

January 4 BOE Reorganization Meeting Transcript

00:31
1st 2021 notice file with burlington
00:34
county times on july 1st 2021 can i have
00:36
a moment of silence please
00:42
i'll stand for the pledge of allegiance
01:07
with the newly elected board members
01:09
please join me at the front
01:49
and the constitution of the state of new
01:51
jersey
02:07
under the authority of the people
02:10
so help me god
02:20
i possess dude
02:22
prescribed by law
02:26
for the office of a member of the board
02:28
of education
02:34
i'm not
03:02
and justly
03:08
according to the best of my ability
03:11
so help me god
03:40
i would like to now open the floor for
03:42
nominations for the office of board of
03:44
education president
03:47
i'd like to nominate someone
03:50
i'd like to nominate mark villanueva for
03:52
president
03:58
do you hear any other nominations i'd
04:00
like to nominate mick weeks
04:10
do i hear any other nominations
04:16
okay
04:16
so in accordance with board policy we
04:18
can do this either by

04:21
roll call vote of all the board members
04:23
or we can do this by a written ballot
04:27
typically we do it by roll call vote but
04:30
that is at the discretion of the board
04:32
so opening that now
04:38
okay
04:44
okay
04:46
dr alberti oh i'm fine with that too but
04:49
i just have a question is there going to
04:50
be an opportunity to discuss the
04:52
candidates or do we just move right into
04:55
voting
04:57
there absolutely could be an opportunity
04:58
to discuss the candidates absolutely
05:01
i don't know how this works what's the
05:03
process
05:04
yes the floor's open to the board too
05:11
sure since i made the nomination i feel
05:13
compelled to
05:14
provide the rationale for nominating
05:16
mark villanueva
05:17
for president and i believe that the
05:19
community and this board needs a clear
05:21
and decisive leader and he's always
05:23
recognized and pushed what the
05:25
government and public officials are now
05:26
recognizing and pushing for which is
05:29
that our children need to be in school
05:30
for in-person learning and that it's
05:32
highly detrimental to keep them out of
05:34
schools and results in not only learning

05:36
loss but socio-emotional issues and a
05:38
mental health crisis
05:40
and
05:40
these qualities that i observed and mark
05:42
these leadership qualities were over the
05:44
course of the past year when this was
05:46
the most front and center issue but i
05:48
believe that the capabilities that i've
05:50
observed would serve him really well in
05:52
a leadership capacity he's got a good
05:54
understanding of the roles and
05:55
responsibilities of the board of
05:57
education
05:58
vis-a-vis the administration and he's
06:00
demonstrated that
06:02
through his understanding of policy
06:04
versus operations
06:06
he's clear and transparent we always
06:09
sort of know where mark stands and i
06:11
really appreciate that about him he
06:13
contributes a lot during public sessions
06:16
and so the community always felt as
06:17
though they understood the what and the
06:18
why behind what he was standing for and
06:21
last but not least i'd really like to
06:23
see him in the role because i think he's
06:25
very creative innovative and forward
06:27
thinking and really um
06:31
has a passion for challenging the status
06:32
quo and i think that diversity of
06:35
thought at this table in a leadership

06:37
role
06:38
is what we need to take us into the
06:39
future so that's why i nominated him
06:41
thank you
06:49
i can go next
06:50
you know
06:51
um no i mean i i nominated mick
06:53
um i find mick incredibly thoughtful
06:58
very
06:59
caring
07:00
and i've never had a conversation where
07:04
the most important thing
07:06
um and the thing driving the
07:07
conversation was
07:09
the students
07:11
um that's similar to how i see it um
07:14
i think
07:15
that is that is essential in this
07:18
context um and i have the utmost
07:21
confidence
07:22
that in a board of nine
07:24
mick is
07:26
incredibly capable of
07:28
weighing different viewpoints that
07:32
are warranted and wanted in a different
07:34
in a board of nine and i think would be
07:37
able to navigate that very well
07:40
in the context of sort of being decisive
07:43
and helping us to sort of formulate our
07:45
thoughts so
07:47
that was my thought um and that's why i

07:49
am 100 supportive of mick as president
07:54
i'd like to speak next as i guess now
07:56
officially
07:57
the senior most board member
07:59
on this board as of tonight
08:01
um that i uh support mick's uh
08:05
nomination as president um i will say
08:08
one thing kind of building on mrs
08:11
macaluso that
08:12
i know where mick stands not just
08:14
because what he says in public but also
08:16
because what he says in committee what
08:18
he says in one-on-one conversations that
08:20
i am i'm never surprised that it always
08:22
comes back to what is best for the
08:23
student i think similarly to the words
08:26
mentioned about mark villanueva i think
08:28
mick has done an outstanding job in his
08:31
two terms uh on the board of pushing
08:34
thinking of thinking out of the box
08:36
creatively
08:37
bringing his experiences from outside
08:40
the board of his day job his passions
08:43
his interests to influencing and
08:45
bringing more sound um to the next
08:47
levels of innovation
08:49
and and seeing solutions where we might
08:51
not obviously see them
08:53
in a very responsible but yet innovative
09:10
just a second
09:12
all right thank you

09:15
[Laughter]
09:18
all right so now we will go through a
09:20
roll call when your name is called
09:22
please
09:23
state the candidate that you are voting
09:25
for
09:26
dr alberti i would like to vote for
09:28
mcqueakes
09:31
ms arcaro burns
09:34
nick weeks
09:36
mr fairchild mr weeks
09:40
falls macaluso
09:43
mark villanueva
09:47
this is mcopolis
09:49
mark phil and eva
09:51
miss romano
09:53
pick weeks
09:54
dr schneider
09:56
uh mick weeks
09:58
mr villanueva
10:01
mr weeks
10:03
weeks
10:10
total is six to two congratulations
10:20
comment now or after vice president
10:25
like to now open the floor for
10:26
nominations for the office of vice
10:28
president
10:29
yes i'd like to nominate dr mark snyder
10:31
for vice president
10:38
any other nominations at this time
10:42
hearing none i'm going to close the

10:44
floor for nominations for vice president
10:47
when your name is called please vote for
10:49
the candidate of your choice
10:52
dr alberti
10:56
mr cara burns
10:58
dr mark snyder mr fairchild
11:01
doctor schneider
11:02
this is false macaluso
11:05
schneider
11:07
this is micapolis
11:08
dr snyder
11:10
miss romano
11:11
dr schneider
11:13
schneider uh mark
11:16
mr villanueva
11:18
mr weeks uh dr mark snyder
11:21
congratulations
11:22
[Applause]
11:27
this time mr president
11:29
floor is yours
11:34
so thank you mr secretary um i'm really
11:38
appreciative of the honor that my
11:41
colleagues have bestowed upon me um
11:44
i
11:45
the words that were uttered i really um
11:48
touch me and i appreciate those and uh i
11:52
whether you voted for me or not i will
11:54
seek to do my best in this role and help
11:57
uh let's all work together i feel like
11:59
we have among the most talented boards
12:02
i've ever seen and i think we have a lot

12:03
of potential i'm really looking forward
12:05
to working with you all
12:07
to continue to improve morristown's
12:09
schools and
12:11
keep things moving in the right
12:12
direction in the service of our students
12:14
so thank you all again
12:20
all right
12:23
so now
12:24
uh i guess i got to start doing the
12:26
official stuff so
12:28
i'd like to uh
12:30
say make a motion i'm sorry to request a
12:33
motion excuse me i'll learn i'd like to
12:35
request a motion uh to open public
12:38
comment
12:41
okay
12:42
discussion all in favor
12:49
okay so now um
12:54
like to uh invite uh
12:56
the public that's in attendance to
13:00
uh come up to the mic please state your
13:01
name and address you'll have three
13:03
minutes to speak as you know this isn't
13:05
necessarily a question and answer period
13:07
as it's always best to follow up with an
13:09
email please do not address board
13:11
members individually please be
13:12
respectful in making public comment so
13:14
is there anyone who would like to make a
13:16
public comment

13:24
hi claudine morano 425 boulder show
13:26
avenue congratulations to the new board
13:28
members and mr weeks and dr snyder um
13:32
just being your first organizational
13:33
meeting i think you've heard a great
13:35
deal from the community since
13:37
probably the summer that there's a
13:39
desire to have these meetings uh
13:41
virtually so that there could be greater
13:43
participation parking lots empty there's
13:45
a lot of people home with kids who are
13:47
quarantining that weren't able to
13:48
participate and would have wanted to so
13:51
i strongly strongly request and have
13:53
made this
13:55
public comment
13:56
at least 10 times
13:58
that you consider doing zoom meetings
14:00
again and more permanently
14:02
just like town councils doing it so
14:04
they're doing hybrids
14:07
thanks for comment
14:11
anyone else
14:17
uh seeing no additional people coming to
14:19
the mic but to
14:21
ask for a motion to close public comment
14:29
uh yeah why don't we
14:31
put that in go ahead
14:36
yeah let's uh let's see the vote to
14:39
close
14:41
i mean about the second okay so um all

14:44
in favor
14:46
and opposed abstentions
14:49
okay
14:50
let's move on to superintendent's
14:52
comments then please mr volpe
14:55
thank you so much mr president and
14:57
congratulations to the new board members
14:59
i look forward to working with you i
15:00
just have some brief public comments as
15:03
you can imagine this has been an
15:04
incredibly challenging time to
15:06
transition as a new superintendent i'm
15:09
still getting to know some people's
15:10
names and know our processes and
15:12
procedures in here before i'm able to to
15:14
move forward with anything that i'm
15:16
looking forward to in the future
15:18
i've received dozens and dozens of
15:20
emails from you for a variety of reasons
15:22
but honestly most of them have been
15:24
around covid so there's a couple of
15:25
things that i did want to address
15:28
to be clear throughout the entire state
15:31
this year is different than last year
15:33
or even the year before
15:35
when we all first got unexpectedly hit
15:37
with kovid
15:38
boards and administrators are trying to
15:40
pull ideas out of the air do we close
15:42
schools do we not close schools do we do
15:44
hybrid how do we do this how do we do

15:46
that um that is no longer the case the
15:49
state has made it very clear
15:51
that it would like to have in-person
15:53
learning for as much as possible for our
15:55
students and there are two reasons
15:58
that a superintendent would talk to the
16:00
board about closing schools for remote
16:02
instruction those specific two reasons
16:04
are that the rate of in-school
16:06
transmission
16:07
is high enough and the board of health
16:10
recommends that we shut down
16:12
i know there's numbers out there on the
16:14
news and things in the community but
16:15
it's about the in-school transmission
16:18
and coordination with the board of
16:19
health
16:20
the second reason would be that my
16:22
dedicated teaching staff
16:25
would be mandated to quarantine for some
16:27
reason and we might not have enough
16:30
substitutes to come in and cover for
16:32
them
16:32
and we would have a lack of staffing at
16:35
that point because the teachers don't
16:36
have any choice as to whether or not
16:38
they would want a quarantine if they
16:40
were positive
16:41
so those are the only two reasons in
16:43
conjunction with the board of health
16:45
when i had interviewed with this board

16:47
one of the things that i think they
16:48
liked about me is i talked about there's
16:50
no one person who can make the right
16:52
decisions about all of this
16:53
i believe in good process
16:55
and good process leads to good outcomes
16:58
the state has put forth a process and we
17:00
will follow that process to try and keep
17:03
our schools open or make informed
17:05
decisions if we have to close
17:07
if we do have to close schools
17:10
we have a board approved plan i believe
17:11
it was approved in september or october
17:14
as to what a virtual instruction looks
17:16
like right now we only have virtual
17:18
instruction for students who have to
17:20
quarantine
17:22
my teachers need to be able to teach
17:23
those students as well as the students
17:25
in front of them and unfortunately
17:26
people can't pick and choose along with
17:28
our state approved and board approved
17:30
plan that we have right there so i know
17:33
i've been getting a lot of emails about
17:34
that so i wanted to do that
17:36
if you're interested in helping us as a
17:38
community member and i mean this and ms
17:41
butler will probably be very happy that
17:43
i say this the best thing that a
17:44
community member could do outside of
17:46
sending us a remarkable children is

17:48
consider becoming a substitute
17:51
if i've looked at the substitute roles
17:52
over the past three years it has gone
17:54
down and down and down
17:55
and if we have more substitutes the more
17:57
likely we are to cover everything that
17:59
we need to do
18:01
so that's a main thing too
18:03
so i know this is all a heavy subject
18:05
but i want to also let you know i have
18:07
been happy i have visited every school
18:09
since i have been here i got to four
18:10
different schools today i've seen
18:12
remarkable students doing remarkable
18:14
things and i'm very happy to be here uh
18:17
in in morristown
18:18
and then finally on another note i know
18:21
on sunday you got a call from me um that
18:24
you would hear from me again on monday
18:25
morning that is not going to be typical
18:28
before a weather event and we have a
18:30
couple this week what spurted on was we
18:32
were coming back from a long winter
18:34
break
18:35
and there was snow and the governor
18:37
called the state of emergency and for
18:39
those of you who have been involved in
18:40
education in a long time a state of
18:42
emergency used to mean different things
18:44
used to mean schools were automatically
18:46
closed and i just wanted to let everyone

18:49
know what the case was with that
18:51
so mr president i thank you for seeding
18:53
me a little bit of time
18:54
i will for anybody who is not here
18:56
listening online my monthly message that
18:59
will come out via email will also be
19:00
about our decisions and our decision
19:02
making process and i'm really thankful
19:04
for the children that you send here each
19:06
and every day as well as the team we
19:07
have sitting here at the dais i'm glad
19:10
to be a part of morristown thank you mr
19:11
president
19:15
thank you very much mr volpe i really
19:17
appreciate those uh clear concise words
19:20
and uh the sentiment you shared as well
19:22
so thank you very much for that
19:25
so moving on um we are up to uh letter d
19:29
um which will include appointments
19:31
effective january 4th 2022 through the
19:33
next reorganization meeting
19:35
number one board secretary qualified
19:37
purchasing agent number two treasurer of
19:40
school monies number three affirmative
19:42
action officer number four medical
19:44
inspector number five public agency
19:46
compliance officer
19:47
number six psychological examiner number
19:49
seven insurance broker uh so i'd like to
19:53
request a um
19:56
approval of items one through seven do i

19:58
have a motion
20:02
okay
20:03
and uh all in favor
20:09
okay abstentions
20:10
i'm abstaining from this and i'm
20:12
planning to abstain from subsequent
20:14
agenda items just because of my newness
20:16
to the board
20:18
understandable any other abstentions
20:20
so i'm abstaining as to four
20:25
six
20:26
and seven
20:33
cheryl were you yeah with five minutes
20:35
on the board i'm abstaining
20:39
i think it's up to six
20:40
but
20:42
understandable
20:43
understandable no problem okay
20:46
so um any opposed
20:51
okay
20:52
so that's uh five four um
20:57
zero uh extension sorry zero opposed and
21:00
three extensions okay promotion carries
21:04
all right letter e routine matters for
21:06
reorganization uh number one the
21:09
official newspaper number two
21:10
depositories number three bank
21:11
signatories number four ratification of
21:14
passport action bargaining group
21:15
reorganization number five re-adoption
21:18
of curriculum uh district curriculum

21:20
textbooks and board policies number six
21:22
recognized board of education standing
21:24
committees number seven the chart of
21:26
accounts number eight cooperative
21:28
purchases number nine uh procurement of
21:31
goods and services through state
21:32
agencies on the state contract number
21:35
ten the set quote threshold and
21:37
qualified purchasing agent to award
21:39
contracts up to bid threshold number
21:41
eleven approved payments of bills
21:43
between board meetings and number 12
21:44
designation of superintendent um may i
21:46
request a motion or i'd like to request
21:48
a motion for approval of items one
21:50
through 12.
21:54
jack
21:55
a second
21:58
all in favor
22:00
all right
22:01
um any opposed
22:03
and any abstentions
22:05
it's michael
22:09
absentions
22:12
i'm sorry
22:13
um
22:14
i'm gonna abstain
22:17
from
22:18
four
22:20
five
22:26
and

22:38
get the tally there again uh we have
22:40
five four
22:42
um
22:42
zero against and three abstentions some
22:45
with specificity
22:46
okay so that motion carries
22:49
all right um letter f new jersey school
22:52
board member code of ethics
22:54
um i have a motion uh that the board of
22:57
education approve and sign the code of
23:00
ethics forms
23:01
as attached
23:02
in exhibit 22-171
23:05
and also in front of you
23:08
okay thank you mr snyder
23:11
mr fairchild
23:13
uh all in favor
23:15
aye
23:16
any opposed
23:18
abstentions
23:27
okay
23:28
so that one carries uh eight zeros mr
23:31
president just sure
23:33
and if you could sign those uh print
23:35
your name sign those and just leave
23:36
those at your see it and i'll collect
23:38
those at the end
23:39
thank you very good thanks everybody for
23:42
the cooperation there
23:44
all right uh letter g establishment of
23:46
petty cash funds as noted in the agenda

23:50
i may have a motion to approve the
23:52
establishment of those petty cash funds
23:58
thank you
23:59
uh all in favor
24:02
aye
24:02
any opposed
24:04
extensions
24:08
mrs macaluso staining
24:14
okay any other abstentions
24:17
okay scene none
24:19
uh six four zero against two extensions
24:22
motion carries
24:24
letter h professional services um this
24:27
includes number one the architect of
24:29
record
24:30
uh number two the auditor number three
24:33
legal services
24:35
and
24:37
number four the insurance broker of
24:40
record
24:41
may have a motion to approve items one
24:43
through four
24:48
thank you
24:50
all in favor
24:52
aye
24:53
any abstentions
24:57
okay
25:06
[Laughter]
25:11
yes he's good at this though um okay any
25:14
opposed
25:16
okay that one also carries up

25:19
five four zero against and three
25:21
extensions
25:23
okay uh item seven employer relations
25:27
under letter a
25:28
um employee relations we have one
25:30
appointment of administrative staff we
25:32
have a motion to approve this item
25:38
[Music]
25:39
a second
25:40
i'm sorry
25:42
it's lauren
25:44
this should actually be
25:46
if there are questions
25:47
okay any questions or comments related
25:50
to this
25:55
uh hearing none may i have a roll call
25:56
vote please mr secretary
25:59
thank you mr president dr alberti yes
26:03
mr cara burns yes
26:05
mr fairchild yes
26:07
mrs fowles macaluso
26:12
yes
26:14
mrs mcopolis yes
26:17
miss romano
26:18
dr schneider yeah mr villanueva
26:22
mr weeks yes mission carries thank you
26:25
thank you
26:29
yeah i noticed that we don't have
26:30
another comment section or should we
26:33
typically only done one but we can
26:34
absolutely open it up

26:39
all right
26:41
i think we'll we'll push forward um
26:43
so uh are there any is there any
26:47
there's new business old business i
26:49
don't see that on here but used to
26:50
hearing at this point
26:53
can you just review with us the process
26:56
for committee assignment and everything
26:58
going forward sure actually um i
27:00
appreciate it if everybody um
27:02
wouldn't mind just sending me your
27:05
preferences
27:06
and i'll work with mr snyder and we'll
27:09
we'll go through those and look at
27:11
assignments uh for committees
27:13
and have that back to you
27:15
pretty quickly
27:17
so if we could maybe have all of those
27:18
by let's say thursday this week so we
27:22
could get through those
27:27
just the off board
27:29
there's been quite a bit of time
27:33
liaising with
27:34
the awesome i'm sorry
27:36
the the previous board members who are
27:39
no longer on the board a number of them
27:40
had liaised with certain so rec
27:43
um i know a number of so i just wanted
27:45
to make sure we had those all covered so
27:47
i don't know who has the best
27:48
yeah and put out a list of what the

27:50
off-board um
27:52
alliances were right and uh people can
27:55
tell us which ones you're interested in
27:57
okay
27:58
our typical committee list might be
28:00
helpful in that because it has the
28:01
committee structure and columns okay and
28:03
down at the bottom it has those off
28:05
boards okay perfect i'll send that out
28:07
to
28:08
the board and um you can look for
28:10
response on that by thursday would be
28:11
great um
28:13
thank you for mentioning that because
28:15
does anybody actually who is a liaison
28:17
have any anything to add
28:19
about that because i do have one for my
28:23
my um
28:24
organization so i liaise with more arts
28:27
and more arts wanted to share that they
28:29
have actually
28:30
moved their gala to a um a show that
28:34
will be online uh so that was scheduled
28:36
for it was uh january 29th
28:39
so look for information about that on
28:41
their website
28:42
and then also
28:44
we were asked if we could share
28:47
uh that there is an organization in town
28:49
that's providing uh kova testing i
28:52
believe there's no cost to it

28:55
but you are asked to bring your
28:56
insurance card it's located at 502
28:58
pleasant valley avenue so just on the
28:59
other side of
29:01
uh route 38 on pleasant valley
29:04
so
29:05
just wanted to share that as well
29:07
all right anything else
29:15
i have something that i'm not sure if
29:16
i'm allowed to ask or not so i'll ask it
29:19
so
29:19
with um i appreciate it's a response to
29:21
mr volpe's remarks and then just a
29:23
clarifying question if you're able to
29:25
share any additional information i
29:27
appreciate understanding the criteria
29:30
that would force us into remote learning
29:32
kind of simplistically it seems like it
29:34
would be either safety or staffing and i
29:37
was just wondering if you could share
29:38
any insights or
29:40
kind of signals around whether you think
29:42
we're very close to reaching one of
29:44
those thresholds um and when we would
29:47
expect to hear from you if we are
29:48
getting closer like what should we be
29:50
planned for as a board and a parent
29:52
community
29:54
very difficult to say it's a moving
29:56
target
29:58
and even you know staff members other

30:00
administrators have asked
30:02
some districts that have had to do this
30:04
have had to do it
30:05
late sunday middle of the night as
30:07
they're crunching numbers
30:09
i'm anticipating that we are in good
30:12
shape right now
30:13
in good shape to to be open
30:16
we are having
30:18
difficulty dealing with everything
30:20
everyone's doing a great job i mean when
30:22
we're in good shape uh but i will try to
30:24
alert the community as well as the board
30:26
and board leadership as soon as i know
30:28
everything but i would simply be
30:30
speculating right now uh one day to the
30:32
next could be very different
30:34
thank you i appreciate that
30:37
um
30:38
following up on that mr volpe is it
30:41
would it be possible like
30:43
to say there's a percentage threshold or
30:45
is it too complex because you've got it
30:47
depends on who the staffing is or
30:49
whatever it's very complex
30:52
and the only thing that i do want to say
30:54
is if we do go to remote instruction
30:57
in the past most districts you know
30:59
pretty much close the district
31:01
we could be in situations where we
31:03
closed individual schools due to

31:05
staffing or transmission and the rest of
31:07
the district was open so mr president
31:09
really depends on who is out and where
31:12
and when and why
31:14
i wish i like things regular and
31:16
predictable i like processes
31:18
this is irregular and not predictable
31:21
but you can count on me communicating it
31:23
as soon as we know things
31:25
appreciate it thank you
31:27
any other comments or questions related
31:29
to that
31:32
okay uh seeing none then i can ask for a
31:35
motion for german
31:40
you guys can fight it out
31:42
all right
31:43
uh all in favor
31:49
all right very good all right thank you
31:51
everybody
31:52
i get to bang this now right
32:06
you