

Transcript of 10-19-21 BOE Meeting

00:33

testing testing

09:19

[Music]

10:35

thank you

11:44

yes

12:41

good all right

13:14

c

13:40

hey

14:02

good evening everyone

14:06

i'd like to call to order the regular

14:08

meeting of the morrestown township board

14:09

of education it is called to order this

14:12

meeting is called in conformance with

14:13

the open public meetings act with

14:15

adequate notice provided as follows

14:17

notice filed with the courier post on

14:19

july 1st 2021 notice filed with the

14:22

burlington county times on july 1st 2021

14:25

can i please have a moment of silence

14:31

thank you we please rise for the pledge

14:33

of allegiance

14:36

i pledge allegiance to the flag of the

14:39

united stand
14:44
one nation under god indivisible with
14:47
liberty and justice for all
14:50
thank you
14:55
james can we please have a roll call a
14:57
roll call
14:58
dr alberti
15:00
mr fairchild
15:02
mrs mullen
15:03
dr schneider
15:05
mr villanueva
15:07
mr weeks
15:08
mr weinstein president
15:10
mrs romano mr shaw here thank you thanks
15:14
james we um already went into an
15:17
executive session and returned to public
15:19
um we are now moving on to approval of
15:21
minutes for the following meetings
15:24
august 17 2021 executive session august
15:27
17 2021 regular meeting september 14
15:31
2021 executive session
15:33
september 14 2021 special meeting
15:35
september 28th 2021
15:39

executive session and special meeting
15:40
september 29 2021 executive session and
15:43
special meeting can i please have a
15:45
motion
15:47
thank you thank you
15:49
all in favor
15:51
aye
15:52
any notice abstentions
16:01
okay and i abstain from september 14th
16:09
okay does any you got that james
16:13
thanks
16:14
um any board members have any
16:15
communications to share
16:22
okay
16:23
um
16:24
good evening everyone um we are about
16:27
six weeks into the school year and all
16:29
is going smoothly despite the
16:31
challenging times that we are facing
16:34
thank you to the whole school community
16:35
for helping manage through these
16:37
difficult times um i also want to say a
16:39
big thank you to dr fitz for coming in
16:42

as interim superintendent and jumping
16:43
right in to ensure a smooth beginning of
16:45
the school year especially during these
16:47
challenging times
16:50
over the
16:51
past four months the board's most
16:53
important work has been to focus on the
16:55
permanent superintendent search and i
16:57
want to thank our whole school community
16:59
for their willingness to be involved in
17:01
the process of determining the desired
17:02
characteristics of the next
17:04
superintendent
17:05
this has helped guide hya our search
17:08
firm in screening candidates and has
17:10
helped the board in our interview
17:11
process there were 41 applicants and a
17:14
slate of 10 candidates were picked by
17:17
hya to present to us we narrowed it down
17:19
to six and then four
17:22
and i have to say i've been involved in
17:23
superintendent searches before and there
17:25
were many many strong candidates in our
17:27

application pool um

17:30

many more than i've seen in past

17:32

um we do have a finalist and over the

17:34

past few weeks we have working out the

17:36

details the finalist contract and

17:38

information had to go to the executive

17:40

county superintendent for approval

17:43

and we couldn't say anything about the

17:44

finalists until we received approval

17:46

from the county

17:47

thankfully this morning um we were

17:49

hoping it for last week but thankfully

17:51

this morning we did receive approval

17:53

that is why we have included an addendum

17:55

to approve the contract

17:57

which was sent out to the community via

17:59

communication this afternoon

18:01

i will speak more to this once we come

18:03

to that part of the agenda and

18:05

additionally we did have to add another

18:07

addendum to tonight's agenda to approve

18:10

pay rates for bus drivers um

18:13

as many of you know there is a crisis

18:14

going on in new jersey and in the
18:16
country regarding bus drivers shortages
18:18
so these were both critical areas we
18:20
felt necessary to include in tonight's
18:22
agenda
18:24
a big thank you to james heiser for his
18:26
extensive work on both of these areas
18:29
um so it's been a crazy month for you so
18:31
we appreciate all of
18:33
probably more than a month but
18:35
yeah
18:35
um we really appreciate all your
18:37
extensive work in these areas um i also
18:40
want to extend the thanks
18:41
to our board attorney john comeagno who
18:43
has helped us through this and to my
18:45
fellow board members in the many many
18:47
hours we have all put in and thoughtful
18:49
discussions we've had um especially
18:51
during the superintendent search process
18:53
so
18:54
i will now um
18:56
i'm finished for now i will actually
18:58

turn it over unfortunately the student
19:00
reps um don't have a seat at the table
19:03
so i apologize to all of you we will
19:05
have that corrected and you are also not
19:07
on the agenda we will have that
19:08
corrected next month so i apologize for
19:10
that but we still would love to have you
19:12
come up and give your reports um
19:15
so we will let um
19:17
i guess claire are you the senior
19:19
a senior wow
19:22
if you want to start and then introduce
19:24
um
19:25
everyone after you hopefully that mic
19:27
works
19:31
no it's the answer
19:34
hi everybody my name is claire herron
19:36
and i am the senior class liaison
19:39
um and i am here to talk about a couple
19:41
different topics this month um right now
19:43
we are having our spirit week which is
19:46
super fun today was team tuesday and
19:48
peyton will talk more about that
19:50

um and this friday is our pep rally so i
19:53
did design the senior flag um i've done
19:56
it every year and this is my last year
19:58
so it had to be good
19:59
um
20:00
we asked seniors for input and t-shirt
20:03
ideas each grade always or this seniors
20:07
design their own t-shirts and then um
20:09
the underclassmen have similar shirts um
20:11
we changed it up this year but um
20:14
after voting we landed on a card theme
20:16
and i actually am really good friends
20:18
with a magician so i consider just like
20:21
painting his face on the flag with a
20:23
couple cards called a day um but instead
20:26
um we
20:27
well i decided to make it kind of like
20:29
an evil joker jester theme for the
20:31
seniors kind of mix it up a little bit
20:34
so if friday night you do see a bunch of
20:36
kids running around morristown dressed
20:37
in black with joker makeup on don't be
20:40
alarmed they're heading home from pep
20:41

rally
20:42
um
20:43
and
20:44
on friday we will have a day pep rally
20:46
after morning classes and then at 5 30
20:48
we will have a twilight pep rally with
20:50
some more competitions and our senior
20:52
entrance
20:53
um usually our pep rally is later but
20:56
that's because we're inside so in order
20:58
to like accommodate for you know the sun
21:00
setting it'll be a little colder at
21:01
night we're moving it up a little bit
21:02
earlier this year
21:04
um
21:05
yeah both pep rallies will be held
21:07
outside to accommodate for coveted
21:08
protocols
21:10
and i'm really glad that our pep rally
21:12
will be essentially normal
21:14
um this year we usually do a tricycle
21:16
relay race but now we're doing it around
21:17
the track so that's gonna be like super
21:20

funny and i'm really excited for that

21:21

there's gonna be eight people instead of

21:22

one that's my favorite event each year

21:24

so it should go well

21:26

um my student council members and i have

21:27

been working really hard filling out the

21:29

list getting everybody signed up and

21:31

wish the seniors luck for friday because

21:34

we might need it

21:35

um and after spirit week concludes the

21:38

school has and then the school has a

21:40

chance to breathe and the seniors get to

21:42

bask in the glory of our victory

21:44

mr saibol is going to organize a school

21:47

attire committee and ask for

21:49

representatives from students faculty

21:51

and student council members

21:54

um there was some talk earlier this year

21:55

about changing up the school dress code

21:58

and that was the whole thing so mr cybel

22:00

is listening to our you know statements

22:02

and questions and then he is organizing

22:05

the school attire committee um so we'll

22:08

have representatives from like different
22:09
groups and we will meet um after spirit
22:12
week includes
22:13
and then um coming up in november is our
22:16
veteran's day assembly um so last year
22:19
we filmed a video and like interviewed a
22:21
couple
22:22
veterans but this year we're trying to
22:24
bring a little bit more back to normal
22:26
um so we will have the veterans live in
22:29
the gym
22:30
and then we're going to live stream it
22:32
to the students in their classrooms
22:34
um so they'll be watching in their
22:35
homerooms and invites are going out on
22:38
monday to veterans in the
22:41
community and family members of staff
22:43
and students
22:44
um
22:45
the guest speaker is an army chaplain
22:47
who served for 25 years so it'll be nice
22:50
to hear from him and hear any wisdom and
22:52
nice words and um student council and
22:55

advisors will plan and facilitate this
22:57
assembly it's always one of the
22:59
highlights of the year usually the
23:00
madrigals and the band are involved so
23:02
i'm really excited to see how it goes
23:03
this year
23:04
handing it off to peyton
23:13
thank you claire
23:14
good evening i'm peyton emil i'm the
23:16
junior class representative so i'm going
23:18
to talk about decorations and
23:20
competitions so in prep in preparation
23:23
for spirit week and pep rally each grade
23:25
has been really hard at work decorating
23:27
their assigned areas the seniors have a
23:29
beautiful glass hallway with they
23:31
decorated with nice big black posters
23:34
which have phrases and quotes to really
23:38
make the seniors excited and
23:42
yeah
23:43
so
23:46
i can't speak for the rest of the
23:47
classes but i know for the juniors we
23:50

spelled out juniors using all the last
23:53
names of the classes we had we allowed
23:56
classmates to sign the poster so it's in
23:58
their own handwriting
24:00
we also spelled out 2023 using pictures
24:03
from past school years in alignment with
24:05
the theme of quaker legacy
24:07
so the juniors did a really good job
24:09
with our decorations
24:12
so for competitions we have daily
24:14
dress-up competition so monday was
24:17
america monday where students just had
24:19
to wear red white and blue and show off
24:21
their patriotism
24:24
today we had team tuesday you would get
24:26
double points if you were quakers but if
24:28
you wore a jersey or any other sports
24:30
team that you like you would get a point
24:32
today after school we also had minute to
24:35
win it games
24:36
so students competed in short games to
24:38
give them points
24:40
to their overall score for pep rally
24:42

tomorrow we have holiday wednesday so

24:45

students pick a holiday and dress

24:47

accordingly no matter what they want to

24:49

do thanksgiving if you want

24:51

halloween valentine's day st patrick's

24:54

day christmas etc

24:57

so thursday we will have a throwback

24:59

thursday i know that seniors want to do

25:01

like a neon theme but all the other

25:03

classes can pick whatever decade they

25:06

want to do

25:07

and dress up accordingly

25:09

after school thursday we will have a

25:10

kahoot with trivia questions questions

25:13

on

25:14

morsetown facts

25:16

and that will also go to total points

25:19

for pep rally and friday we will have

25:21

pep rally which claire just spoke on and

25:24

each grade will wear their shirts

25:26

and if they didn't order a shirt they

25:28

will just wear their class color so it's

25:30

white for freshman gray for sophomore

25:32

yellow for juniors and black for seniors

25:35

all right i'm passing it off

25:42

hi everybody i'm vavica verma the

25:44

sophomore class liaison and i'll be

25:46

talking a little bit about the

25:48

homecoming dance that was on saturday

25:50

and so the homecoming dance there was a

25:52

great turnout about 600 tickets were

25:54

sold on thursday and many more were sold

25:57

on friday afternoons as kind of a

25:58

last-minute dive to get tickets because

26:01

you know tickets were installed at the

26:02

door

26:03

and there was a great turnout that was

26:05

about half the school and i was actually

26:07

really excited because for the freshmen

26:09

and for the sophomores it was our first

26:11

homecoming dance of high school because

26:13

unfortunately we couldn't have one last

26:14

year due to covid and the excitement for

26:17

the homecoming dance oh my gosh i was

26:18

building up for weeks myself included

26:20

all the girls were talking about dresses

26:22

and going dress shopping and it was just
26:24
a great to return to almost normalcy and
26:27
just going dress shopping and the
26:29
excitement was just build up for weeks
26:31
and so the actual day of homecoming
26:33
which was saturday the students and the
26:35
staff came in on the morning to help set
26:37
up set up we had to set up tables chairs
26:40
and since the theme was actually autumn
26:42
nights we had these little pumpkin
26:43
decorations these streamers and we had
26:46
this my favorite decoration i really
26:48
thought it was cool there was these big
26:49
balloons that formed the great archway
26:52
that was outside of the
26:54
mat gym and we had to cover the
26:56
bleachers and all the tablecloths we had
26:59
to lay out food and water that was
27:01
actually my friend's favorite part who i
27:02
went with she was obsessed with all the
27:04
food there's so much stuff there
27:06
and so in terms of the actual dance it
27:08
was absolutely amazing i couldn't have
27:11

asked for a better first dance i walked
27:13
in and i kind of saw the rough draft of
27:15
the mac gym while i was decorating and
27:17
when i came in i was just shocked and it
27:19
was an oh my gosh moment for me because
27:21
all the lights were dimmed there's this
27:23
great music playing and the whole gym
27:25
was just filled people were dancing they
27:27
were eating they were just having a
27:29
great time
27:30
and so there's actually another one of
27:32
my favorite decorations again the
27:34
decorating was just absolutely amazing
27:37
and it was actually kind of weird to see
27:38
this mac gym that i go to every day all
27:40
of a sudden transformed into this
27:41
beautiful location for homecoming it was
27:43
a great moment it was actually these two
27:46
fairy lights and they were connected on
27:48
the volleyball poles i mean who could
27:49
have thought to do that that was just a
27:51
great idea
27:52
so the actual dance again it was
27:54

absolutely amazing and i couldn't be
27:57
more grateful to the staff and all of
27:59
the student council advisors and
28:01
everyone who had to clean up after
28:03
it was just a lot of work goes into
28:05
putting these dances and it's awesome
28:07
because i know so many other districts
28:09
aren't even putting on homecoming dances
28:11
or even spirit week and to think that
28:13
i'm fortunate enough to have a spirit
28:16
week again peyton went out through all
28:18
of these events and a homecoming i would
28:20
just really like to thank all of the
28:22
staff and all the student council
28:24
advisors that helped put everything on
28:26
because i was tired from just decorating
28:28
the mac gym and i can't even imagine
28:29
what goes into planning a whole spirit
28:31
week in homecoming so yeah thank you to
28:32
all the staff
28:41
hi my name is yvette and i'm the
28:43
freshman representative and i'm here to
28:46
talk to you today about the canned food
28:48

drive
28:48
so the canned food drive is one of our
28:51
other spirit week competitions and every
28:54
day this week student condon students
28:56
can donate their respective canned food
28:58
items and drop them off in a bin in the
29:00
main lobby of the high school and each
29:02
grade has their own items freshmen are
29:04
bringing in mashed potatoes sophomores
29:06
have stuffing juniors have canned
29:09
veggies and seniors have cranberry sauce
29:11
points are earned for each grade based
29:13
on the number of cans in the bin
29:16
these food items go to creating the 70
29:18
plus food baskets that the high school
29:20
delivers to needy families in morristown
29:23
we take pride in our ability to collect
29:25
these food items and help our community
29:27
thank you
29:33
thank you so much to our student
29:35
representatives as i always say this is
29:37
the highlight of the night a lot of the
29:38
time so we love hearing from you um if
29:41

if you do have to go home i know you
29:43
probably have homework and other things
29:44
to do so feel free to leave at any point
29:46
if you want or feel free to stay but i
29:48
want to give you the option because i
29:49
know
29:50
it's probably a busy night
29:52
so thank you again
29:55
so we are moving on to the
29:57
superintendent's monthly report
30:00
so dr fitz i will turn it over to you
30:03
thank you very much i'm pleased to make
30:04
this report
30:07
i want to make this report about
30:09
students tonight
30:13
we are very fortunate
30:15
to have an extraordinary population of
30:18
students attending
30:20
our
30:20
schools they're in full participation of
30:24
the academic program that we have
30:26
prepared for them
30:29
i get a chance
30:31

to visit the schools walk the hallways
30:34
talk to students meet students
30:36
as well as staff
30:38
i found the students to be respectful
30:42
responsible
30:44
and they are fully engaged
30:46
in the learning process
30:48
they are well disciplined
30:52
i'm spending my time to make sure that
30:55
we are focusing on the wellness
30:58
and the health
31:00
of students and staff
31:03
we are monitoring everything that's
31:05
taking place in our district
31:07
to ensure that the place
31:10
is safe
31:11
for staff
31:13
and students
31:15
we are continuing to follow
31:17
the guidelines of cdc
31:21
and i'm open to receive suggestions
31:24
from you because many of our parents
31:28
work in the healthcare area
31:31

and many some of our parents are
31:33
researchers so they're reading journals
31:35
and periodicals
31:37
and they're attending
31:39
webinars
31:40
and so i ask them to share that
31:43
knowledge with me so that i can share
31:45
with the executive team
31:47
to ensure that we on top of our game
31:49
here
31:50
are making our schools safe and healthy
31:55
in my wandering around the district
31:57
i get a chance to see and observe some
32:00
things
32:02
well this is what i wondered upon the
32:04
other day
32:06
i was here in the middle school
32:10
and one of the teachers said come see my
32:13
room i says no i it might be interpreted
32:16
that i'm observing
32:18
so i says no i prefer not to come to
32:20
your room
32:22
she says come come come so
32:24

i broke my rule
32:26
i went in
32:29
i saw an amazing room
32:33
it was child centered
32:37
for emotionally distressed kids
32:41
i could take a vacation in that room
32:45
but this is what i learned about her
32:48
and you're going to learn more about her
32:50
at next month's meeting
32:54
susan moller is a special needs school
32:57
teacher
32:58
here at the middle school
33:00
she has been recognized by the national
33:03
center for learning disabilities
33:05
by winning the everyday champion
33:08
award this award recognizes the heroic
33:12
and outstanding achievements made during
33:14
cover 19 pandemic honoring courageous
33:18
and innovative
33:19
educators and administrators
33:23
more more to know about her because the
33:26
board will have to accept five thousand
33:28
dollars
33:29

as a part of this award that she will
33:32
allocate
33:34
to the school
33:36
i want to say to you
33:38
that we have some remarkable teachers
33:40
here
33:42
incredible teachers
33:45
and i just enjoy finding out about all
33:48
the wonderful things that they're doing
33:51
and what they're doing
33:52
for children
33:54
we're fortunate to have great children
33:56
we're blessed to have a great staff
33:59
and i'm really really appreciative
34:02
of the fine parents
34:04
that we have in the district
34:06
my report
34:08
thank you
34:10
thank you so much dr fitz
34:14
i believe we have also um
34:16
breakfast rotary backpack
34:19
yes i have this project
34:21
here
34:22

good
34:23
will you come forward i have this great
34:27
award for you
34:28
it's enough i can keep it in my case
34:30
okay
34:32
i'll move to the mic maybe
34:42
thank you very much
34:44
thank you
34:45
okay
34:47
[Music]
34:50
okay
34:52
this is really uh an honor to meet these
34:55
two guys here i've had a chance to meet
34:56
them at rotary but i've heard of their
34:59
fine work
35:00
that they've been doing for decades
35:02
around here okay and children have been
35:04
the recipient of their work
35:07
is that they donate
35:10
backpacks
35:11
to our kids
35:14
stocked with supplies and materials
35:17
we're just grateful to have them as a
35:19

partner in our community
35:22
to work with us and to work with the
35:24
children
35:25
on behalf
35:26
of the board of education and all of us
35:29
i have these great pins
35:32
you've probably been getting one per
35:34
year right
35:36
but we are very serious about
35:39
the contribution
35:41
that you make
35:42
to our school district and we hope that
35:44
you will continue to work with us and
35:46
we're grateful and we're very thankful
35:48
we most appreciate you for the fine work
35:50
that you do for us thank you thank you
36:14
thank you so much it's it's great to
36:16
have rotary um
36:18
give this to our students it for many
36:20
years so thank you again for everything
36:22
you do to for our students um next up i
36:25
believe we have retirement recognition
36:29
carol is that
36:30

correct
36:40
all right
36:44
this is linda reed
36:46
everybody
36:48
she has been with us since 1998
36:52
and acted as a paraprofessional in our
36:54
district at south valley elementary
36:57
she has worked as a one-on-one
36:59
uh aide in a classroom
37:01
lunch and research recess
37:02
paraprofessional
37:04
she's a staff member that has come early
37:06
and stays staisley
37:08
she's helped to sub
37:09
uh become a sub teacher whenever called
37:12
upon
37:13
we value linda's service to our
37:14
districts students administration and
37:16
parents
37:17
she's definitely a team player and we
37:19
wish her all the best
37:21
we have a signed
37:23
flag for you thank you thank you
37:53

carol i know we have jane on the list as
37:55
well but i believe she's not here
37:57
tonight
37:58
okay
37:59
okay no that's fine no worries um
38:02
and i know that the next presentation
38:04
was supposed to be for the remote
38:05
learning plan presentation however dr
38:08
benton had an emergency um
38:11
so she is not going to be here to be
38:13
able to provide that i do believe it
38:15
will be posted on the website is that
38:17
correcting absolutely okay um and
38:20
hopefully she will be here next month to
38:22
actually present it um but unfortunately
38:24
she had an emergency she could so she
38:26
was not able to attend tonight
38:44
she was actually my kids bus driver for
38:45
a bunch of years and i know her well and
38:47
she's she's great
38:49
so
38:50
the remote learning plan is also in the
38:52
exhibits online as well
38:54

okay
38:55
it is on the exhibits online the remote
38:57
learning plan so you can see that
38:59
probably through that and then tomorrow
39:01
it will be put on the website and then
39:03
hopefully dr benton will be back next
39:05
month to review that
39:08
so we are on to board committee reports
39:11
um let's start with david do you want to
39:14
start with ethanol
39:18
thank you um so ethno actually met twice
39:22
in short succession
39:23
last
39:25
thursday and then again on
39:27
monday yesterday
39:29
so uh at the first meeting on the 14th
39:31
uh there was karen shaw uh mick weeks
39:34
mark villanueva carol butler and james
39:37
heiser in attendance
39:39
uh we approved the field trips uh that
39:42
you'll see on the agenda for tonight for
39:43
i believe model congress and for um
39:49
doesn't matter two of them wrestling
39:50

thank you wrestling
39:52
and then we had a long discussion about
39:54
transportation
39:56
the discussion about transportation went
39:58
into the various issues that went into
40:01
the driver shortages that we've been
40:02
having within the district
40:05
they range from a variety of issues
40:08
from people actually being absent due to
40:09
sickness
40:10
um
40:11
the inability to hire new drivers
40:14
retirements there's just been a slew of
40:17
various actions that have happened not
40:19
just in our district but everywhere and
40:21
the week of disruption was just the
40:22
culmination of all those things coming
40:24
together at one time
40:27
from our discussions what we've come
40:28
what we came to realize and from
40:31
additional discussions that
40:32
mr heiser had with our existing bus
40:35
drivers and transportation
40:37

is that our pay scale is well below
40:41
most of the other districts in the area
40:42
as well as other private drivers
40:44
which has been inhibiting our ability to
40:47
recruit
40:48
with the inability to recruit and people
40:49
leaving we're left with shortages of
40:51
drivers as well as shortage of
40:52
substitute bus drivers when those
40:54
drivers do have to call out sick
40:56
so
40:58
we looked at that looked at which is on
41:00
the agenda tonight that's one of the
41:01
addendums
41:03
is going to be a discussion about we
41:05
looked at the pay scale
41:07
what we could do to increase the pay
41:09
scale as well as benefits that we could
41:11
add
41:12
that seemed very reasonable such as
41:14
adding a vision
41:16
to the benefits they have we thought
41:18
that vision benefits make a lot of sense
41:19

given that you want your bus drivers to
41:21
have the best vision possible
41:23
so we add that as a benefit that will be
41:25
available to them
41:27
uh and that was the uh extent of our
41:30
meeting on the 14th on the 18th because
41:32
we asked uh we met again and in that one
41:35
we had mr heiser uh miss butler uh dr
41:38
fitz uh jeff ferry uh mark villanova mit
41:41
weeks in uh karen shaw and myself
41:44
and one of the things that we discussed
41:45
there was just how are we gonna pay for
41:48
these additional costs budgets are
41:50
closed once the budget has been adopted
41:52
we have to find other areas
41:54
within the existing budget to pay for
41:57
additional expenses that are
41:58
unanticipated that we incur
42:00
so we took a look and james was able to
42:04
find savings or actually i should say
42:06
reallocation
42:07
of dollars from within the existing
42:09
transportation budget by delaying some
42:11

of the purchases that we anticipated
42:13
doing
42:14
um
42:15
by reducing some of the supply
42:17
purchasing by some of additional
42:18
breakage that we had received within the
42:20
contract itself over the time because we
42:22
had some supervisor leave and the new
42:24
supervisors salary was lower so we were
42:27
able to get some breakage from that
42:29
uh we have a uh
42:31
joint share that we entered into with
42:32
delanco that was not anticipated which
42:34
provided additional revenue to the to
42:36
the district that we were able to use as
42:38
well as some other breakage and removing
42:40
some of the additional purchases that
42:42
were nice to have because this was a
42:43
more of a must-have for us we need to
42:46
have transportation and bus drivers
42:48
um and the other thing that we discussed
42:50
uh was um
42:53
taking a look at you know getting
42:54

cameras on all of our buses as well one
42:56
of the other things that we've come to
42:57
realize through some of the hibs and
42:59
other things that we've had
43:00
is that there's
43:02
unfortunately things happening on the
43:03
bus
43:04
sometimes with the students sometimes
43:05
it's with drivers sometimes it's just
43:07
something completely unrelated there's
43:08
an accident something happens those
43:10
cameras are very helpful and they're on
43:12
about half of our buses um we thought
43:14
that while we're looking at this we
43:15
should look at putting
43:16
cameras and all the remaining buses that
43:18
make sense to do so
43:20
and we are going to add that to our
43:22
lease purchase we had some additional
43:23
these purchase savings that went through
43:26
this year when we bought our additional
43:27
uh
43:28
these purchase allocations so we're
43:30

going to use that money that we didn't
43:31
allocate to buy some additional cameras
43:33
for the buses
43:35
um that'll be spread over five years
43:37
and so it's a nominal cost it's about
43:39
twenty thousand dollars spread over five
43:41
years we thought it's a good thing to
43:42
add to the rest of the buses that don't
43:44
have them
43:45
uh we had a discussion about food
43:48
service um just there's been discussions
43:51
uh people come to various board members
43:53
over the past couple months about
43:56
the difference in the food service that
43:58
they've been seeing with their students
44:00
so we had a discussion about ways to
44:01
improve the food service things that
44:03
could make the food service better
44:05
quality quantity more than anything else
44:07
in availability
44:09
so we're having those discussions with
44:10
nutriserve to make sure that the
44:12
students receive the best quality and
44:14

availability they can
44:16
because that's what they should be
44:18
receiving
44:19
and then finally
44:21
we discussed the refunding of our bond
44:23
we just finished up a bond refunding uh
44:26
saved over 600 000
44:28
in total savings
44:29
um
44:30
over the remaining life of the bond it
44:32
equals to about eight percent um now
44:34
that is over the remaining life of the
44:35
bond buff
44:36
i think the weighted average life that
44:38
was left was about five years
44:40
so you know it's a decent amount of
44:42
savings over the next several years it's
44:43
good to reduce our debt service when we
44:44
can just like you do when you refinance
44:46
at home for your home mortgage that's
44:48
what we're doing we're refinancing our
44:49
debt to reduce our interest expense so
44:52
we we did well there and uh there should
44:54

be great credit to both you as the
44:55
taxpayers who support us but also to
44:58
james uh you know our credit rating is
45:00
very good and it helps to
45:02
get us good interest rates so thank you
45:04
all
45:04
that's the end of our report
45:17
yes i'm just wondering if ethanol
45:20
has started to discuss or feels they
45:22
need to discuss
45:23
an issue just with the inflation in
45:24
general we're seeing and then also kind
45:26
of piggybacking on that as i've been
45:28
seeing in the news a lot of issues with
45:30
supply
45:32
if we anticipate being impacted by the
45:36
supply shortages that you know seem to
45:38
be across the country and you know just
45:40
gas plate price inflation in general
45:43
so actually we did have a brief
45:45
discussion about that as well um that
45:47
was one of the questions it was one of
45:48
the places that we actually receiving
45:49

some savings was on the service side not
45:51
on what we pay for the gas itself but we
45:53
had a reduction in the amount of cost
45:55
that we anticipated for the service the
45:57
delivery charge
45:58
um so that was some of the breakage we
46:00
were able to come up with so that's good
46:01
news as far as the fluctuation in actual
46:03
gas prices um just like everybody else
46:06
as they go up and down just like we do
46:07
with the rest of our utilities there is
46:09
additional money still within
46:11
our uh transportation budget we didn't
46:14
use all of the buffer to do this with
46:17
with the bus drivers what was being
46:18
proposed tonight
46:20
there's still additional buffer in there
46:21
for fluctuation in gas prices now
46:23
obviously if there's a massive spike
46:26
none of us would have anticipated that
46:27
back when we adopted the budget last
46:29
year but we did leave buffer still
46:31
within that particular portion of the
46:32

budget for that if it should occur
46:38
so i'll say my kids weren't impacted by
46:41
the buses um directly but i know you
46:43
know lots of communication happening
46:45
about it
46:46
um james was there any kind of like
46:48
retro
46:50
you know hey now that it's yeah we've
46:52
got through last week like what could
46:53
have been done differently what what
46:55
worked really well and just like to
46:57
cycle and process that
47:00
yeah uh so on that
47:02
at the back end of last year uh i
47:04
believe was in the month of june uh i
47:07
personally met with all the drivers at
47:08
that point in time one of the things
47:10
that we discussed creating at that point
47:12
in time was a ultimately a driver's
47:14
committee a group of three to five bus
47:16
drivers that i can meet with monthly to
47:19
to kind of discuss some of the things
47:20
that they're seeing
47:21

on a day-to-day basis

47:24

in terms of

47:25

you know retro this

47:27

the the request for the approval on this

47:29

is to make it effective

47:30

yesterday uh 1018 in terms of uh the pay

47:34

rates

47:36

but moving forward i think you know that

47:38

monthly meeting will be definitely a

47:40

proactive approach to to have those

47:42

types of discussions for sure

48:04

magic thumbs up

48:06

um yep so um we actually met on

48:08

september 23rd so

48:10

quite a few number of weeks ago it was

48:12

karen benton sandra alberti mcweeks

48:14

lauren romano myself jeff ferry uh and

48:17

rosetta rodriguez and julie kobe game

48:19

um one of the so we um karen we started

48:22

talking about the initial staff

48:24

professional development uh before the

48:26

school year even started just at this

48:28

time this was just after that um and

48:30

sort of the theme of cultural
48:31
responsiveness that
48:33
is trying to be infused in all pd not
48:36
just specific to that
48:38
topic but sort of having that as a piece
48:40
and as a way to talk about lots of
48:41
things but
48:42
in the pd before the school year started
48:46
they had
48:47
a number of speakers that spoke to that
48:49
they got to speak about social emotional
48:52
uh
48:53
needs and growth of students as they
48:54
start the year how to infuse that in the
48:56
classroom uh small group committees
48:59
um the other thing we talked about was
49:01
what the presentation would have been
49:03
tonight which is the the need for
49:06
a
49:06
ratified and voted on plan to what
49:10
virtual instruction will look like if
49:12
three successive days are mandated to be
49:15
out of school
49:17

and at that point we didn't talk about
49:18
specifics because it hadn't been
49:19
developed so um
49:21
without you know speaking to what wasn't
49:23
in the meeting but just that we would
49:25
need to do that by october 29th um and
49:28
it would outline just that just what
49:30
would virtual school look like if we
49:33
were forced to close for any number of
49:34
reasons um and as as is widely accepted
49:38
this isn't necessarily a coveted thing
49:40
per se this could be something about
49:42
just like routinely has to be in in the
49:44
plan and has to be ratified every year
49:47
um in the event of whatever
49:49
the next thing we talked about was the
49:51
change in graduation requirements um so
49:54
2022 isn't changed so students who are
49:57
graduating in 2022 will have the same
49:58
graduation requirements as the previous
50:00
couple years but we're pretty mindful
50:02
that starting in 2023 the graduation
50:04
requirements will change
50:06

and um without my own personal two cents

50:09

i i will just say that we're very

50:11

mindful of that change and what that

50:13

will mean for

50:15

all of our students and how to best

50:16

facilitate

50:18

them and and sort of their matriculation

50:21

as they want to leave moorestown

50:23

um

50:24

we talked about the state assessments

50:26

that that students have now taken but

50:28

had not yet taken when we talked about

50:30

it the map testing and the start strong

50:31

assessments um they're both mostly

50:34

completed i know map they have a few

50:36

more

50:37

students if not they may have already

50:38

just finished them um but

50:40

um at that point it was yet to be taken

50:43

we talked about spanish four and five uh

50:47

are adopting new textbooks

50:49

each with a

50:52

focused on literature and literacy

50:54

within the curriculum so
50:57
uh spanish four
50:58
there's one open resource and then one
51:00
textbook um dealing with more of an
51:03
anthology cultural understanding of
51:05
literature
51:06
um and then the spanish five text has
51:09
two textbooks each um with more
51:11
inclusive writing and writing writers
51:13
and writing um and
51:16
again that sort of uh more holistic
51:19
approach um that the that roosevelt was
51:21
looking for
51:23
we finally then talked about sort of how
51:25
the grade four and five math was going
51:27
so again just to kind of recap
51:29
um grade four and five
51:31
does not have advanced or accelerated
51:33
math
51:34
and sort of the changes and how they
51:37
were going as of that date um
51:39
so one of the things that she talked
51:41
about was
51:42

there was specific professional
51:43
development prior to the school year
51:45
to help the teachers sort of build these
51:49
low floor high ceiling
51:51
math exercises in
51:53
in in some routinized basis so how every
51:56
chapter every ever and that's the goal
51:58
and sort of how we can sort of
52:00
facilitate that throughout the entire
52:02
year um so obviously that's something
52:04
that she will be coming and talking to
52:06
us routinely about to see how that's
52:08
going
52:08
the other piece is the the push-in of
52:11
enrichment math
52:12
and this is the thing that's really
52:13
exciting is originally it was speculated
52:15
that she would only be able to find time
52:17
for these teachers to push in
52:20
you know once every um
52:22
15 or 20 days but it actually gonna work
52:24
out that they'll be able to do one per
52:25
eight day cycle in the school because
52:27

obviously uses an eight-day cycle so
52:29
once every eight days
52:31
the one of the enrichment math teachers
52:33
comes in and sort of facilitates a
52:36
unique math
52:37
lesson that is specifically designed for
52:39
the whole class but to really push
52:41
and focus on things like
52:43
you know being able to communicate with
52:46
mathematical notation which is really
52:48
hard and challenging and indicative of
52:49
overall math achievement um and a lot of
52:52
other things that might not be able to
52:55
be focused on except by these sort of
52:57
things
52:58
those teachers are also going to be
52:59
doing mass support which is different
53:00
than sort of the traditional mass
53:02
support that's facilitated in a a
53:04
um
53:06
but again since these are new and this
53:08
is something that's new to fourth and
53:10
fifth grade this year um we were excited
53:12

to hear about this in a sequential way
53:14
so we're gonna
53:15
hopefully hear from her often about how
53:18
this is going and uh but so far so good
53:28
okay jack do you want to go ahead with
53:30
policy
53:32
i'll go ahead because jack wasn't there
53:34
oh i didn't know that oh do you want to
53:35
do it
53:36
okay
53:38
did you didn't we talk up no
53:40
yep yeah okay that's what i didn't do
53:43
that's okay
53:44
i'm just grabbing them
53:46
um so our meeting was october 3rd in
53:48
attendance was dr benton dr fitz james
53:51
kaiser dr snyder and myself um the three
53:55
things on the agenda was a dress code
53:57
policy update and dr benton gave an
54:00
update on the high school process
54:02
for presenting an update and a revised
54:04
dress code draft to the board at some
54:07
point
54:07

this will
54:09
this process is going to include a
54:10
variety of stakeholders
54:12
examining the language and making sure
54:14
that the gen the wording of the dress
54:16
code is gender
54:17
neutral and taking a look at what are
54:19
the violation consequences
54:21
um once this is established dr ben is
54:24
going to have the wams and ues follow a
54:26
similar process
54:28
we also discussed
54:30
following up from a comment from last
54:33
month's board meeting we had initial
54:35
discussion about putting our district
54:37
regulations on the website and
54:39
um
54:40
it was it would be a nominal annual fee
54:42
of 100 so that was something for the uh
54:45
policy
54:46
committee to continue to look at discuss
54:49
and then you know bring forward
54:52
so we'll look to do that at the upcoming
54:54

meeting
54:55
we also talked about policy 1990
54:58
we agreed
54:59
that with the potential to add new
55:01
support affiliated organizations
55:03
reviewing the district policy and
55:04
practice was a good idea at the moment
55:07
we were going to be gathering more
55:09
information about uh past practices and
55:12
checking
55:13
um
55:13
[Music]
55:14
about
55:16
notes from last year's policy committee
55:18
as far as some of the
55:20
proposed modifications prior to covet
55:22
that we're already kind of in the works
55:24
so we'll be looking to add that to the
55:26
committee uh agenda for the upcoming
55:29
meeting and then lastly we did look at
55:31
policy 2425
55:33
and as
55:35
dr snyder already stated in curriculum
55:36

we looked at it in policy briefly
55:39
as it was required for district action
55:41
we were still waiting for more of the
55:42
details that were needed in the policy
55:44
but the committee did recommend to adopt
55:46
as it was part of our requirements
55:52
thanks lauren anyone have questions
55:56
nope i will um
55:58
i took over as chair of communications
56:00
committee um for the interim
56:03
and i wanted to um i'll give a brief
56:05
report on basically both meetings um one
56:08
was august 25th
56:10
where we met the communications
56:12
committee met with lori perlow
56:14
so it was myself um dr fitz andre
56:17
alberti nick weeks um
56:20
we met with laurie perlow is a public
56:22
information officer with haddon township
56:24
school district
56:26
communications consortium and basically
56:28
she handles all facets of school
56:30
communications including branding
56:32

communication planning crisis
56:33
communication media relations public
56:35
relations website design support
56:37
and the consortium is basically a shared
56:39
service there are many other districts
56:42
that don't have dedicated communications
56:44
people on staff that it's a consortium
56:47
um and basically for many years we have
56:49
tried to get a communications role i i
56:51
feel like every year i bring it up and
56:53
it's just one of those things that keep
56:54
getting cut from the budget so
56:56
um
56:57
some districts do have a communications
56:59
person
57:00
as part of their administrative team or
57:02
half a person however due to budget cuts
57:05
this typically is one of those positions
57:06
that always gets cut so i believe during
57:08
the pandemic we really saw firsthand how
57:11
beneficial this communication person
57:13
could be to our district um and thanks
57:16
to dr fitz he actually brought laurie
57:18

perla's name to us to the communications
57:21
committee um and we met with her we
57:23
really liked her on the communications
57:26
committee then recommended to the
57:27
finance and operations committee that we
57:30
go forward with joining the consortium
57:32
um the cost was five thousand dollars a
57:34
year and you get about one
57:36
day a month of services she didn't seem
57:38
very strict on that um not specifically
57:40
for one day so um
57:43
both committees agreed this would be a
57:45
valuable service um to our district so
57:48
even in the time being reviewing
57:50
our policies um going back to our
57:52
strategic plan which one of the goals in
57:55
our strategic plan is communications and
57:57
a lot of those action items have not
57:59
been touched um and that to us and that
58:02
was the follow-up meeting we had on
58:04
september 29th lori wasn't involved but
58:07
we wanted to talk about some of the
58:08
things that we would have her first look
58:10

at and those were some of the things

58:11

like we have a lot of the work has been

58:13

done in our strategic plan but it's the

58:15

implementation and how can she evaluate

58:17

where we are in communications and

58:19

really have someone who

58:21

is skilled at this help with this so

58:23

that um the communications consortium um

58:26

agreement is on the agenda to approve

58:28

tonight so that was basically what we

58:30

discussed in the communications both

58:33

committee meetings that we had

58:35

any questions on communications

58:38

nope sandra do you have an update on it

58:42

so for the ad-hoc committee exploring

58:44

race and racism in morristown

58:46

we had a meeting on september 28th and

58:48

in attendance was karen shaw lauren

58:51

romano myself dr benton dr fitz and

58:54

carol butler and the purpose of that

58:56

meeting was

58:57

to regroup we have new people dr fitz

59:00

and dr benton both weren't here during

59:02

our work last year and we wanted to from
59:04
a leadership perspective kind of fill
59:06
them in on
59:08
the great amount of hours and commitment
59:10
that lots of folks in the community and
59:11
the school district have made over the
59:13
last year and part of our thinking
59:15
[Music]
59:17
ending last year was what we could do to
59:19
inform a district's strategic plan in
59:21
advance of bringing on a permanent
59:23
successor superintendent and so
59:27
our plan in
59:28
kind of updating them on all the
59:30
subcommittees and the goals and learning
59:32
targets for each of those committees was
59:34
one to reflect on the impact
59:36
of what has happened since what kinds of
59:39
you know targets did we set out what
59:41
have we hit with summer hiring and the
59:43
like what have we done in curriculum
59:45
professional learning going forward and
59:47
so dr fitz and carol butler and dr
59:51

benton are working on collecting sort of
59:53
an internal district audit of sorts we
59:56
are reconvening uh this upcoming tuesday
59:59
to talk about all of that data and our
60:01
um
60:03
plan is then to create
60:05
a report of sorts to engage stakeholders
60:07
in the community around that report so
60:10
that we can use all of that data from
60:12
what we've collected and where our
60:14
shortcomings are i'll say to inform the
60:17
development of a strategic plan
60:20
for equity and inclusion in the district
60:22
that we will then be able to present and
60:25
share to the board with community and
60:26
stakeholder engagement
60:28
so that we have that um with the input
60:31
of a new chief school administrator so
60:34
that's where we are with that now
60:36
any questions
60:39
or additions
60:41
thank you great thanks sandra do we have
60:43
any off-board committee reports
60:47

sure

60:50

okay there you go um so i i did sit on

60:53

the um the speak meeting um on the 30th

60:57

of september and uh the only thing i

60:59

just want to make sure is that people

61:01

know that speak exists and that their

61:03

next meeting is 10 28 which is next

61:05

thursday at 6 p.m it's virtual so you

61:08

find the link um they are looking for

61:11

reps and volunteers at the different

61:13

schools and buildings um

61:15

and

61:16

i just was at the very beginning and i

61:18

just went that's what they said so i

61:19

will make sure that everybody hears that

61:22

and please log on next thursday at 6

61:25

if you have any interest in

61:27

participating in speak

61:29

going forward thank you

61:33

thanks mark any others

61:37

i did also just wanted to um the

61:38

morristown education foundation the mef

61:41

had their big golf fundraiser

61:44

last week and it was a big success um we
61:47
didn't have as many golfers as we
61:49
typically have but in given the fact
61:52
that it's covered and everything
61:54
typically i think we have about 72
61:55
golfers we had about 60 something um but
61:58
we still made a good profit um i want to
62:00
say about 50 000 the foundation made and
62:03
all of that goes back to teacher grants
62:05
we give mini grants under five thousand
62:08
dollars and then some larger grants
62:09
which the larger grants are things like
62:11
the innovation lab at wams it was an mef
62:14
grant the video production equipment um
62:17
so mef is really a great um supporter of
62:20
our school so i was happy to be there
62:22
and help out with the foundation um dr
62:25
fitz was there also and there's been a
62:27
and
62:28
mr comeagno
62:30
and carol
62:32
so there was a bunch of our teams um
62:35
and john is a big supporter of the
62:37

foundation as well and he is um the
62:39
emcee of our auction so he does a great
62:42
job with that um but anyway and
62:45
me of course is always looking for
62:47
volunteers they said it's the last time
62:49
it's a great way to get involved in the
62:50
community as part of the foundation
62:52
which really supports the schools um
62:55
in a different way so we're always
62:58
looking for volunteers to join
63:00
mef that is it for me f any other i
63:03
think we're good on offboard committees
63:06
okay
63:07
so we are going into um
63:10
public comment so i'd like to um have a
63:13
motion to open the floor for public
63:15
comment
63:16
thank you
63:18
second
63:19
thank you
63:20
uh all in favor
63:23
great
63:24
so this is going to be public comment
63:27

only on um agenda items so we will have
63:31
another public comment on non-agenda
63:33
items at the end of the meeting so this
63:35
is for agenda items only so if you'd
63:37
like to speak please come to the mic
63:39
please state your name and address you
63:40
have three minutes to speak as you know
63:42
this isn't necessarily a question and
63:44
answer period and it's always best to
63:46
follow up with an email afterwards
63:49
so whoever is ready to speak um feel
63:52
free to come up
63:58
uh good evening everybody uh thank you
64:00
to the administration dr fitz the board
64:02
of ed for allowing me to comment tonight
64:05
my name is dawn miller my address is 301
64:08
spring hasoling
64:10
it is my understanding that you will be
64:12
voting on whether mtps staff
64:15
unvaccinated for covid should be tested
64:17
twice weekly
64:19
the governor in his executive order has
64:21
allowed for testing once weekly
64:25

before you cast your votes
64:27
your final votes for this decision
64:30
i have several questions for you to
64:31
ponder
64:33
after 13 months of being back in the
64:35
classroom
64:36
dutifully wearing masks why are we
64:39
testing now
64:40
when we are no longer in a state of
64:42
emergency
64:44
will our district recognize robust and
64:47
long-lasting natural immunity
64:52
why are we testing asymptomatic
64:54
unvaccinated staff when it has been
64:56
proven that vaccinated people can
64:58
contract and spread covid
65:01
what makes the unvaccinated any
65:03
different than the vaccinated
65:06
if the vaccine simply produces
65:09
i'm sorry if vaccine simply reduces the
65:12
symptoms of covid aren't vaccinated
65:14
staff more likely to be asymptomatic
65:16
carriers of covid
65:19

what is the logic for twice weekly
65:21
testing versus one week once weekly
65:23
testing
65:24
for how long does the district intend to
65:26
test
65:27
what are the metrics used to determine
65:29
when testing will no longer be needed
65:33
carrie mullis inventor of the pcr test
65:35
said that the test was never meant to
65:37
tell you if you are sick
65:40
in other words it was not created for
65:42
asymptomatic testing
65:44
a johns hopkins study found that the pcr
65:47
test produces a 20 to 66
65:51
false negative rate depending on the
65:53
tests timing
65:56
twice weekly administration of an
65:58
inaccurate test will cause unnecessary
66:01
mental and financial stress on our
66:04
valued staff
66:06
there are many valid reasons for someone
66:08
to decline this vaccination
66:10
the vaccines are experimental
66:12

the f the only fda approved vaccine is
66:15
kamer nettie and it is not yet available
66:18
medical exemptions are available for
66:20
people who cannot tolerate vaccination
66:23
one example
66:25
are people suffering from a multitude of
66:26
autoimmune diseases which prevent
66:28
antibodies from developing
66:30
making vaccination pointless
66:33
religious exemptions are available for
66:35
people with a deep personal religious
66:37
objection to vaccination
66:41
have we had ongoing or recurring
66:43
outbreaks among staff or is this twice
66:47
weekly testing punishment for declining
66:49
the vaccination
66:51
medicine is not one size fits all
66:54
are we going to choose to discriminate
66:56
for a false sense of safety
67:00
this is an opportunity to show
67:01
compassion and understanding
67:04
while i completely disagree with
67:05
asymptomatic testing
67:07

i am asking the board of ed to reduce

67:10

the required staff testing to once per

67:12

week

67:14

and to provide us with a metric for the

67:16

ending of the testing entirely

67:19

thank you

67:21

thank you

67:34

just

67:34

just as a quick follow-up to that

67:37

the the policy is 1648-13 it is on for

67:41

second reading tonight

67:42

i was on at our last board meeting for

67:44

first reading uh the the policy does

67:46

state one to two times uh and is in line

67:49

with the executive order 253. uh our

67:52

plan as of right now is to test once a

67:54

week and allow for the second time in

67:57

the event that there are issues related

67:59

to the first test so that is the game

68:01

plan right now

68:06

hi my name is dawn lustner 19 windermere

68:09

drive i'm also going to talk about the

68:11

school vaccine requirements but in a

68:13

different way

68:14

i consider myself to be a reasonable

68:16

person i like things that make sense

68:18

that they're fair i named my son justin

68:20

you guys might know him some you my

68:22

friends my neighbors he's at penn state

68:23

right now studying entrepreneurship

68:26

um but things feel normal there um but i

68:29

need to speak out when things aren't

68:30

making sense and

68:32

that's why i'm here tonight last time i

68:34

was in this room to talk in front of a

68:35

board of ed meeting i did talk virtually

68:37

on one of the online ones but last time

68:39

i was in this room

68:40

i was here to talk about the lice policy

68:42

if anybody remembers that back in the

68:44

day

68:45

so i was kind of saying like you should

68:48

send the kids home for having lice

68:49

because my daughter got lice four times

68:51

that year and it was just spreading and

68:53

spreading and the answer to that was no

68:57

we are not sending kids home
68:59
because we don't want to
69:00
segregate them or make them feel weird
69:02
or point them out or make them feel
69:04
different
69:05
so i'm kind of likening to that things
69:07
that are happening now
69:10
i'm here to talk about a different
69:12
public health policy which are the
69:13
mandates and i'm asking you to look at
69:16
the big picture in all of this
69:18
and see what we have to gain from these
69:20
policies and what we have to lose i know
69:22
you didn't make the policies you're all
69:24
following orders following direction
69:26
but one of the things that um is
69:29
powerful is you know we the people and i
69:32
feel called to come up and and talk
69:34
about this
69:35
um specifically when you mandate a
69:37
vaccine what are you gaining are you
69:39
gaining immunity or the ability to stop
69:41
the virus no
69:42

are you gaining the guarantee that you
69:44
won't get sick or die no
69:47
can you guarantee that you won't stop
69:49
that you can stop wearing a mask no
69:51
we're all here wearing a mask
69:53
does it help your health maybe yeah and
69:55
it should be about health and that's it
69:57
it should not be about
69:58
coercion and force and losing jobs and
70:02
things of that nature
70:04
this should only be about health as we
70:06
see in the world today police nurses
70:09
airlines other employees losing their
70:12
jobs walking out of their jobs being
70:13
fired choosing different paths because
70:15
they are having to stand up to these
70:17
mandates that are being forced upon them
70:22
so what are we getting taken away we're
70:23
getting taken away rights freedoms
70:26
and dignity so yes segregation is
70:28
happening discrimination is happening
70:31
we say we hate those topics but yet and
70:34
we teach our children about them but yet
70:35

we are here watching it happen we're
70:38
sitting here watching it happen
70:40
last night i watched the more unity um
70:42
present the candidates the bmv
70:44
uh with me the candidates and they
70:46
talked about teaching history to make
70:48
sure we don't repeat history are we
70:50
making sure we don't repeat history
70:51
right now is segregation happening do
70:53
you see segregation happening i do
70:57
and
70:58
you know i said in a letter back to some
71:00
of you guys um when we were discussing
71:02
mask mandates and like the unvax kids
71:04
not you know wearing a mask and the vax
71:06
kids
71:07
not having to wear a mask i expressed my
71:09
concern back then with the segregation
71:11
and i likened it to things that are
71:12
happening that were happening in history
71:14
nazi germany i know some of you didn't
71:16
like that analogy but that is truly how
71:18
i feel show me your papers you're asking
71:20

our employees our school
71:22
teachers to show their papers or say if
71:25
they're vaccinated or prove that they're
71:27
vaccinated or get tested each week for
71:30
some of the reasons don just mentioned
71:31
why
71:32
please look at the big picture
71:34
i am specifically here for one teacher
71:37
mr lundy he reached out to some
71:41
parents that emailed him i was one of
71:43
them
71:44
that
71:44
he made announcement in school he
71:46
teaches in high school he's
71:48
entrepreneurship his personal finance
71:50
he's my son's favorite teacher he was my
71:51
daughter's favorite teacher he's many of
71:53
our other kids favorite teacher
71:54
he done if you could try to wrap up
71:57
he announced that he'd be being put on
71:59
leave because he's
72:01
unable
72:02
excuse me for interrupting yeah uh
72:04

there's no personnel item
72:07
involving that
72:09
teacher on the agenda i would also
72:12
caution you and
72:14
we we respect your first amendment right
72:16
to come and be heard but i want to
72:18
caution you about making personnel
72:20
comments in public okay i have his
72:22
permission
72:24
i have his permission because this is
72:26
something very important that he is
72:28
choosing to stand up for and i support
72:30
him so i stand with mr lundy and i stand
72:33
against segregation and discrimination
72:35
and losing valuable teachers especially
72:37
ones that provide cultural diversity so
72:40
please look at the big picture in this
72:42
when you guys are making your plans for
72:43
the future
72:45
it needs to start here we are not going
72:46
to get you know from the top down in
72:48
this state anyway you might have to move
72:50
to florida south carolina georgia texas
72:52

to get these tyrannical mandates lifted
72:55
but what can we do here in new jersey to
72:57
not lose our good staff thank you don
73:08
anyone else
73:13
thank you i'd like a motion to close um
73:16
public comment please
73:18
thank you second thank you thank you all
73:21
in favor
73:22
bye
73:24
great
73:25
thank you
73:26
moving on to the reports to the board we
73:29
have um the business administrator board
73:31
secretary
73:33
um
73:34
won the financial report to the board
73:36
secretary two cafeteria report three
73:38
approval of budget transfers for
73:40
approval of bills um can i please have a
73:43
motion to approve items one through four
73:46
thank you second
73:49
thank you any questions or comments
73:54
all in favor
73:56

aye
73:56
any nose abstentions
74:01
any other extensions
74:05
okay
74:06
moving on to recommendations of the
74:08
superintendent the
74:10
2021-2022 remote learning plan
74:13
so i recommend the board approve the
74:15
2021-2022 remote learning plan as per
74:17
the
74:18
attached exhibit
74:20
and i please have a motion
74:22
thank you second
74:25
any
74:26
questions nope uh all in favor
74:30
aye aye
74:32
any nose obsessions
74:35
okay moving on to policies and
74:37
procedures first reading um
74:40
second reading and i recommend that the
74:43
board enter and adopt on sec on first
74:46
reading and second reading the policies
74:48
and regulations listed above um can i
74:51

please have a motion to approve items
74:52
one and two
74:54
thank you thank you any questions
74:57
comments
75:00
all in favor
75:02
aye
75:02
any news abstentions
75:05
um
75:07
i i articulated my my
75:09
thinking on the vaccination policy at
75:11
the last meeting which i won't repeat um
75:15
my concerns have only gotten
75:18
realized i think as we talked about
75:21
earlier
75:22
um and so i abstained
75:27
with respect to 1648-13 last time but
75:29
i'm going to vote no
75:31
per second
75:39
is it possible to just to make it clear
75:41
so
75:42
procedurally i think we should probably
75:43
go back and redo
75:45
or undo what we did to have that vote on
75:48

separately

75:49

it just makes more sense procedurally

75:51

i'm not trying to be difficult i'm just

75:53

trying to make it easier for me

75:56

typically putting no one one of six

75:59

should be done separately it's just a

76:00

procedural thing that's all it i'm not

76:03

trying to be difficult i'm just trying

76:04

to pull it apart but we just went really

76:06

fast through that

76:20

yes i am i think we've done that with

76:22

other items as well

76:30

okay

76:33

everyone else is yes no other

76:34

abstentions

76:36

okay we're good

76:38

um under educational program um won the

76:41

burlington county alternative school

76:43

placement for 20 21 2022 home

76:46

instruction for 20 2021 2022 three

76:49

special education out of district

76:50

placement 2021-22

76:53

can i please have a motion to approve

76:55

items one through three
76:58
cassandra second
77:00
thanks mick uh any questions comments
77:03
all in favor
77:06
any news abstentions
77:09
great
77:10
moving on to finance and business um one
77:12
we have travel expenditures approval
77:14
requests to approval of state contract
77:17
and consortium vendor purchases three
77:20
donations
77:22
four non-resident tuition students 2021
77:25
2022-5 overnight student trips six
77:28
student field trips seven joint
77:30
transportation agreement eight exchange
77:32
students sponsoring agency approval nine
77:36
non-public affirmation of con
77:38
consultants ten middle school and high
77:40
school athletics schedules winter 2021
77:43
11 comprehensive maintenance plan 12
77:46
2022 american red
77:48
rescue plan act individuals with
77:50
disabilities education improvement act
77:52

grant application

77:55

13 is the communications consortium

77:58

shared services agreement that i spoke

78:00

about earlier um can i please have a

78:03

motion to approve items um 1 through 13.

78:07

thanks

78:10

thank you any questions or comments

78:14

on any of the items nope

78:18

okay all in favor

78:21

any nose abstentions

78:23

nope

78:25

moving on to employee relations um

78:29

one we have appointments two change of

78:31

position slash hours um taking off those

78:35

two that we talked about an executive

78:37

under transportation three movement on

78:39

the salary guide four leaves of absence

78:42

five resignations six retirements seven

78:44

curriculum

78:45

eight substitutes nine athletics

78:48

co-curricular clubs taking off number 23

78:52

that we discussed in executive

79:02

okay so we will include

79:04

number 10 salary adjustments
79:09
do we want to do the
79:11
one through ten all together then is
79:13
that
79:15
okay
79:16
is everyone okay grouping it together
79:19
okay
79:20
great can i have a motion to prove one
79:22
to 10.
79:24
thank you second
79:27
any questions comments
79:34
questions yes
79:39
[Music]
79:41
number 10 is the adjustments to the bus
79:43
driver salary guide just sort of
79:45
understands what that was of the add-on
79:47
thank you david so that is what we
79:49
talked about earlier the addendum that
79:51
we put on um that's why we're adding it
79:54
to this this is the bus driver um
79:57
salary adjustment piece
79:59
so that is items one through ten
80:02
did we have a second okay
80:05

well oh we need a roll call okay we need
80:07
a roll call dr alberti
80:10
mr fairchild yes mrs mullen yeah
80:13
dr snyder yes mr villanueva
80:16
mr weeks mr weinstein yes mr romano
80:21
miss shaw
80:23
yes thank you
80:36
i know
80:37
this is probably what everyone's been
80:38
waiting for um
80:41
i would um first we are going to do the
80:44
approval of the contract for the
80:46
superintendent of schools um a
80:48
resolution is requested approving the
80:50
contract for michael volpe as
80:52
superintendent of schools as approved by
80:54
the department of education
80:56
second um we do this together is that
80:59
that's fine okay second is the
81:01
appointment of the superintendent a
81:02
resolution is requested approving the
81:04
appointment of michael volpe as the
81:06
superintendent of schools effective
81:08

december 18 2021.

81:13

so moved thank you second

81:16

second

81:18

okay

81:19

um

81:20

so now

81:21

i would like to say a few words um

81:23

before we vote on it

81:25

just to um give everyone the perspective

81:27

that um

81:28

mr volpe who is here with us today um

81:32

has been a new jersey educator for 25

81:35

years and is currently the assistant

81:37

superintendent of human resources

81:39

community relations and public

81:41

information at princeton public schools

81:43

before that he was director of human

81:45

resources at hillborough township public

81:47

schools he has also served as an

81:49

elementary school principal in

81:51

hillsborough and florian park and his

81:53

high school vice principal in woodbridge

81:55

township in addition mr volpe has taught

81:57

at both the middle school and high
81:59
school level and served as an english
82:01
department chair
82:02
some of mr volpe's accomplishments
82:04
include developing programs to focus on
82:06
character education and service learning
82:08
using data to identify areas of weakness
82:11
in student achievement and improve
82:13
student performance and advancing
82:15
technological instruction to better
82:17
prepare students for 21st century
82:19
learning as well as 21st century jobs he
82:22
is also committed to diversity and
82:24
inclusion and recently he developed the
82:26
face
82:28
forward program in princeton a
82:30
mentorship program to help build future
82:32
educational leaders of color in addition
82:34
peers selected mr volpe from 41 school
82:37
districts to chair the legislative
82:40
committee of cj pride which is the
82:41
central jersey program for recruitment
82:44
of diverse educators
82:46

mr volpe was selected from an
82:48
exceptional pool of outstanding
82:49
educational leaders as the right leader
82:52
to support our district as we continue
82:54
to excel and reach the next level of
82:56
excellence for all of our students
82:58
michael volpe has held numerous
83:00
leadership roles in high performing
83:02
districts and as we look to the future
83:04
we believe mr volpe will provide
83:05
thoughtful dynamic and innovative
83:07
leadership
83:09
that is my background we are excited um
83:12
we worked hard i thank all board members
83:14
on the extensive work and the community
83:16
for um
83:17
giving us the desired leadership
83:19
characteristics that we were looking for
83:21
so if anyone else has any comments
83:23
before we vote
83:27
okay do we need a role
83:29
well i mean i feel like this is
83:30
momentous occasion
83:35

it's a momentous vote
83:37
um but
83:39
you know
83:40
thank you dr fitz
83:42
for
83:43
everything
83:44
uh
83:45
done in this short time and i know it's
83:46
we still have great fortune to have you
83:49
for at least the next couple of months
83:51
but truly thank you
83:53
um
83:54
and i am very excited uh to have mr
83:57
volpe cono come on board with us um
84:01
you know i i
84:03
i can't um
84:05
lay out all his credentials as as
84:07
articulately as karen did but i i think
84:10
um it's an
84:12
exciting time
84:14
it's uh an interesting time um and
84:17
really looking forward to um moving
84:19
forward with mr volpe
84:24

um with his wife
84:26
here today so um
84:34
thank you for being here we do have to
84:36
have the official vote but um thank you
84:38
mark for your comments um that means a
84:39
lot i know we all um i thought this was
84:42
a really important process for us to go
84:44
through i think we all
84:45
came we come with different perspectives
84:47
obviously um we all felt mr volte was
84:50
right for our district coming from
84:52
different places um where we all come
84:54
from and i do want to echo dr fitz you
84:56
have been wonderful and we uh so
84:58
appreciate um we brought you here to
85:01
heal the community and work with us um
85:04
and you jumped right in and you you
85:06
definitely did that so thank you for
85:08
being here and i know you will be um
85:10
helping us in the transitional piece as
85:12
well so um
85:14
[Music]
85:16
that's about it unless anyone else has
85:17

anything to say we just wanted not to be
85:19
redundant but to echo um
85:22
the process
85:23
and to appreciate that you know to a
85:25
person every one of the board members um
85:28
really
85:29
weighed in and we had really great
85:31
conversations
85:33
that
85:34
from my perspective were more than just
85:35
uh selecting the successful candidate
85:38
but i think we actually had an insight
85:39
into working together and getting behind
85:42
some common priorities and initiatives
85:44
and i appreciate everybody's
85:46
participation
85:48
yes it was a very long process but it
85:50
was a great process to see the board
85:52
work together um and we're excited of
85:54
the outcome and um
85:57
we're hoping for a lot of success um
86:00
so
86:01
do we need a roll call vote for this
86:02

thing we don't believe we probably do we

86:04

do

86:05

dr alberti yes

86:06

mr fairchild yes mrs mullen

86:10

dr schneider yes mr villanueva yes

86:13

mr weeks yes mr weinstein yes

86:17

mr mano

86:18

mr shaw yes thank you

86:21

thank you so much and congratulations to

86:23

mississippi

86:34

now you have an experience of what one

86:35

of these board meetings are

86:37

i'm sure coming from princeton you you

86:39

have similar ones so

86:42

um thank you for being here tonight too

86:44

um it means a lot to our district so we

86:46

are excited to begin working with you um

86:49

just from a timing perspective we're

86:51

thinking um

86:52

what it said here december 18th i

86:54

believe would be your start date with us

86:57

um so that's soon

87:00

so congratulations we're excited to have

87:02

you um and hopefully you will start to
87:05
feel a part of us um and thank you for
87:07
agreeing to come here and be be our next
87:10
superintendent
87:12
so on to suspensions that's what we're
87:15
up to
87:16
not a great way to follow that but
87:21
okay um and then information
87:24
only we have the enrollment information
87:26
there um october 1st
87:28
um any old business
87:33
any new business
87:36
okay
87:37
um we can open the floor now um
87:41
a motion is requested to open the floor
87:42
for public comment
87:45
thank you second
87:49
did someone happen okay thanks
87:51
sorry
87:53
um all in favor
87:55
hi
87:55
so if anyone has public comment feel
87:58
free to come to the mic um state your
87:59

name and address

88:05

hi jill fallows macaluso at 800 golf

88:07

view i wasn't going to public comment

88:09

but i feel compelled to join in the joy

88:12

to thank mr dr fitz for his service on

88:16

behalf of the parent community i've been

88:18

an advocate for increased in person

88:21

learning over the past year but i have

88:23

heard from so many in the parent

88:25

community about the wonderful job and i

88:27

myself have observed it as well dr fitz

88:29

you've done over the past couple of

88:31

months like mark said you've been a true

88:33

leader and i mean from the minute you

88:35

walked through the door

88:37

it was very clear that you had a great

88:39

understanding of the roles and

88:40

responsibilities of the board versus the

88:44

superintendent and the administration

88:46

and i love the way that you refer to

88:48

them as your executive team

88:50

you followed me and some other folks out

88:52

into the parking lot at the last board

88:53

of education meeting just to chat with

88:55

us and thank us for coming so thanks for

88:58

all that you've done and we're going to

88:59

miss you but we look forward to the next

89:01

chapter thank you

89:04

thank you

89:12

hi mike volpe 104 perrine pike

89:14

hillsborough new jersey i don't live in

89:16

morristown i just want to say how um

89:19

absolutely thrilled and excited and

89:22

humbled i am to have been named the next

89:24

superintendent of the morristown

89:26

township public schools and dr fitz i

89:28

want to thank you so much for what you

89:29

had said about getting around to

89:30

teachers classrooms and in schools

89:32

because you're really making my

89:33

transition easy that's not going to be

89:35

new for anybody else i love getting

89:36

around and seeing what kids are doing

89:39

i did want to just say a couple of thank

89:41

yous if i can

89:42

i want to thank

89:44

my my nephew

89:46

jake douglas chanka

89:47

who uh had he survived um

89:51

would have been uh multiple multiply

89:53

disabled and his memory inspires me to

89:56

serve all children uh not just our

89:58

highest achievers but i'm here for every

89:59

single child i want to thank my own

90:01

children zack alissa lauren and izzy

90:04

for inspiring me and i want to thank my

90:06

wife very much i love you and thank you

90:08

for getting me here today and i don't

90:10

mean that literally because i drove i

90:11

mean that more figuratively for getting

90:13

me to where i am

90:15

i say that because i want to let you

90:16

know how important family is to me

90:17

family comes first and i feel in this

90:21

room

90:22

that you have invited me to become a

90:23

part of your family part of your

90:25

community and that's where i want to be

90:27

and i want to thank you for that

90:29

from the bottom of my heart
90:31
i said that in some of my paperwork that
90:33
i put forward to the board during the
90:34
interview process that morristown is a
90:36
diamond um it needs to you know some
90:39
polishing a little bit here and there
90:40
but it doesn't need to be turned into a
90:42
ruby or a sapphire or an emerald it's a
90:44
diamond and i am thrilled that you have
90:47
invited me to become a part of this
90:48
community a part of this family i uh i'm
90:51
thrilled and i won't let you down and
90:54
thank you so much
90:55
thank you so much
91:06
i too did not have intentions of
91:08
speaking tonight but um after the way
91:10
the second dawn was treated i felt
91:12
compelled to come up
91:13
um many of us are aware of the personal
91:16
and professional legal issues facing mr
91:18
camagno our board attorney in
91:20
conjunction with his law firm the
91:21
allegations include mr kamegno providing
91:23

illegal gifts to superintendents and
91:25
board members among many other serious
91:28
allegations
91:29
given mr kamegano's position here at the
91:31
table i think the general public would
91:33
be interested in hearing when an rfp
91:35
will be issued to replace him and his
91:37
role as board attorney will end
91:54
any other comments
92:12
hi karen vidal 441 older shaw avenue um
92:16
i'm actually here to talk to you tonight
92:18
about consent
92:20
um i'm here to talk about consent and
92:22
some things that have been going on in
92:23
schools and it's been going on for a
92:25
while and i think i just hit my breaking
92:27
point this year
92:29
um and we and i can start with a laugh
92:31
i have curly hair every time you go for
92:34
picture day when you have curly hair
92:35
your mom teaches you don't let anybody
92:37
touch your hair don't let anyone touch
92:39
your hair and i can laugh about it now
92:42

um it's not funny though and i learned
92:44
to laugh at it as a coping mechanism and
92:46
it's not funny and i'm lucky that you
92:48
know i'm white i'm not a person of color
92:50
with somebody trying to come at me with
92:51
my hair
92:52
um so i taught this to my child with
92:54
curly hair and then finally he's like
92:55
mom no one at south valley tries to
92:57
touch my hair
92:59
so i'm really disturbed to tell you that
93:00
this year at picture day
93:02
multiple children in fourth fifth and
93:05
sixth grade were touched without their
93:07
consent wearing picture day now that's
93:09
fine that home in school which says oh
93:12
the mom was just trying to help them
93:14
it's not okay
93:16
you do not touch a child a fourth fifth
93:19
or sixth grader without asking them i
93:22
don't care if my child's hair is
93:23
standing up i don't care if their eyes
93:25
are closed i don't care anything else
93:27

but the precedent that was set at the
93:29
ues is very disturbing to me and it's
93:32
not just my child it's the child whose
93:35
beautiful picture was shown that had her
93:37
hair completely brushed out with all of
93:40
her curls and i remember what that feels
93:42
like and i remember how painful it is
93:45
and it's so easy and instead when you go
93:47
to administration and they say oh well
93:50
home in school did it and home in school
93:52
goes oh well i'm sure it was a mom with
93:54
well intentions and you're probably
93:56
right it probably was a mom with well
93:58
intentions but we've come to a point in
94:00
this day at age that i'm 45 and we're
94:03
still having to talk to people about
94:05
touching a child before a picture
94:07
because it's really easy to get consent
94:10
hi would you like to look at yourself in
94:11
the mirror beforehand
94:13
that's it
94:15
when you come at a child i'm just gonna
94:17
fix your hair
94:18

that's not consent
94:21
a child when faced in a trauma which
94:24
would be somebody coming at them that
94:25
they don't know how to react they could
94:27
fight
94:28
they could freeze they could fight and
94:31
they could fawn
94:32
so my child that freezes had their hair
94:35
brushed because they don't know what to
94:37
do the child with curly hair who
94:40
actually didn't know what to do and
94:41
she's a people pleaser and so she
94:43
brushed her hair out painfully
94:47
and i can see it by looking at those
94:48
pictures
94:50
so again i understand that this was not
94:52
meant with malice but the next thing is
94:54
then when you go and you call somebody
94:56
and they tell you that they can counsel
94:58
my child you're reinforcing that bad
95:01
feeling that they got in their gut that
95:03
they did something wrong and they were
95:05
the one to shame and now if you don't
95:07

address it to all of the kids
95:09
they think that it's okay that that
95:11
adult came over and that indul imposed
95:14
their will and their power and i'm sorry
95:16
i'm at three minutes but i appreciate
95:18
the time of the board and um again i
95:20
realized it was not done without malice
95:22
but it's a serious problem um and please
95:24
come up with some corrective action not
95:26
to pull them aside separately but to
95:28
address it as a whole thank you
95:31
thank you
95:41
hi uh anthony dragon 547 eaglebrook
95:44
drive uh i wasn't gonna speak tonight as
95:47
well but i had i felt compelled to also
95:49
give my thanks to dr fitz i just wanted
95:52
to say that um looking from the outside
95:54
in and being getting involved uh over
95:56
the course of the last year in terms of
95:58
public comment
95:59
with uh administration and the
96:01
frustrations that were brought up
96:03
um
96:04

i didn't really feel tremendously
96:06
listened to before but i have to say
96:09
you have been a consummate professional
96:13
and the model of a gentleman uh you took
96:16
this community
96:17
as your own and i really want to thank
96:19
you for that on behalf of a lot of
96:21
parents who couldn't be here tonight
96:22
including my wife so thank you so much
96:24
appreciate it
96:33
any other comments
96:41
elizabeth pollard 64 brooks road i'll be
96:43
brief
96:47
it's difficult to listen to comments
96:49
that reference segregation in nazi
96:51
germany and compare such horrific
96:53
historical events to public health
96:55
policies that serve only to protect the
96:57
welfare of our schools and greater
96:59
community
97:04
it's also appalling and inappropriate to
97:06
call out members of the board and those
97:08
who serve our district by name
97:11

it serves no good it's only to insult

97:13

and offend

97:16

and

97:18

that's it

97:27

any other comments

97:31

motion to close public comments

97:34

thank you all in favor

97:36

aye

97:38

motion to adjourn

97:41

a second all in favor

97:44

aye thank you