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (K. Peterson)

Not in attendance.

Borough Town Council – (W. Sullivan & S. Criscenzo)

No report at this time – we will meet in March.

J. Old Business

There isn't any old business to discuss at this time.

K. New Business

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of March 4, 2014, 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. Theresa Sasso questioned what would happen if there are any additional snow days incurred beyond the reinstatement of the four days in April. Ms. Criscenzo commented that if that happens we would be looking at other days-other options during the school year.

Mr. McCourt asked if we could do a policy change in the number of days required.

Ms. Theresa Sasso commented on the formulation of next year's calendar. Why not start with February's break and then remove days on the April break if necessary.

Ms. Colleen Monahan commented that the HS PTA is hosting a career day on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Many adults are coming in for grades 7-12. She also suggested surveying the parents on the

calendar. Dr. Thomas commented that there are so many things we would like to approve but we have to keep moving forward but could look at doing some of the left-over items for the 2015-16 school year.

Mrs. Monahan also stated that it is nice to have the graduation ceremony on Friday, but when looking at doing the post event out it would be more expensive on Friday. She also asked the Board to consider a Fencing Team at the high school.

Ms. Nancy Moore thanked the Board for working on the calendar. She suggested that the Board be creative. Maybe poll the teachers and see what percentage of the teachers do attend the convention thus determining if maybe those days could be used. Mr. Sullivan answered that this would need to be negotiated.

Ms. Nancy DeRitter received notice that the high school was receiving a \$2,000 grant from Whole Kids for Green House. She added that it would be nice to start a Garden club..

Mr. Sullivan said to bring it to Mr. Capuano.

Ms. Mary Keenan commented that tickets are on sale now for *Young Frankenstein* performances on March 21, 22, and the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion – Mr. Schiffer, seconded – Mr. Formicola . . .

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