

Transcript of BOE Special Meeting 9-14-21

01:08

all right

01:20

right there

01:53

hello

02:49

oh

03:38

is

03:58

these nails

04:05

[Music]

04:14

[Music]

04:24

i'd like to call to order the special

04:26

meeting of the moorestown township board

04:28

of education is called to order this

04:30

meeting is called in conformance with

04:32

the open public meetings act with

04:33

adequate notice provided as follows

04:35

notice filed with the courier post on

04:37

august 2nd 2021 notice filed with the

04:40

burlington county times on august 2nd

04:42

2021

04:43

can i please have a moment of silence

04:50

please rise for the pledge

04:54

i pledge allegiance to the flag of the

04:57

united states of america

04:59  
to the republic for which it stands one  
05:01  
nation under god indivisible with  
05:04  
liberty and justice for all  
05:09  
thank you  
05:10  
roll call please james  
05:12  
[Music]  
05:14  
dr alberti  
05:16  
mr fairchild  
05:18  
mrs mullen  
05:20  
[Laughter]  
05:22  
welcome  
05:23  
dr schneider  
05:25  
mr villanueva  
05:27  
mr weeks  
05:29  
mr weinstein president mr romano yeah  
05:32  
mrs shaw here thank you  
05:35  
thanks james good evening um  
05:39  
or small crowd but um and hopefully  
05:41  
there's some listening at home i hope  
05:43  
everyone had a wonderful summer and the  
05:45  
positive first week of school actually a  
05:47  
week and a half kind of um thank we  
05:50  
thank our students parents

05:52  
administration teachers and staff for a  
05:54  
smooth and safe  
05:56  
opening week and pretty  
05:58  
um very well run um  
06:00  
lots of positive comments so  
06:03  
that's wonderful many thanks to kathy  
06:05  
mullen for her willingness to step into  
06:07  
this role once again we're very happy to  
06:09  
have you back um  
06:11  
thank you so much i know you have gone  
06:13  
through the appropriate paperwork and  
06:14  
was sworn in by james um  
06:17  
last week  
06:19  
so that's great um  
06:21  
tonight's meeting is specifically to  
06:23  
discuss the superintendent's search and  
06:25  
the majority of the meeting will be in  
06:27  
executive session um i i want to take a  
06:30  
minute to thank the whole school  
06:31  
community for their willingness to  
06:33  
participate in this process and  
06:35  
determine the desired characteristics  
06:37  
for our next superintendent um this has

06:40  
really helped guide hya in screening  
06:42  
candidates and will help the board um in  
06:45  
our interviewing process so it was um  
06:49  
a lot of work done in this short amount  
06:52  
of time but um  
06:53  
we thank stacey and bill adams who are  
06:55  
here today and monica brown also part of  
06:57  
their team um for their  
06:59  
extensive work on doing this and they  
07:02  
were able to bring us a strong pool of  
07:03  
candidates which we're excited to hear  
07:05  
about  
07:06  
and i'm going to turn it over to bill  
07:08  
and stacy for our update up to  
07:15  
well bill you it has been a process  
07:18  
and uh certainly the stakeholder input  
07:20  
very critical to the process  
07:22  
in developing those desired  
07:24  
characteristics because everything that  
07:26  
we did from that point on after the  
07:28  
engagement phase was based on the  
07:30  
desired characteristics  
07:31  
what we'd like to do

07:33  
right at this point is just give you an  
07:35  
overview of the field of candidates to  
07:38  
give give you uh  
07:40  
so that you have the the scope of the  
07:42  
number of candidates and and where  
07:44  
they're from and so forth  
07:46  
there were 54 applicants in the system  
07:49  
however only 41 actually press the  
07:52  
button and submitted  
07:53  
so even if an application is complete if  
07:56  
it's not if they don't press the button  
07:58  
uh we cannot consider them a candidate  
08:00  
and and they were not considered if they  
08:02  
didn't so the 41 that submitted 23 are  
08:05  
current superintendents  
08:07  
nine are assistant superintendents  
08:10  
four are directors or education or  
08:14  
executive directors  
08:15  
three are principals and one is an  
08:17  
adjunct professor  
08:19  
so you can see the the bulk of the the  
08:22  
41 that submitted either superintendents  
08:24  
or assistant superintendents by

08:26  
background  
08:28  
this is interesting states represented  
08:30  
well new jersey 21 candidates new york  
08:33  
seven  
08:34  
pennsylvania six  
08:36  
maryland two michigan one nevada one  
08:41  
florida one and virginia won  
08:44  
and i might just mention both  
08:46  
the uh michigan and the nevada person  
08:50  
have new jersey experience so they they  
08:53  
were in new jersey at one time  
08:55  
uh of the group uh and i i only had this  
08:58  
on on 40 of the the candidates uh 32  
09:01  
have a doctoral degree and eight uh do  
09:04  
not have doctoral degrees but have  
09:06  
master's degrees  
09:08  
of the total  
09:09  
and self-identified  
09:11  
we have 25 males and 16 females  
09:18  
that's pretty much the overview of the  
09:21  
full field about a fourth of these  
09:24  
of the group that actually submitted uh  
09:27  
we've done a more in-depth uh work on

09:30  
and we feel that that group of about 10  
09:34  
most closely resemble the desired  
09:36  
characteristics uh that that you  
09:38  
approved and that that we received from  
09:41  
the stakeholders that participated  
09:43  
and that'll be the next step to to look  
09:46  
at those people there are five documents  
09:48  
uh surrounding those  
09:50  
or for each of those those documents  
09:53  
include  
09:54  
a self introduction in the third person  
09:56  
how would you want bill or stacy or  
09:58  
monica to introduce you  
10:00  
it includes their letter of interest  
10:02  
which should follow the desired  
10:04  
characteristics that's what they the  
10:06  
candidates were advised  
10:08  
the resume  
10:09  
their um  
10:11  
application and then what references  
10:13  
said about them and from that we we hope  
10:15  
that you'll be able to determine who  
10:17  
you'd like to interview and begin that

10:19  
process this saturday that's that's just  
10:23  
the overview of the demographics  
10:26  
any questions  
10:30  
any questions from the board just not  
10:33  
we'll be talking later thank you so much  
10:34  
bill  
10:37  
right now we are  
10:40  
ready to go into public comment so can i  
10:42  
please have a motion  
10:43  
to open the floor for public comment  
10:47  
thank you second lauren thank you all in  
10:49  
fever bye  
10:53  
not much everyone knows the drill so you  
10:56  
could come to the mic please state your  
10:58  
name and address  
10:59  
um you have three minutes to speak  
11:02  
hi i'm jill fallows macaluso i live at  
11:04  
800 golf view  
11:06  
and i have a couple of comments first my  
11:09  
family was super excited to return to  
11:11  
in-person learning this year it felt  
11:13  
awesome i'm a parent of three girls ues  
11:16  
wams and the high school all starting in



11:18  
new schools  
11:20  
but i do want to share with you that one  
11:21  
phrase was shared in my house in the  
11:23  
days leading up to back to school  
11:25  
probably more than many and that word  
11:27  
was phrase was dress coded  
11:30  
my girls shopped and re-shopped in  
11:32  
mainstream stores searching for a good  
11:34  
outfit that they would not get dress  
11:35  
coded for  
11:37  
this is upsetting to me on many levels  
11:39  
and i want to raise awareness to the boe  
11:41  
and administration there is quite a bit  
11:43  
of buzz in the parent community over the  
11:45  
dress code and i believe it needs to be  
11:47  
immediately revisited  
11:49  
first there are far too many important  
11:52  
things to be focusing on or stressing  
11:53  
about during these uncertain times than  
11:55  
being dress coded for  
11:58  
we need to get our priorities in order  
11:59  
and spend time on what matters these  
12:01  
kids truly have enough to worry about

12:04  
second whether intended to or not as  
12:06  
drafted the application of the dress  
12:09  
code is adversely impacting and treating  
12:11  
girls in a discriminatory manner  
12:14  
i specifically call your attention to  
12:16  
the language in the dress code students  
12:18  
dressing in a manner that is a  
12:19  
distraction to the education of others  
12:21  
will be asked to correct their  
12:23  
inappropriateness of such stress and it  
12:25  
goes on to say that mid-drift tops and  
12:27  
tank tops that show shoulders are  
12:28  
inappropriate and last but not least the  
12:32  
application of the dress code is  
12:33  
confusing to our children especially our  
12:35  
daughters and is making them feel bad  
12:37  
about themselves and stressed about how  
12:39  
they dress and it's really actually kind  
12:41  
of placing a burden on them to worry  
12:43  
about whether or not they're wearing  
12:44  
clothing that is distracting you know  
12:47  
for example by showing their shoulders  
12:49  
which is deemed to be provocative

12:51  
i've heard a lot of examples throughout  
12:53  
the town that illustrate the application  
12:55  
of the dress code and i'd like to share  
12:56  
a few of them with you an 8th grader on  
12:59  
picture day was forced to wear a t-shirt  
13:01  
over her dress because the strap was not  
13:03  
thick enough she was embarrassed in  
13:05  
front of the class and given a t-shirt  
13:06  
to wear she felt terrible about herself  
13:10  
the dance team is not able to wear their  
13:11  
uniform top to school just like football  
13:13  
players pep band and cheerleaders and  
13:15  
some of the dance squad girls were dress  
13:17  
coded and what they assumed was part of  
13:19  
their uniform that they had performed in  
13:21  
at football games on two previous  
13:23  
occasions  
13:24  
the wham's uniforms for field hockey  
13:26  
cannot be racerback tank tops like many  
13:28  
other schools and the new shirts that  
13:30  
the morristown rec program just put all  
13:32  
of these same girls in for their weekend  
13:34  
field hockey games

13:35  
a homeroom teacher would make all female  
13:38  
students stand up and check the length  
13:40  
of their shorts in front of the class  
13:42  
kind of making a public spectacle out of  
13:44  
it  
13:44  
a student dress coded by  
13:47  
her senior year because she was wearing  
13:49  
a long sleeve shirt with cold shoulders  
13:52  
a high school spanish teacher in the  
13:53  
middle of a final exam claimed that a  
13:55  
full-length white tank top and stated  
13:57  
absolutely you cannot wear that it's way  
13:59  
too revealing in front of the entire  
14:01  
class  
14:02  
my own daughter was dress coded in 4th  
14:05  
grade at ues for wearing shorts  
14:07  
from american eagle that were considered  
14:10  
too short  
14:11  
i'd like to say that this is also  
14:13  
inconsistent with how teachers are  
14:14  
treated there were pictures of teachers  
14:16  
wearing a finish click a spaghetti strap  
14:18  
dress snapped on the first day and

14:20  
posted on the internet so we have to be  
14:22  
consistent  
14:23  
we recognize there's a line for  
14:25  
inappropriate and appropriate dress but  
14:27  
the dress code itself is inappropriate  
14:28  
and the application is discriminating  
14:30  
and shaming our young girls we ask you  
14:32  
that please address it immediately  
14:35  
the answer is to revisit and reflect on  
14:37  
this antiquated document and adopt a  
14:39  
more modern dress code that promotes  
14:41  
appropriate dress and encourages healthy  
14:43  
and respectful school environment one  
14:45  
suggestion that might be appropriate  
14:47  
would be to  
14:49  
actually reach out to the student reps  
14:51  
and invite feedback and that way we can  
14:54  
have our students be able to communicate  
14:56  
and advocate without fear of kind of  
14:58  
sticking just themselves out so i really  
15:00  
encourage you to look at it thank you  
15:02  
thank you i do believe our policy  
15:04  
committee did look at it yesterday and

15:06

it will probably be um discussed

15:09

at our next regular meeting reported on

15:11

at the next meeting and i think that's

15:13

not really those those are school level

15:15

dress codes they they are school-related

15:17

dress codes from what i gather our board

15:19

policy is very broad and each school has

15:22

their own um but i do believe it was and

15:24

this has been something that's been

15:26

ongoing

15:27

probably since i've been on the board so

15:28

12 years and they're all going before

15:30

then this is

15:31

a fight that's been going for 12 to 15

15:34

years so

15:35

welcome to the fight

15:45

hi good evening sarah rivera um i wasn't

15:47

really aware that i was violating dress

15:49

code

15:50

i have boys and my daughter is only in

15:53

second grade so i feel like i have a

15:54

little bit of time before i have to

15:55

really worry about this um i wanted to

15:58  
say that i had the pleasure of knocking  
16:01  
on the administration's door  
16:03  
maybe two weeks ago at this point and  
16:05  
asked for an impromptu meeting with dr  
16:07  
fitz  
16:08  
which he gladly accepted  
16:11  
and i just want to say that i haven't  
16:12  
spoke to anybody who  
16:14  
has had anything negative to say about  
16:16  
dr fitz i think he has been absolutely  
16:18  
phenomenal over the course the last  
16:20  
couple of weeks uh what would it have  
16:22  
been two months maybe um and i'm  
16:24  
speaking for just myself but i would uh  
16:27  
encourage you to keep him around as long  
16:29  
as humanly possible here in the district  
16:31  
so uh whatever the max amount of time he  
16:33  
can be here is is uh what i think a lot  
16:35  
of people would welcome because he's  
16:36  
been a breath of fresh air thanks  
16:40  
thank you  
16:44  
anyone else like to speak  
16:49  
nope

16:52

okay i'd like to request a motion to

16:54

close public comment motion to close

16:56

david thank you second lauren thank you

16:59

all in favor all right thank you

17:02

we're now going to be moving into

17:04

executive session be it resolved by the

17:06

board of education of morristown

17:07

township that is necessary to meet an

17:09

executive session to discuss certain

17:11

items involving superintendent search

17:14

discussion can i please have a motion

17:18

second david

17:20

thank you all in favor

17:21

aye aye

17:25

thank you

17:35

you

English (auto-generated)