

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
March 4, 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

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.

Dr. Cirasella commented that the new Commissioner of Education will be David Hespe. We are looking forward to positive and productive approaches in helping New Jersey's public schools thrive.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of agenda for Regular Meeting to be held on March 25, 2014.

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

No items were discussed at this time.

Action Items:

A. Personnel - (M. Cirasella)

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 appointment of Kristie Fucarino as a collaborative teacher in the elementary schools. She will be placed on BA Step 1 of the MPEA salary guide (salary to be determined pending completion of negotiations), effective March 12, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve a paid medical leave of absence for William Edland, Custodian at the high school, effective March 13, 2014 through approximately June 13, 2014.
3. Approve the appointment of Rafik Saad as a part-time Bus Driver. He will be paid at the approved hourly rate, effective March 17, 2014 through June 30, 2014.
4. Approve the following addition to the list of substitute workers for the 2013-2014 school year:

Rafik Saad Substitute Custodian

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-5. Approve the following additions to the List of Spring Coaches at the high school for the 2013-2014 school year:

		<u>Stipend</u>
Add: Jeffrey Hackett	Boys' Head Tennis Coach	\$4,446
Sean Leonard	Boys' Tennis Assistant Coach	Volunteer
Steven Ferro	Spring Track Head Coach	\$5,307
Jay Hagedorn	Baseball Head Coach	\$5,362
Richard Bennett	Co-Head Golf Coach	\$1,667
Shawn Bennett	Co-Head Golf Coach	\$1,667

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a tentative school district budget for the 2014-2015 school year for submission to the voters of Midland Park, as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$20,746,515	\$18,204,842
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 329,252	
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 424,250	\$ 415,162
TOTALS	\$21,500,017	\$18,620,004

Mr. Schiffer stated that the Budget is due to the County office by 3/10/2014.

We are submitting a Tentative Budget tonight which is a work in progress until the Public Hearing.

Tax levy is proposed at an increase of 1.91%

We will talk about the budget in great detail at the Public Hearing on March 25, 2014.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. Approve the use and rental of the Highland School field to Summer Heatt, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education for a travel Lacrosse team on Wednesdays, beginning March 26 – June 4, 2014 and Fridays, beginning March 28 – June 6, 2014 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Mr. McCourt stated that the 5:00 time does help with the Softball start times but the softball association and the recreation department are concerned with the fact that Lacrosse may take students away from baseball and the softball program.

There is a question on the net- the net is purchased but not sure when it will be up or if it can withstand a Lacrosse ball. Also there are pitching mounds on the field that may become an issue.

Why do we need to do this now?

Mr. McCourt stated that his softball program is down to 100 students and is used to be 200 plus. Mr. Thomas commented that Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport and you are not going to be able to stop it. If kids want to play, it should be provided.

Roll Call: 6 No (Canellas, Formicola, McCourt, Schiffer, Triolo, Criscenzo)
3 Yes (Dr. Thomas, Thomas, Sullivan)

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

APPENDIX

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

1. Approve the proposed school calendar for the 2014-2015 school year, which is attached as an appendix.

C-1

The Board discussed the calendar as presented by the Curriculum Committee.

Roll Call: 8 Yes (Formicola, McCourt, Schiffer, Dr. Thomas, Thomas, Triolo, Criscenzo, Sullivan)
1 No (Canellas)

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

2. Approve the following curriculum writing:

French – Grade 7 – full-year revised	– Yana Seminara \$500
French – Grade 8 – full-year revised	– Yana Seminara \$500
PE/Health – Grade 7 – full-year revised	– Lisa McNerney \$500
PE/Health – Grade 8 – full-year revised	– Maureen Fister \$500
Social Studies – Grade 3 – full-year revised	– Eileen Brown \$500
Social Studies – Grade 4 – full-year revised	– Laurie Troisi \$500
Social Studies – Grade 5 – full-year revised	– Jen Stalb \$500
Social Studies – Grade 6 – full-year revised	– Mike Kilgallen \$500

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the following new textbooks:

New French Textbooks for HS
Bien dit! Publisher Holt McDougal, French 1 & French 2

Roll Call: All Yes

LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No Report.

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

On Monday, the Assembly Education Committee approved two bills which are essentially identical measures which had been introduced in the previous legislative session, but did not get final approval.

A-304, a bill that requires schools to maintain a supply of epinephrine and permit the administration of epinephrine to any student having an allergic reaction, was approved by a vote of 8-0. This bill, which NJSBA supports is similar to A-2734, which was introduced in the last legislative session and passed the Assembly only.

The committee also approved **A-373**, which requires public schools in the state to be equipped with a silent panic alarm and red emergency light for use in school security emergencies. The alarm, which would not be audible in the school building, would send an alert directly to the local law enforcement authorities.

A-373 is unchanged from a measure in the last legislative session, A-3691, which was passed by both houses of the Legislature, but was not signed by the governor before the end of the session, and was therefore vetoed.

F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 3/6/2014.

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

Chalk Board is ready for the Board to review.
It should be ready to go on Thursday.

I. Liaison Committee

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

The following items were reported on:

Career Day is scheduled for 3/10/2014

A combined General Meeting is scheduled for March 12 at which time two Social Worker's will be discussing substance abuse.

Elementary School PTA - (P. Triolo)

The following dates and events were mentioned:

Art Ventures

Kindergarten Orientation is on 3/6/ 2014

School Day is March 7

Earth Adventure

Kindergarten Registration dates which are in person from March 10-13

FundRaiser at Ben & Jenny's

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

The following items/sporting events were mentioned:

The Lady Panthers defeated Palisades Park 55-20 in the first round of the State Tournament.

The boys' varsity basketball team defeated Waldwick in overtime by a score of 66-60 in the first round of the North 1 Group 1 Section of the NJ State Basketball tournament.

The Hall of Fame dinner is scheduled for March 22, 2014 at The Brick House.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

Young Frankenstein will be performed on March 21, 22, and the 23.

Special Education – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (M. Thomas)

Everyone had a good time at The Blue Jean Ball.

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

There was a meeting on March 3, 2014 and the net will be going up on the Highland Field.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (K. Peterson) Absent

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

They have asked to set-up a meeting—I would like to thank the Council for attending the Education Foundation fund-raiser.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ITEMS

No one brought forth any additional items to be discussed at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Cirasella introduced Scott Collins as our new Buildings and Grounds Supervisor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sullivan asked who the Candidates were that filed petitions. Ms. Garvey answered James Canellas, Maryalice Thomas, Peter J. Triolo and John J. Meeks.

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of March 25, 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. Colleen Monahan discussed the open gym night for Special Education students. She stated that high school students are helping out and doing a great job.

Ms. Melissa McElwain, commented on Art Ventures and how amazed she is at the quality of events we are able to produce. She expressed her gratitude. However, she was disappointed in comments that the faculty complained about taking the February break away. This comment put teachers in a negative light. Being a teacher, she was disappointed that the comment was made. This was a negative view of the faculty and ultimately they have no control of the situation.

Mr. Thomas commented that he certainly did not want to put teachers in a bad light, and that he feels the majority of them are wonderful. The Board did not have control because of the teachers' union and the Opperbeck Case. I have the utmost respect for teachers but the Board was being criticized for making this decision when we did not have a choice.

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

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary