

**MIDLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WORK MEETING  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY  
October 4, 2011**

**8:00 P.M.  
AUGUST C. DePREKER MEDIA CENTER,  
HIGHLAND SCHOOL**

**Flag Salute:** Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order by Robert Schiffer, Board President at 8:00 p.m. and the following statement was read:

**Board Statement:**

"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 2011 elective year. A notice was also posted inside 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."

**Roll Call:**

All Present

James Canellas  
Richard Formicola  
Raymond Moraski  
Timothy Thomas

Sandra Criscenzo  
Brian McCourt  
Maryalice Thomas  
William Sullivan

Robert Schiffer

**BOARD PRESIDENT ITEMS**      *Mr. Robert Schiffer*

**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.

Mr. Schiffer commented on/discussed the following items:

Mr. Sullivan, Doctor Cirasella, and I will be meeting this week with the Mayor and the Liaison from the Borough Council.

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a tour of the high school for the Class of 1962.

Tonight is the first Work Session. Reviewed the process.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ITEMS**      *Dr. Marie Cirasella*

Violence & Vandalism presentation was conducted by Dr. Cirasella. Dr. Cirasella reviewed the report with the Board and the Community.

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

No comments were made by the public.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

The Board reviewed the October 18, 2011 Agenda and the following questions were asked:

B7 Mr. Mc Court asked when are the gym lights being installed. Will it be in time for part of the basketball Season? Ms. Garvey replied that the architect found that the original lights that were quoted for the gym would not be sufficient and new specs had to be created. The lights will not be delivered in time for installation prior to basketball season. We will try to have them installed during the Holiday break, but that is only possible if the gym has no use during that entire week. I will work with the Administrators to try to keep the gym open for installation.

C1 Mr. Sullivan asked how safety teams were created. Dr. Cirasella answered that they were developed by the building Principals.

C2 The Board asked that Dr. Cirasella confirm the Grant List

C3. Mrs. Criscenzo asked if the mandatory use of helmets on the ski team was new this year. Dr. Cirasella answered yes.

**Action Items:**

A. Personnel- (M. Cirasella)

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

1. Approve the appointment of Hayley Barton as an Art teacher at the high school. She will be paid a salary of \$42,500 (BA Step 1 of the MPEA salary guide), prorated effective December 5, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

To approve the following block motion:

2. Approve the appointment of Lisa Dougherty as a .5 1-1 Instructional Aide in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$12,116.50 (Category V, Step 1 of the Secretarial/Instructional Aide salary guide), prorated effective October 10, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (support material attached).
3. Approve the appointment of Marie Idone as a .5 Instructional Aide in the Godwin School. She will be paid a salary of \$12,116.50 (Category V, Step 1 of the Secretarial/Instructional Aide salary guide), prorated effective retroactive from September 26, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

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

4. Approve the appointment of the following 1-1 substitute Aides for two high school special education students for Marching Band practice or events. They will be paid at the approved hourly rate (support material attached):

Denise Connelly  
Therese Seiders

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-1. Approve the increase in position for Gail Tritz, Math teacher at the high school, from a .2 position to a .6 position. She will be paid a salary of \$26,027.40 (.6 of BA Step 3 on the MPEA salary guide), prorated effective from September 14, 2011 until a permanent .4 replacement is in place.

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- S-2. Approve the appointment of Lauren Castiglia as a .5 1-1 Aide for a special education pre-school student attending the Ridgewood Nursery School, Ridgewood, NJ. She will be paid a salary of \$12,116.50, prorated effective September 12, 2011 through June 14, 2012 (support material attached).

Roll Call: All Yes

B. Finance- (W. Sullivan, Chairperson)

Motion- Mr. Sullivan, seconded – Mr. Canellas . . .

1. Approve the submission of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, Part B (IDEA-B) Combined Basic and Preschool Flow-Through application FY '12, as follows:

Basic	\$271,016
Preschool	\$ 21,462

Roll Call: All Yes

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

- BS-1. Approve the appointment of Kimberly Gottlieb as an ABA Aide to provide home programming for an elementary school special education student. The cost will not exceed \$6,500 for the 2011-2012 school year.

Roll Call: All Yes

C. Curriculum- (S. Criscenzo, Chairperson)

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

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

Name	Workshop	Location	Cost	Date
Nancy Stewart	AP College Board	Hasbrouck Heights, NJ	\$213.06	Oct. 10, 2011
Christina Gouraige	Understanding how Pharmacological Intervention Impacts Children; Strategies for Fostering Emotionally Healthy Students	Monroe Township, NJ	\$130.00	Oct. 17, 2011
Tara Tashjian	504 – I &RS Information Session	Long Branch, NJ	\$168.40	Oct. 17, 2011

Roll Call: All Yes

### **LIAISON/BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- D. Policy Committee- (B. McCourt, Chairperson)

No Report.

- E. Legislative Committee- (T. Thomas, Chairperson)

No Report.

- F. Buildings and Grounds Committee- (J. Canellas, Chairperson)

More information on lighting project was given. The lights were quoted out and the cost is more than the original price.

- G. Negotiations Committee- (R. Moraski, Chairperson)

Meeting is scheduled with the Administrators for 11/12/11.

- H. Public Relations Committee- (R. Formicola, Chairperson)

Chalk Board will be sent out next week. Researching the idea of sending to other Association sites.

- I. Personnel Committee- (M. Thomas, Chairperson)

The committee will be meeting tonight and will send out minutes.

- J. Liaison Committee- (T. Thomas, Chairperson)

High School PTA

No Report.

Elementary School PTA

No Report.

Booster Club

Mr. Schiffer commented that the Booster club is examining the possibility of donating the padding for the gym at the high school.

Performing Arts Parents

*Music In The Park* on Sunday at 1:00.

Special Education

Dr Thomas asked if the Director of Special Services could reach out to parent representative.

Education Foundation

No Report

Board of Recreation

There are some questions as to some outstanding bills

Continuing Education Program

No Report.

Student Representative to the Board – (A. Dravis-Stark)

The year is off to a good start. I have received various suggestions and all are being reviewed by the Principals and the Superintendent.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. McCourt asked about the band trailer. Dr. Cirasella replied that there is a meeting set up to review its location.

Mr. Formicola wondered about the status of the student who is home schooled but wants to participate in athletics at the high school. Dr. Cirasella replied that at this time there is no new additional information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. McCourt asked if Spirit Week could be brought back. Dr Cirasella said that she would look into it for next year.

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

To convene into closed session after tonight’s meeting to discuss students incidents , with action to be taken on one item, and before the meeting of October 18, 2011 for the purpose of reviewing personnel items and negotiation items.

Roll Call: All Yes

The Board convened into closed session at 8:55 p.m.

The Board reconvened into the open public meeting forum at 9:39 p.m.

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

CS1 To approve the following Resolution:

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, formal disciplinary proceedings were initiated against a student whose name is on file (hereinafter referred to as “the Student”) with the Midland Park Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”), regarding allegations that the Student committed his third offense of substance abuse by being under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance while on school premises in violation of Board Policy and Regulations Nos. 5500 (Expectations for Pupil Conduct), 5530 (Substance Abuse), 5600 (Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct), 5610 (Suspension), 5620 (Expulsion), *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2* (Causes for Suspension or Expulsion of Pupils), and *N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10* (Possession, use or being under the influence, or failure to make lawful disposition); and

**WHEREAS**, on or about September 19, 2011, the Student’s parent(s) were provided with a notice of a disciplinary hearing to be held before the Board on October 4, 2011, and of their right to due process pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2* through 7.6 and of their right to file an appeal with the Commissioner of Education of the State of New Jersey within ninety (90) days of the Board’s decision; and

**WHEREAS**, at the October 4, 2011 disciplinary hearing, the administration presented its evidence against the Student, who, along with the Student’s parents, was given the opportunity to cross-examine the witness(es), and to make statements on the Student’s behalf; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has considered all of the evidence, the Student’s academic, attendance, and disciplinary records, Board Policy and Regulation Nos. 5500 (Expectations for Pupil Conduct), 5530 (Substance Abuse), 5600 (Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct), 5610 (Suspension), 5620 (Expulsion), *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2* (Causes for suspension or expulsion of pupils) and *N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10* (Possession, use or being under the influence, or failure to make lawful disposition);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Board hereby determines, based upon a preponderance of the competent and credible evidence, that the Student committed his third offense of substance abuse by being under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance while on school premises in violation of the aforementioned policies, regulations and statutes, and further determines that such conduct is grounds for discipline.

2. In light of the serious nature of the conduct and due to the fact that this is the Student's third offense of substance abuse, the Student shall be removed from Midland Park High School up to January 2, 2012, effective immediately, subject to the early re-entry provisions set forth herein.

3. The Board currently has Board meetings scheduled for October 18, 2011, November 1, 2011, November 15, 2011, December 6, 2011, and December 20, 2011. At each of these meetings (for so long as the Student remains suspended), the Superintendent shall report to the Board at each subsequent Board meeting for the purpose of determining the status of the Student's suspension, the appropriateness of the Student's current educational program, and based upon the Superintendent's report, the Board shall determine whether: (1) to continue the suspension in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3(d)* and (e), or (2) to allow the Student to re-enter the school early (prior to January 2, 2012).

4. In order for the Student to be eligible to re-enter Midland Park High School before January 2, 2011, he must demonstrate that he: (a) successfully completed his academic courses, which shall be provided through home instruction; (b) has not committed any other violations of the law and has not been charged with any violations of the law by law enforcement officials; and (c) is drug and alcohol free and shall present a current medical evaluation (including a chemical screening indicating that the Student is not currently under the influence of controlled dangerous substances).

5. The Student will be subject to random drug/chemical screenings which will be conducted at the Board's discretion and expense, until June 30, 2012.

6. The Student shall meet with the Midland Park School District's (hereinafter referred to as the "District") Student Assistance Counselor once a week until June 30, 2012. The Superintendent and administration shall have the sole discretion in determining when the student may enter the Board's campuses to meet with the District's Student Assistance Counselor.

7. The Student's parents shall provide the Student with a drug and alcohol assessment and pursue counseling that meets the parents' budgetary needs, until June 30, 2012.

8. The Student shall attend four (4) Narcotics Anonymous meetings each week, until June 30, 2012 and shall provide the Superintendent with receipts of same.

9. During the period of suspension, individual counseling services and academic support shall be made available to the Student as appropriate, with the specific services offered being subject to the discretion of the Superintendent.

10. The Student shall not be present on any of the Board's school campuses outside of or during the regularly scheduled school day during the period of suspension, unless authorized by the Superintendent.

11. The Student shall not be permitted to participate in any athletic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Board and shall not be present for or attend any Board-sponsored activities

either on campus or in any school district where the school is participating in the activities during the period of the Student's suspension.

12. During the period of suspension from Midland Park High School, the Student shall be provided with home academic instruction, pursuant to Board Policy No. 5610 (Suspension) and State and federal laws that meets the Core Curriculum Standards in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1 et seq.*

13. Further engagement by the Student in conduct warranting expulsion pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2* and/or failure to comply with any aforementioned terms and conditions shall amount to a knowing and voluntary waiver of the Student's right to a free and appropriate public education in the event that a decision to expel the Student is made by the Board pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5*.

14. If the Student commits another substance abuse offense, the Student may be expelled from the District and the District shall discontinue the educational services and/or discontinue payment of educational services for the Student after affording the Student procedural due process.

ROLL CALL: All Yes

Motion – Mr. Canellas, seconded – Mr. Sullivan . . .  
To adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:42

Roll Call: All Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Garvey,  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary