

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Board of Education**  
**Midland Park, New Jersey**  
November 16, 2010

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Schiffer, 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 2010 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."

ROLL CALL

Present:	James Canellas (late 8:15)	Sandra Criscenzo
	Richard Formicola	Brian McCourt
	Raymond Moraski	William Sullivan
	Maryalice Thomas	Robert Schiffer

Excused: Paula Lein

OTHERS PRESENT

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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

*Approval of Minutes*

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

Approve the minutes of the following regularly scheduled public meetings:

October 26, 2010

November 2, 2010

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.**

Mr. Schiffer commented that the Board will be discussing change in the formats of meetings/committees further and plan any changes after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Moraski stated that these ideas were brought up in a conversation from the Board Goal Setting meeting.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Presentation on the 2009-2010 District Assessment Profile (support material attached).

Mr. Moraski stated that the last time the Director of Curriculum did this presentation all Administrators were asked to be a part of this presentation. He commented that he was happy to see that they are because they will have to address action plans. Mr. Moraski asked how the Board would be updated on progress. Dr. Cirasella answered that the Administration will be tracking student progress through data assessment.

Parents can at any time ask for individual student progress. Through the committee we can provide the Board with data analysis.

Mr. Canellas asked if the Action Plans are working and how adaptable are the plans. Dr. Cirasella answered that the Administration looks at Action Plans in some way on a daily basis. The Board will be provided with reports on curriculum development and assessment. Timelines will be discussed.

Dr. Thomas asked if APR's are being completed. Mrs. Terraciano answered that every student in grade 7, 8 & 11<sup>th</sup> grades will have an APR if they are below proficiency level, they are to be updated at the end of every marking period.

Mr. Canellas asked why in one of the years the proficiency level had gone down significantly in Language Arts. Dr. Cirasella commented that they had changed the test and recalculated the proficiency level for that year.

Mr. Formicola commented that grades 3-6 did well in Math and asked why grade 7 went down.

Ms. Terraciano answered that there is a disconnect between elementary and middle school but that we have been working on solidifying that disconnect.

Mr. Schiffer invited the public to address the Board

Ms. Colleen Monahan commented that she saw the action plans and is impressed with what is currently happening with the student.

Ms. Patricia Fantulin – appreciates all the work and asked the following questions;

- a. Where we stand compared to the rest of the State;
- b. Where we stand in comparison to other similar communities?

Mr. Schiffer answered that the presentation met the state requirement for reporting to the Board. Additional requests for comparison information will be passed on to the Curriculum Committee. Mr. Peter Van Treolla stated that the district was 100% in AYP, but the State will change test if not happy with the results. Dr. Cirasella replied that you are correct, but we will use the tests to assess students. Mr. VanTreolla asked if the District is teaching to the test. Dr. Cirasella commented that we are teaching toward standards to help the students' progress. Mr. VanTreolla asked is there a bonus for having advanced proficiency. Dr. Cirasella answered that it is not reflected in AYP, the State uses benchmarks. We are moving toward formative assessment which is what the State is looking for districts to do.

Mrs. Ilyya Maslov - Blue Ribbon District – is this term/criteria used anymore? Dr. Cirasella replied that they still have the distinction but it is not called that anymore and it is different—Now it is simply based on staying at high proficiency levels of 5 years.

Mrs. Toni Carrea spoke about Early intervention and stated that it was astonishing the difference in work that her child in 1<sup>st</sup> grade is doing compared to what her child in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade did then—see positive change.

Demetry Pittas as about AYP next year. Dr. Cirasella stated that she is hopeful, the programs are solid and everyone is working hard.

Board resolutions related to hiring for the 2010-2011 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. Sullivan, seconded – Ms. Criscenzo . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Accept the retirement resignation of Bonnie Platter as a French teacher in the district, effective December 31, 2010 (support material attached).

Mr. Schiffer wanted to thank Mrs. Platter for years of service and wish her the best of luck.

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .

2. Approve the following addition to the list of coaches at the high school for the 2010-2011 school year (support material attached):

Add:	Alison Bryan	Head Softball Coach	<u>Stipend</u> \$5,104
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Roll Call: All Yes

3. Approve the following additions to the list of substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year (support material attached):

(s) Karen Donohue  
(s) John Hendricks  
(s) Jessica Jamieson

(s) = County Substitute Certificate

4. Approve the appointment of Melissa Milbank as a Bus Aide for the district. She will be paid at the approved rate of \$12.65 per hour (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

APPENDIX

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, 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 October 31, 2010, 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.

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the following block motion:

- a. October 2010 Midland Park Continuing Education claims in the amount of \$30,594.28.
- b. October 2010 Cafeteria claims in the amount of \$39,740.28.
- c. November 2010 supplemental claims in the amount of \$690,685.72.

3. Approve the October 2010 direct pays in the amount of \$245,805.18.

4. Approve the first November 2010 payroll in the amount of \$565,138.95.

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Canellas . . .

5. Approve the transfers among accounts, according to prescribed accounting procedures for the period October 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010, which is attached as an appendix. F-1

Roll Call: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. McCourt . . .

6. Approve the financial reports of the Board Secretary for the following periods:

- a. July 1, 2010 through July 31, 2010, which are attached as an appendix. F-2
- b. August 1, 2010 through August 31, 2010, which are attached as an appendix. F-3
- c. September 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010, which are attached as an appendix. F-4

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Sullivan commented that the Board packets will include audits. Our Auditor Mr. Higgins will be here to review.

C. Curriculum Committee – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mr. Criscenzo . . .

To approve the following block motion:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement of one high school special education student on bed side instruction, effective retroactive from October 26, 2010 through November 30, 2010.
2. Approve the recommendation of the Director of Special Services for the placement and transportation of one high school special education student in the Venture Program, Rockleigh, NJ, effective December 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

3. Approve the list of staff members requesting workshop attendance, as follows (support material attached):

Name	Workshop	Cost	Location	Date
Suzanne Kelly Rachel Reboiro	Accelerating the Reading Skills of Your Students with High Incidence Disabilities	\$199.	Newark, NJ	Nov. 18, 2010

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the establishment of the Gay-Straight Alliance at the high school for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Canellas asked if there is a facilitator for this club? Dr. Cirasella responded that we have to approve the club first. Mr. Moraski commented that this was preliminary discussed at committee level and then reviewed with the full Board.

Mr. Sullivan stated that this club will assist with the Anti-Bullying guidelines.

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

5. Approve the following program for the Midland Park Continuing Education Program:

Winter Ski Program (Ski Club)

Roll Call: All Yes

Mr. Moraski passed out minutes from the curriculum committee meeting and reviewed items with the Board. Mr. Moraski also stated that his daughter is looking to give back to the district and looking for a high school student for an internship in Washington DC. for next summer. He will pass on the information to the Superintendent.

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

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

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

Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Pupils                      Policy & Regulation Section 5111                      PB-1

Mr. Formicola questioned the removal of the word “legal” from guardian.  
Dr. Thomas replied that “Guardian” is the legal word, having the word legal is repetitive.  
Mr. Canellas asked the committee to review 5111 and select an option for Visa Students.  
Dr. Thomas commented that it will bring back to the Board for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

Budget Transfers    Policy & Regulation Section 6422                      PB-2

Roll Call: All Yes

E. Legislative Committee – (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

Bill S2261 – eliminate School Boards and have one country wide Board.

F. Buildings & Grounds Committee – (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

The following items were discussed:  
Highland and Midland Park high school gym floors have been refinished;  
Installed 2 electric hand dryers in the science wing boys and girls bathrooms at the high school;  
Installed 1 electric hand dryer in 1<sup>st</sup> floor girl’s bathroom at Highland;  
Repaired playground fence at Highland School;  
Winterized Booster concession stand at the high school;  
REMINDER: Building & Grounds Meeting – 7:00 p.m. at the high school- November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

G. Negotiations – Teachers/Secretaries/Custodians - (P. Lein, Chairperson)

No Report.

H. Negotiations – Administrators – (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

No Report.

I. Public Relations Committee – (P. Lein, Chairperson)

Chalk Board is on website.  
Dr. Cirasella will follow-up on E-Blast.

J. Personnel Committee – (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

No Report.

K. Service Review Committee – (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

No Report.

L. Technology Committee – (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

Meeting on 11/29/10

M. Liaison Committee:

High School PTA – (S. Criscenzo)

Market Day pick-up on 11/19/2010.

Elementary School PTA – (P. Lein)

No Report.

Booster Club – (R. Formicola)

The following items were reported on:

- a. Soccer did very well and very nice to see fan support.
- b. Chess Club doing well

Performing Arts Parents – (R. Moraski)

The following items were reported on:

There is a joint meeting scheduled for 11/10  
Performance of “Fools” at the high school – Friday, November 19-21  
Fund Raising

Special Education – (M. Thomas)

No Report.

Education Foundation – (J. Canellas)

The following items were reported on:

On 11/15/2010 8 classroom Grants were presented;  
The Military Bridge earned \$5,000.00;

The Book Fair is scheduled for 12/13/10;  
Amazon.com Fund Raiser

Board of Recreation – (W. Sullivan)

No Report.

Continuing Education Program – (B. McCourt)

No Report.

N. Old Business

Mr. McCourt asked if Bogota did something about allowing nonresident students attend the school system.

Dr. Cirasella responded that she will ask the Superintendent and report back to the Board.

O. New Business

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

To go into closed session before the meeting of December 7, 2010, for the purpose of discussing personnel and negotiation items.

Roll Call: All Yes

Open to the Public

Mr. Schiffer invited the public to address the Board.

There was no business brought to the Board from the public.

Motion – Mr. Moraski, seconded – Mr. McCourt. . .

To adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Yes

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary