

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Education
Midland Park, New Jersey
September 17, 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 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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of Minutes

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

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meeting held on August 20, 2013.

Roll Call: All Yes

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Back to School update

Mr. Schiffer asked about the new Graduation Rate Clarification, and if a student is held back in 3rd grade does it count against the rate. Dr. Cirasella replied yes

Mr. Schiffer commented that this is harsh against the District and especially the student. We would need to propose a resolution to send to State against this new formula. Dr. Cirasella wanted to wait to see what information comes from the state and if the calculation is what we are expecting.

Dave Hershberger and Raina Dawson have each received a Bergen County Utilities Authority Environmental Challenge Awareness Grant.

There is a new District website-www. mpsnj.org.

Dr. Cirasella commented on the 2013-14 District Calendar mailing issues. Unfortunately, the post office lost most of the calendars. If the calendars are not located in the next two weeks, we will move forward with the idea of re-printing and re-mailing.

In addition, Dr. Cirasella reported on the issue with the ceiling tiles at the high school. District staff continues to address any further potential ceiling issues.

Open to the Public:

To discuss action items on the Agenda.

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.

A. Personnel – (M. Cirasella)

APPENDIX

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

To approve the following block motion . . .

1. Approve the retroactive attendance of the following staff members to attend an IEP meeting during the summer. They will be paid as per Schedule D of the MPEA contract:

Nancy DeRitter, Special Education Teacher

Eileen Ietto, Speech & Language Specialist

2. Approve the resolution regarding the minimum requirement for employee full-time status to

qualify for health benefits, which is attached as an appendix:

A-2

3. **Approve the retroactive increase in position for Lisa McNerney, physical education teacher at the high school, from a .8 position to a full time position, effective September 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.**
4. **Approve the list of Advisors to Activities and Clubs at the high school for the 2013-2014 school year, which is attached as an appendix.** A-4
5. **Approve the placement of Danielle Piazza as a junior practicum student in Mrs. Troisi's 4th grade class for one day per week, effective retroactive from September 10, 2013 through December 10, 2013.**
6. **Approve the placement of Cassandra Topp as a junior practicum student in Mrs. Lange's 2nd grade class for one day per week, effective retroactive from September 10, 2013 through December 10, 2013.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the August 2013 direct pays in the amount of \$250,857.10.
2. Approve the following block motion:
 - a. August 2013 Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$16,424.52.
 - b. **August 2013 cafeteria claims in the amount of \$450.00.**
 - c. September 2013 claims in the amount of \$560,870.27.
3. Approve the following block motion:
 - a. Second August 2013 payroll in the amount of \$104,669.34.
 - b. First September 2013 payroll in the amount of \$526,855.79.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. **Approve the use and rental of the Highland School gym to Hoop Heaven, sponsored by Midland Park Continuing Education program for Basketball Tournaments on Saturdays, effective September 21 – November 23, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

5. **Approve the annual contract between Bergen County Special Services School District and the Midland Park Public School District for the provision of educational services for non-public school students for the 2013-2014 school year, through I.D.E.A.**
6. **Approve the Risk Management Consultant Professional Services Agreement between the Midland Park Board of Education and FIRM, Inc., effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, which is attached as an appendix.** **B-6**

Roll Call: All Yes

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

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

1. Approve the following staff member requesting workshop attendance:

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Stacy Garvey	SDA Forms & Submission Review & Building Success in Your Next Project	Rockaway, NJ	\$68.76	Sept. 24, 2013
Catherine Prinsell	Using the DSM-5 for Effective Assessment & Treatment	Hasbrouck Heights, NJ	\$89.99	Sept. 25, 2013
Jane Bandstra Deborah Kilgore	Preschoolers & Autism – Effective & Practical Interventions for Early Learning Success	Parsippany, NJ	\$179.00 \$179.00	Oct. 2, 2013
Jacqueline Karlsson	Social Thinking Curriculum	Hastings-on-Hudson, NY	\$340.00	Oct. 2-3, 2013
Jack Ferriday	NJ Art Educators Conference	New Brunswick, NJ	\$212.20	Oct. 4, 2013
Stacy Garvey	Ethics in Business Law & Purchasing	Rockaway, NJ	\$68.76	Dec. 17, 2013

Roll Call: All Yes

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

2. **Approve the new/revised curricula, as follows:**

Computers Grade 1	Revised
Computers Grade 2	Revised
World History 8	Revised
US History I	Revised
US History II	Revised
Introduction to Psychology	New

AP Psychology	New
Personal Finance	New
AP Spanish, Language & Culture	Revised
Biology	Revised

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the “Update to Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials – 2007”.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

Motion – Mr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

1. Approve the first reading of the following new and revised policies and regulations, which are attached as appendices:

Employment of Teaching Staff Members (revised)	Policy Section 3125	<u>D-1d</u>
Tutoring Services (new)	Policy & Regulation Section 3232	<u>D-1e</u>
Assignment of Pupils (revised)	Policy Section 5120	<u>D-1f</u>
Pupil Smoking (revised)	Policy Section 5533	<u>D-1g</u>
Smoking in School Buildings and on School Grounds (revised)	Policy Section 7434	<u>D-1h</u>
School District Provided Technology Devices to Staff Members (new)	Policy Section 7522	<u>D-1i</u>
Use of Social Networking Sites (new)	Policy Section 3282	<u>D-1j</u>

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Thomas discussed additional language for ByLaws 0162 0164 which would provide for support documentation to be disseminated on line along with the agenda prior to the Board Meeting. Mr. Schiffer asked if the Board Attorney’s opinion on the matter had changed.

Ms. Garvey replied that the attorney was still of the opinion that no support documentation was required to be disseminated, but if the Board chose to do so, he suggested only distribute information that would be considered public under the OPRA statutes.

Mr. Sullivan said that it was given to the policy committee for change. Mr. Schiffer commented that it had not come out of committee united.

Mr. McCourt asked if this will cause extra work for the employees. Dr. Cirasella responded that it depends on the packet and the amount of information. It will have to be built into practice.

Ms. Criscenzo was concerned with items that have multiple versions.
 Mr. McCourt commented that if there are errors you can't take it back.
 Dr. Thomas asked what is the difference between appendix, attachments, reports, or supplemental materials and asked that it be specific to just appendices.
 Mr. Thomas stated that we could adjust the wording.
 Mr. Schiffer asked what materials are appropriate and who would decide. Mr. Sullivan stated that Dr. Cirasella will make this decision.
 Mr. McCourt questioned whether or not there are guidelines on what constitutes an appendix and what material would signify support material. Mr. Sullivan stated that this will be decided by the Administration.
 Dr. Cirasella stated that we will need to create procedures after the policy is in place.

Motion – Mr. Thomas, seconded – Mr. McCourt . .

To approve the first reading, with changes:

Notice of Board Meetings (revised)	Bylaws 0162	<u>D-1b</u>
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Conduct of Board Meetings	Bylaws 0164	<u>D-1c</u>
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Roll Call: Yes (6) – (Canellas, Formicola, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Thomas, Triolo, Sullivan)

No (3) – (Criscenzo, McCourt, Schiffer)

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

Introduction (revised)	Bylaws 0000.02	<u>D-1a</u>
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Roll Call: Yes (6) – (Canellas, Formicola, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Thomas, Triolo, Sullivan)

No (3) – (Criscenzo, McCourt, Schiffer)

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

No Report.

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

The following items were reviewed:

Roofs – should be finished in the next couple of weeks.

Track – contracted a track specialist to give us some options.

Netting for the Highland field.

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

The next meeting will be held on 9/25.

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

No Report.

I. Liaison Committee

High School PTA - (S. Criscenzo)

Upcoming events/meetings:

9/18/2013 – Combined general meeting

9/19/2013 – Fall plant pick/up

9/20/2013 – Market Day pick/up

Elementary School PTA- (P.Triolo)

Upcoming events/meetings:

9/18/2013 – Back to School Night – Godwin

9/19/2013 – Back to School Night – Highland

9/25/2013 – Photos

9/28/2013 - Parent Palooza

Booster Club – (T. Thomas)

The Fall Season has begun – all are doing well

Hall of Fame 2013 – Letters went out this week.

Performing Arts Parents – (J. Canellas)

Music in the Park is scheduled for 10/13/13 at Ramapo High School.

Special Education – (W. Sullivan)

C-Pac meetings will be scheduled.

Education Foundation – (M. Thomas)

The first meeting will be on September 23, 2013.

Board of Recreation – (B. McCourt)

New season beginning for sports and liaisons

Talk about netting for a fence at the Highland school.

Continuing Education Program – (R. Schiffer)

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (K. Peterson)

Student Rep Absent

No Report.

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

There is a meeting on October 2nd, 2013.

J. Old Business

No old items to discuss at this time.

K. New Business

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of October 1, 2013, for the purpose of personnel, negotiations and confidential student and association matters.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Triolo attended the first meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee which was a very informative meeting to work with all the different aspects of the community.

Mr. Triolo would like this Public Safety Advisory Committee to be added to the list with the other Board of Education's Liaison Committees.

Open to the Public

Mr. Sullivan invited the public to address the Board.

Mr. David Operderbeck commented that he is a driving force to get attachments as part of the agenda. He stated that he is taken aback by the discussion. His feelings are that the Board Attorney's opinion is simply wrong. The concern of creating extra work is silly and the statements about the public being confused and would not understand is simply astonishing. I would like to ask the Board to reconsider the wording of the Policy, if not we will have the court decide.

Mr. Sullivan answered that Mr. Operderbeck may think he is the driving force, but this discussion started a year before.

Mr. Lee Barber asked why Music in the Park is not held in the district. Mr. Sullivan answered that when we had to replace the bleachers there was not enough seating for the event. It was at that time that we decided to go to Ramapo.

Mr. Barber also asked why our students who play football and are cheerleading are dressed in Waldwick colors.

Mr. Sullivan stated that although this is a Co-Op, they are the lead District. We have had discussions to get more Midland Park identity.

Mr. Schiffer replied that if we have enough students we should move forward with our own program. Mr. Thomas stated only if we have enough – parents are concerned with the safety of their children playing the game.

Mr. Formicola stated that Mr. Galasso was looking into more Midland Park identity when the agreement is up for renewal.

Mrs. Elaine Seals asked if the cost of fixing ceiling tile that fell in room 54 will be covered under the school's insurance policy. Ms. Garvey replied that it is not.

Mrs. Seals also asked what projects were submitted to the state for consideration for the state grants. Ms. Garvey replied that the submission was for all projects that were listed for the failed referendum, anything the district has already done like the roofs.

Mrs. Seals then asked when the Board will decide on a referendum. Mr. Sullivan replied that the Board still needs to discuss that matter.

Mrs. Seals asked if the CAMP group provided input for the next referendum, would the Board listen. Mr. Sullivan answered that like the last time, we would take in to consideration all input from the community.

Ms. Noreen Desbiens questioned how do the self-contained Special Education students staying to age 21 affect the graduation rate. Dr. Cirasella replied that they are counted as non-graduates.

Mr. Brendan Jackson asked if the Referendum included replacing the ceiling tiles. Ms. Garvey replied yes.

Mr. Kenneth Caleca asked if the Board reached out to anyone else beside Ridgewood and Waldwick for consideration of a sending/receiving relationship. Mr. Sullivan replied Northern Highlands, but we have not heard back yet. We are assuming that they are not interested. We had also reached out to another town who possibly would like to send their students here.

Mr. Caleca asked about the program where seniors could go to Waldwick and they come here – the question is why for different electives and why was it just for seniors.

Dr. Cirasella replied it is a Pilot – if it works well we could expand.

Mr. Caleca commented that insurance does not cover neglect. If the next ceiling/tiles fall down, is it coming out of Board funds? Mr. Sullivan stated that there are no reports that we are neglecting the buildings.

Mr. Caleca questioned what will stop other parts of the ceiling from falling.

Ms. Garvey reported that the buildings have been inspected and it was found that ceilings in nine other rooms needed to be secured. The maintenance department has taken care of these rooms.

Ms. Therese Connors asked why the Board has not asked more districts if they are interested in a sending/receiving relationship. Mr. Sullivan replied that we have given all the attention that it is due at this point.

Ms. Connors replied that the public may want you to continue. There are those who want to pursue a send/receive and those who do not. Some wonder if it is a more cost effective way to go.

Mr. Schiffer replied that cost effectiveness was discussed. Dollar values were discussed.

Ms. Connors added that information would be found by many as more comprehensive and trust worthy if it comes from an independent consultant.

A discussion ensued on Sending/Receiving and other districts' interest in our district. There was also discussion on why the referendum failed and ways to move forward.

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

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