

Transcript of 2/15/22 BOE Meeting

00:13

hey

00:32

um

00:58

hmm

01:12

you know what i mean

01:28

okay

01:54

sure

02:29

yes

02:36

thank you

02:52

um

03:06

yes

03:32

uh

04:21

is

04:34

[Music]

05:13

is

05:25

where are you

05:47

yes

05:57

[Music]

06:04

yeah

06:06

all right

07:12

testing one two three

07:15

testing one that's very quiet

07:19

which one is this guy

07:21

this one

07:22

is

07:24

right

07:25

testing one two three testing one two

07:28

three

07:29

testing one two three that's a little

07:31

better thank you

07:38

okay

07:40
i apologize we
07:42
had a robust discussion going on an
07:44
executive apologize for being a few
07:46
minutes late but i'd like to call or
07:48
order call to order
07:49
the regular meeting of the morristown
07:51
township board of education
07:53
uh this meeting is called a conformance
07:54
of the open public meetings act with
07:56
adequate notice provided as follows the
07:58
notice filed with the courier post on
08:00
july 1st 2021 and a notice filed with
08:02
the burlington county times on july 1st
08:04
2021
08:06
i'd like to uh
08:07
ask if we could have a moment of silence
08:10
not only our
08:11
normal moment of silence that we do but
08:13
we have a
08:14
staff member who lost uh her son
08:17
recently
08:18
uh cassie gore is a teacher at the
08:20
middle school i also like to ask that we
08:22
think of her during this moment of
08:24
silence
08:33
thank you please rise for the pledge of
08:34
allegiance
08:43
i pledge allegiance to supply of the
08:46
united states of america and to the
08:48
republic for which it stands one nation
08:51
under god indivisible

08:58
[Music]
09:01
hey would you like to do the roll call
09:03
please mr secretary dr
09:06
alberti arcaro burns president
09:10
mr fairchild
09:12
mrs falz macaluso
09:15
mrs mcopolis
09:18
miss romano
09:20
mr villanueva
09:22
dr schneider
09:23
mr weeks president thank you
09:29
okay
09:30
moving on i'd like to request approval
09:33
of the minutes for the following
09:35
meetings january 4th reorganization
09:37
meeting
09:38
january 18th executive session uh and
09:41
january 18th regular meeting may i will
09:44
entertain a motion now
09:48
in a
09:48
second okay any questions discussion
09:54
okay
09:55
all in favor
09:57
all right any abstentions
10:02
okay extension from mr villanueva uh any
10:06
opposed
10:10
okay are there any
10:12
communications anyone would like to
10:14
share from the board i'd just like to
10:16
share that on thursday burlington county
10:19
school board association is having their

10:21
meeting the topic is diversity and
10:23
equity it starts at seven and you do
10:25
have to register online
10:28
in advance to get the link it will be a
10:29
virtual meeting and the
10:32
march meeting has been changed it's now
10:34
going to be a president and vice
10:36
president executive session with the
10:40
board of ed members
10:43
in the county
10:47
mrs romano
10:48
any other communications on the board
10:53
okay moving on to president's remarks
10:58
i'd like to open my remarks by speaking
11:01
to upcoming changes related to the
11:02
expiration of the governor's executive
11:05
order unmasking as well as the other
11:07
guidance and direction the district has
11:08
been following
11:10
while we do not have all of the details
11:12
to share tonight i encourage i am
11:13
encouraged and optimistic about the
11:15
trajectory we are on and would like to
11:17
speak to why
11:19
we've reached a stage where there are
11:20
many layers of protection available for
11:22
our students and staff
11:24
as experts from the medical and
11:25
infectious disease fields as well as
11:27
local authorities have noted we now have
11:28
access to safe and effective vaccines

11:30
for all school-age children
11:32
as well as better availability of highly
11:34
effective personal protective equipment
11:36
our schools have upgraded ventilation
11:38
and improved practices around cleaning
11:40
and opportunities are available for
11:42
improved individual hygiene
11:45
we expect that parents and students will
11:46
be able to choose to employ the
11:48
solutions that work best for them and
11:50
rely less on the choices of others
11:52
while we still strive to maintain and
11:54
reinforce a collective sense of
11:55
responsibility for safety support and
11:57
well-being in our schools we can also
11:59
safely increase opportunities for choice
12:02
that progress should be noted and
12:03
applauded
12:05
throughout this crisis the board of
12:07
education and administration have
12:08
endeavored to be consistent
12:10
we have consistently put the safety and
12:12
well-being of our school community first
12:14
adhere to the direction and guidance of
12:16
state and local authorities and strive
12:18
to do so with empathy and thoughtfulness
12:21
as we can as we deal with what we hope
12:23
will be a continued progression towards
12:25
normalcy
12:26
we will continue to be consistent in
12:28
that approach

12:29
that means continuing to follow the
12:31
direction and guidance with fidelity as
12:33
best supports the needs of our school
12:34
community
12:36
we are expecting to receive more
12:37
guidance leading up to the march 7th
12:38
expiration of the masking order so that
12:40
will provide an opportunity to continue
12:42
to assess how we will move forward
12:45
frankly stated
12:47
this experience has exposed some
12:49
fissures in the relationships between
12:50
the district and the community
12:52
as well as within the community
12:54
there are unfortunately many times where
12:56
we experience difficulty actively
12:58
listening to and trusting each other
13:01
as we are all connected to this
13:02
situation this institution that exists
13:04
to promote learning and growth i would
13:06
like to speak to a step we will be
13:07
taking as we reflect on this experience
13:09
experience and seek to learn and grow
13:11
from it
13:12
with regard to listening
13:14
prior to the pandemic i and members
13:16
other members of the school board
13:18
recognize the limitations of the
13:19
mandated structure of holding a board
13:21
meeting in public rather than a public
13:23
meeting

13:24
specifically it allows for a public
13:26
comment period and not a question and
13:28
answer session
13:30
that precluded a deeper engagement in
13:32
topics where people can feel listened to
13:35
seeking to help address that frustration
13:37
several years ago we started holding
13:38
community engagement forums around
13:40
specific topics
13:42
though they proved popular they did not
13:45
fully address more timely engagement on
13:47
varied other topics in which there is an
13:48
interest
13:50
we all want to feel that we are actively
13:52
listened to when we speak and not just
13:54
heard
13:55
listening is defined as hearing
13:57
something with thoughtful attention
13:59
well i know that we board members all
14:01
pay attention thoughtfully during public
14:03
comment the lack of a better method of
14:05
immediate follow-up can belie that
14:06
notion for the speaker
14:08
tonight i would like to announce that we
14:10
are opening up another facet of
14:11
engagement to help address this
14:13
we will be adding a public comment
14:15
section to our website where the
14:16
community can share their comments in
14:18
advance of the board meeting
14:19
mr volpe and board leadership will look

14:22
at what we've received and we will
14:23
endeavor to address those address the
14:25
comments
14:26
in the superintendents or president's
14:28
reports
14:29
we expect to have this up and running
14:30
before the next board meeting in march
14:32
and i believe mr volpe will speak to
14:34
this in more detail in his report
14:37
this will not be the final step we take
14:39
to increase communication and
14:41
opportunities to actively listen in an
14:43
effort to build dialogue understanding
14:45
and trust
14:46
we are committed to continuing to
14:48
explore ways to do this and thankfully
14:50
we have an exceptional group of
14:52
dedicated people as part of this body to
14:54
help do that work
14:55
there will be more opportunities for
14:57
dialogue with town halls we are planning
14:59
to hold in the near future
15:00
i should also note that i have
15:02
personally seen that mr volpe and
15:03
members of the board are responding to
15:04
emails we receive
15:06
there are also opportunities during each
15:08
of the home and school meetings i know i
15:10
participated in pretty much every holmen
15:12
school meeting save one which
15:14
dr snyder did

15:16
so there chance is there to ask and and
15:19
have questions answered
15:20
uh furthermore our community
15:22
communication survey also which mr volpe
15:25
will discuss in his remarks will help us
15:27
help inform us as we move forward in
15:29
finding better ways to listen and
15:30
communicate more effectively
15:34
so i also want to take a moment to
15:36
inform the community about a significant
15:37
change with the board of education as
15:40
you may have noted mr fairchild is not
15:41
here on the dais with us
15:43
effective yesterday mr fairchild
15:45
tendered his resignation
15:47
which i reluctantly accepted though with
15:49
deep appreciation and understanding he
15:51
noted that he needs to prioritize time
15:53
with his family and we all understand
15:55
and respect his decision
15:56
mr fairchild was a strong and tireless
15:59
advocate for the advancement safety and
16:01
well-being of our students and staff
16:03
while it may not have always appeared
16:05
that he was vocal
16:07
we all knew what jack stood for and most
16:08
importantly where his heart was
16:10
he is an extremely thoughtful and
16:12
analytical person and we are going to
16:13
miss his dedication and input
16:16
because we did not have a lot of time to

16:17
prepare in advance tonight we will have
16:19
more to say and hopefully be able to
16:20
thank him in a better way at a
16:21
subsequent meeting however tonight on
16:23
behalf of the board i want to express my
16:25
heartfelt thanks for his service
16:28
thank you that uh concludes my comments
16:33
[Music]
16:42
so let's um
16:44
jump down and have the student board
16:46
representatives in the order that they
16:47
choose yes seniors rule
16:54
it's heard
16:56
sorry for the stumble um hi everybody my
16:58
name is claire harin and i am the senior
17:00
class liaison
17:02
um tonight i would like to talk about
17:04
updates on the senior trip and my recent
17:06
success in mock trial
17:08
um so the senior trip will commence on
17:12
april 2nd and i believe it runs to the
17:14
7th
17:15
um we are going to universal this year
17:17
instead of officially disney we are
17:19
staying in universal as i talked about
17:21
before
17:22
um
17:23
little did i know our final permission
17:25
slip was due last week and i was chased
17:27
down the hallway uh by mr seibel telling
17:30
me that it was due

17:31
um but he has been cracking down and
17:33
getting everything in order um so it was
17:35
signed we're all good um so everybody
17:37
who plans on going has officially signed
17:39
up if they also completed the form
17:42
um yeah so everything is coming to a
17:44
close our rooms are being settled pretty
17:47
soon a couple months ago we filled out a
17:49
form saying who we wanted to room with
17:51
there will be groups of four um so
17:53
that'll be officially settled hopefully
17:55
soon
17:56
we are booking reservations and getting
17:58
ready for our senior trip
18:00
um and last week we finished our mock
18:03
trial season
18:05
um i had one loss and one win um borden
18:09
town goes really hard which is what i
18:11
learned this year um however we were
18:13
victorious against cinemason so we are
18:16
keeping your mock street safe don't
18:18
worry um
18:20
and perry jordan was guilty thank you um
18:23
so i learned a lot this year being a
18:25
lawyer for the past couple years i
18:27
served as a witness
18:29
which was really fun but it was
18:30
definitely a different perspective as a
18:33
senior leader
18:34
getting all the freshmen and sophomores
18:36
together was like herding cats um but

18:38
they were really eager and it was really
18:39
great to work with them and form new
18:41
relationships and smile at new kids in
18:42
the hall
18:44
um so that was really fun and i garnered
18:46
a lot of new skills that i hope to use
18:49
in the mock future or maybe in the real
18:51
trial um we shall see thank you and i'll
18:54
pass it off to lucas
18:56
thank you miss heard
19:04
hello my name is lucas mcgill and i'm
19:05
the junior class board of liaison
19:07
in just under four weeks morrison high
19:09
school will be putting on its annual
19:10
musical the musical this year is honk
19:12
junior an adaptation of the story of the
19:14
ugly duckling
19:16
mccask crew and pitt have been hard at
19:17
work for months to make sure for months
19:19
to make sure the show is an enjoyable
19:21
one for all
19:22
opening night is march 4th with a total
19:24
of five performances over two weekends
19:26
for more details and to purchase tickets
19:28
please check out the mhs website under
19:29
the theater link
19:31
with prom season just around the corner
19:33
upperclass students are already
19:34
purchasing formal wear and lighting
19:35
updates to attend the dance with the
19:37
theme for this year's dance is still

19:39
being deliberated by the junior class
19:40
officers but we're very excited with the
19:41
ideas we've come up with
19:43
there will be a fashion show during
19:44
lunches in the near future to showcase
19:47
some clothing ideas to the students and
19:49
the prime will be held at the new
19:50
doubletree hotel on friday march 13th
19:53
thank you very much and make sure to go
19:54
see me and my castmates in the show
19:59
thank you
20:05
all right uh good evening board and
20:06
parents i'm jack britton your sophomore
20:08
class liaison um so i have two important
20:10
updates on behalf of student council um
20:12
we have been busy undertaking our winner
20:13
and spring service projects they will
20:15
occur over the next two months each
20:17
grade is running their own service
20:18
project and our own personal sophomore
20:20
service project his donations to an
20:22
animal shelter in need of donations this
20:24
winter and we'll be donating animal food
20:26
and used towels to give to these animals
20:29
in need during the winter time our other
20:32
drives are to take place later this
20:33
month and also our freshmen as a driver
20:35
will explain and announcements and
20:37
information have been given to the
20:38
students for hangout flyers in hopes of
20:40
good donation turnout this year and

20:42
these drives are an important way for us
20:43
to give back to the community and a
20:44
really staple of our student council
20:46
experience here
20:47
additionally my second point is high
20:49
school midterms have been completed they
20:51
completed the beginning of february um
20:53
grades if not already back should be
20:55
back shortly which is exciting or
20:56
stressful for some people and reading
20:59
days planned by administration went well
21:00
as did the midterms
21:02
in a return back to normal midterms it
21:04
seemed to go pretty smooth and that's
21:06
exciting to know i'll head off to the
21:08
refreshment
21:15
hi everyone i'm yvette the freshman
21:17
liaison
21:18
i'd like to start out by talking about
21:20
midterms last time i was here our
21:23
midterms were about a week away i'm very
21:25
glad to report that they are now over
21:28
and all the grades are in most of my
21:30
classes did very well and most of my
21:32
teachers told us that the average was
21:34
higher than they expected i think a big
21:36
part of that was the four reading days
21:38
which really helped everyone the second
21:40
thing i want to go over is a service
21:42
project this week the freshman student
21:44
council started our service project

21:47
which was donating lightly used or new
21:49
blankets or new socks to joseph's house
21:52
where they would be given to teens in
21:53
our area who can't afford them
21:56
last week we put up posters all around
21:58
the school advertising it today was the
22:01
first day of the drive but the
22:02
collection starts tomorrow so we will go
22:04
around all the home rooms and collect
22:06
things that people have donated
22:08
thank you and have a great evening
22:16
well we appreciate those reports and uh
22:19
as uh in keeping with recent tradition
22:21
if you like to spend that time on
22:22
homework getting ready for those finals
22:24
early
22:30
please feel free
22:31
thank you
22:37
good evening
22:38
good evening
22:40
as your superintendent for less than two
22:42
months it's been an interesting two
22:44
months i am incredibly happy with the
22:46
reception that i have received to date
22:48
and pleased that i've been able to
22:49
interact with the community at several
22:51
school and community events
22:53
this past saturday february 12th was my
22:56
first opportunity to visit the community
22:57
house for the interact club soup for the
23:00
soul event i took my wife on a very

23:02
cheap date there
23:03
it was great to talk to students and
23:05
some community members as well as enjoy
23:07
some great soup
23:08
additionally i've been very grateful to
23:10
meet many hsa parents at their meetings
23:13
as well as parents at quite a few
23:14
athletic events i've attended when you
23:16
see me at other events in the future
23:17
please feel free to introduce yourself
23:19
to me
23:20
most importantly i have been happy to
23:22
meet and get to know students uh some of
23:24
whom are getting to know me by name i
23:26
find it amazing i never knew who what a
23:28
superintendent was i never knew who my
23:29
superintendent was and when i walk in
23:31
hallways and kids call me by my name it
23:33
makes me feel really good
23:35
i've had the chance to interact with the
23:37
high school student council who was here
23:38
and tell them my story from the time i
23:40
was in seventh grade until i became
23:42
superintendent of schools speak to some
23:44
members of our unified basketball team
23:46
as well as students from various clubs
23:47
at the high school making connections
23:49
with both the community and our students
23:51
is both very important and very
23:52
rewarding for me
23:54
as mentioned on february 10th and as mr

23:57
weeks had said
23:58
based on the governor's recent
23:59
announcement morristown township public
24:01
schools will be mass optional effective
24:03
march 7th 2022
24:05
this is aligned with the intent and
24:06
language as stated in board policy
24:08
1648-11
24:11
while there are other issues still
24:12
related to covid that all schools must
24:14
deal with we are waiting to receive
24:16
further guidance from the new jersey
24:18
department of health about these matters
24:20
at that time we'll begin to analyze any
24:22
such guidelines and assess their impact
24:24
on the schools and we will inform you of
24:26
any important information
24:28
speaking of important information we
24:30
have a scheduling change coming up at
24:32
our high school
24:34
recently our school district uh received
24:36
from the state the test administration
24:38
details for the nj gpa it's a new
24:41
high-stakes testing graduation
24:43
requirement
24:45
for 11th graders
24:47
the state recently just identified the
24:49
week of march 14th through 18th as the
24:52
test week
24:53
in order to be able to provide the best
24:55
testing environment for all

24:57
and in order to logistically preserve
25:00
high quality instruction for students
25:01
after testing
25:02
on the aforementioned dates we will be
25:04
operating on a delayed opening schedule
25:07
at the high school only for freshmen
25:10
sophomores and seniors sorry juniors
25:12
you're in school all day
25:14
we will also be having additional state
25:16
testing known as the njsla sometime
25:19
between late april and early june
25:21
again we're looking at all options
25:23
pertaining to that test administration
25:25
and we may similarly announce a delayed
25:27
opening schedule for those dates as well
25:30
we haven't decided that yet the nj gpa
25:32
we have
25:33
you will be informed well in advance of
25:35
the testing date should that be the
25:36
decision
25:39
finally as mr weeks mentioned as we look
25:41
to improve our communication efforts uh
25:44
can my slide go up there at jeffrey now
25:48
yeah it's just one slide
25:50
as we look to improve our communication
25:51
efforts we are partnering with the
25:53
haddon township school district
25:55
communication consortium
25:57
as a first step shortly we will be
25:59
asking all stakeholders meaning
26:02
employees parents and community members

26:04
who don't have children in school to
26:06
complete an online survey regarding
26:08
district communications
26:10
after the survey data is collected a
26:12
series of focus groups will be scheduled
26:14
for all stakeholders to take a deeper
26:16
look into our district communications
26:18
and answer questions about what's
26:20
working well and what needs to improve
26:22
we will be seeking a diverse group of
26:24
stakeholders to participate in the focus
26:26
groups to be sure we're hearing from as
26:28
many people as possible
26:30
all the data gathered through surveys
26:31
and focus groups will be utilized to
26:33
draft a comprehensive communication
26:35
action plan
26:36
ultimately the plan should include
26:38
specific goals objectives and action
26:39
steps it is likely that implementation
26:42
for such a comprehensive uh plan can
26:44
take anywhere from one to three years
26:46
barring any unforeseen delay delays we
26:49
hope to release the plan to everyone
26:51
sometime in may
26:52
and finally i know i said finally twice
26:55
as mr weeks had said we are looking to
26:57
uh communicate further with the
26:59
community and shortly i'll be sending
27:01
out uh additional information about a
27:03
link on our board uh agenda page where

27:06
if you have items that you would like to
27:08
see either mr weeks or i address in
27:10
future comments uh because you're not
27:11
getting that interaction that you're who
27:13
you uh would like to have
27:15
we will do so we can't promise to answer
27:17
everyone's question all the time we will
27:19
look for general themes and take those
27:22
into account as we try to best address
27:24
your needs as community members uh that
27:26
being said um almost on two months i'm
27:28
really enjoying my time here getting to
27:30
know you again if you see me at events
27:32
please come up and and say hi
27:34
and that's my report for for today
27:38
thank you mr volpe um i think now we
27:41
will move to our next presentation which
27:43
will be the board of education ethics
27:45
training uh this is something we do on
27:47
an annual basis um we want to make sure
27:50
that um all the board members are aware
27:53
of their roles and responsibilities
27:55
understanding the ethics surrounding
27:56
those and uh we think it's important uh
27:59
even more so this year as we have three
28:01
new board members
28:03
for us to hear this and so
28:06
um i should also kind of go back to my
28:08
earlier point about this being our
28:10
basically our business meeting in public
28:13
that's why we feel it's important for

28:14
the public to understand
28:16
what it is that we are
28:18
we are
28:19
uh given in terms of our guidance on
28:21
this and i know that this is an ongoing
28:24
conversation not just a one-time
28:27
practice but this is something this is
28:29
just the main part of it so with that mr
28:32
magno
28:33
thank you mr president dylan's going to
28:35
help me with the uh
28:37
advancing slides
28:40
mr volpe had note that you passed your
28:41
first morsetown test calling it a
28:43
community house
28:44
thank you
28:47
mr volpe saw my slides earlier and he
28:49
said that they're thorough which is
28:51
usually code for too darn long
28:54
so i will endeavor to be terse
28:57
good evening as uh president weeks
29:00
mentioned this is part of required
29:02
annual training
29:04
we're going to talk tonight about the
29:05
role of the board
29:06
we're going to talk tonight about the
29:07
role of the administration we're going
29:09
to talk about what board meetings are
29:12
and we're we're going to get into what
29:14
at times can be as judge buck often says
29:18
as clear as mud

29:19
dylan if you could advance please
29:22
none of you expected that slide
29:26
what does the the great
29:28
1962 cult classic the brain that
29:31
wouldn't die have to do
29:34
with being here
29:35
and i was not in this movie
29:39
dylan if you could
29:41
that fella
29:43
was the special effects
29:45
coordinator
29:47
for the brain that wouldn't die he is
29:48
also why
29:50
folks
29:51
we are here in
29:52
public our open public meetings act is
29:55
actually called the senator byron m baer
29:58
open public meetings act
30:00
the rules when it comes to public
30:01
comment the rules when it comes to
30:03
actions of boards the rules with regard
30:05
to public notification
30:07
the rules that we have to start before 8
30:08
o'clock at night
30:10
all these kinds of things getting into
30:11
the weeds comes from what we refer to as
30:14
the atma the opma different than the
30:17
opra
30:19
the open public records act
30:22
dylan please
30:26
so from a summary folks

30:28
and the role of a board member in new
30:30
jersey is different than any other
30:31
elected office it's different than being
30:33
elected to council it's different than
30:35
being elected to the assembly to the
30:36
senate
30:39
governor
30:41
and that's because of
30:44
the goal of this board
30:48
is different than those other elected
30:50
offices
30:52
this board is the governing body of the
30:53
school district it is the executive
30:56
you all have individual voice you're
30:58
elected
31:00
you're elected from the community
31:02
you get to cast a vote
31:05
but in much of what we're going to be
31:06
talking about and much of what the
31:08
public sees
31:10
the actions that you take are part of a
31:12
collective
31:13
you're charged with high level policy
31:15
making decisions
31:17
oftentimes you actually can't take
31:19
action decision making and authority is
31:22
limited
31:24
in that you can't administer the schools
31:28
only the entity can enter into contracts
31:30
or other binding agreements dylan please
31:36
i would ask you in something to ponder

31:40
in new members receive required ethics
31:42
training through school boards in
31:43
addition to this and there are updates
31:45
as well
31:47
in your free time
31:49
think about can you ever take your hat
31:50
off
31:52
are you just board members when you're
31:54
sitting here are you just board members
31:55
when you're at committee are you just
31:57
board members
31:58
at certain times and when you're in
32:00
wegmans
32:02
when you're on the athletic field
32:05
when you're at your kids events
32:08
are you a board member are you not
32:12
those first amendments protections that
32:15
we have and rights that we have thanks
32:16
jeff
32:20
you have them
32:23
but as some of the ethics cases uh
32:25
provide you've got to be super
32:27
deliberate when it comes to
32:30
words
32:33
you're governed by a code of ethics
32:34
which we're going to talk about tonight
32:35
which is set forth here
32:37
in 18a
32:40
and i'll ask the board what's the role
32:41
of the school board member
32:43
what's your role

32:45
how would you characterize your role
32:52
thank you mark
32:54
mark's like john's still being
32:55
rhetorical i'll be polite
32:58
and listen oh and the awkward silence um
33:01
no i i think we are a policymaking board
33:04
and um
33:07
we are we also are to develop a budget
33:10
for the school board i mean those are
33:12
the two
33:13
two of the primary not exclusive roles
33:17
absolutely thank you and just select the
33:18
superintendent probably the most
33:20
important thing that you do
33:22
can i add a few more please
33:24
to be um
33:26
the communications link between the
33:28
community at large and the
33:30
administration so to foster that culture
33:32
of inclusion when it comes to
33:34
communications and to set the clear
33:37
goals and objectives for the
33:39
superintendent and to hold him
33:41
accountable in achieving same thank you
33:44
one of the ethics tenants actually
33:45
specifically says you know this
33:48
to interpret
33:50
the wishes of the community like other
33:52
elected officials and certainly
33:55
when you talk about the superintendent
33:57
how many employees does the board have

34:01
or does one employee
34:03
just one right the most important thing
34:05
you do select your superintendent
34:07
evaluate your superintendent set goals
34:09
hold accountable right communicate
34:11
it's often said that the role of the
34:12
school board member
34:14
is not to administer the schools
34:17
but to see that they are well
34:18
administered
34:21
what's the purpose of a school board
34:22
meeting
34:24
and
34:25
nick spoke to this really eloquently
34:27
before and it can be frustrating i know
34:29
to the community
34:31
because we're not
34:33
under a gold dome in trenton right it
34:35
doesn't feel like we have this formality
34:36
we're in a library
34:39
but the law requires public comment
34:42
not q a
34:44
right
34:45
what's the purpose of a school board
34:46
meeting
34:47
anybody want to chime in
34:51
uh have a meeting in public
34:54
thank you
34:56
and i would add to that to take action i
34:58
was going to say can you i think
35:01
i don't know if this is the right place

35:02
to say this but one of the things that's
35:04
been coming up when we talk about
35:05
communications is being
35:08
having a meeting in public versus being
35:10
a public meeting right and i think that
35:12
the distinctions there are kind of
35:14
important to lay out so if it's okay if
35:17
you could take a minute to do sure i
35:18
think it would be helpful and again mick
35:20
was talking about this
35:24
the open public meetings act requires
35:27
when there's a quorum
35:29
right when there's a majority of you
35:31
because there's legal effect to your
35:32
actions you got to provide notice
35:36
and
35:39
you're
35:41
present
35:42
in that quorum to do certain things
35:45
we're going to talk about the difference
35:47
between boards of
35:49
committees and boards of committee as a
35:50
whole a board like ours that has
35:52
committees as a finance and operations
35:54
committee as a policy committee has as
35:56
other committees that committee work is
35:58
not done here there's no quorum
36:00
the public's not invited
36:04
but here when you're here present you're
36:06
here to take action
36:08
and the purpose of the meeting

36:10
is so that in the open public meetings
36:13
act is to permit the public
36:16
to watch your action
36:18
to hear your action to see your action
36:20
and to offer comment that's why it's
36:22
called public comment not public q a
36:25
and that's why also the public gets two
36:26
opportunities
36:27
the first public comment is about agenda
36:29
items
36:30
hey i see
36:32
you know you've got this personnel item
36:33
i see of this business side i mean i see
36:34
you have this contract i'm gonna offer
36:36
my thoughts on it
36:37
and that's why the first public comment
36:38
is limited to that
36:40
second public comments fraud right
36:43
so it's a meeting of the board in public
36:45
which is different than
36:47
having a meeting with the public
36:49
and mick talked before about town halls
36:51
he talked about
36:53
other
36:54
types of meetings that could facilitate
36:56
a back and forth and a communication
36:59
and that of course is not to say folks
37:01
that the public can't be heard because
37:03
the public at any time can reach out to
37:05
the superintendent as
37:07
you often hear you come up and ask

37:08
questions and the response is
37:11
talk to the superintendent
37:13
talk to hr
37:15
talk to special services talk to
37:18
etc
37:19
i'm not going to go through please
37:23
these are always sneaky
37:25
um
37:27
with respect to other types of
37:29
communication channels like forums where
37:32
the community can be heard and have more
37:35
dialogue just to clarify in those
37:37
settings it's only select it's only for
37:40
leadership
37:42
or is it everyone because i know there's
37:44
quorum issues with all nine of us being
37:46
together well it's 500 over there
37:49
right five excuse me for interrupting
37:51
but a quorum is just a simple majority
37:53
so that's why those types of meetings
37:55
typically are less than five
37:58
or
37:59
right or we advertise that no action
38:01
will be taken
38:02
correct
38:04
good
38:06
thank you
38:07
i'm not going to go through folks every
38:09
single tenet of
38:11
the school ethics act there are many
38:14
and i'm going to highlight

38:16
those where we see the most ethics
38:19
complaints
38:20
the school ethics commission is charged
38:21
with hearing complaints school ethics
38:23
commission can also receive advisory
38:25
requests
38:26
would this violate with that violate
38:29
no micromanaging
38:30
this is the language of the act i will
38:32
carry out my responsibility not to
38:34
administer the schools but together with
38:35
my fellow board members to see that they
38:37
are well run we talked about this
38:39
concept here's a couple of cases one
38:41
from sussex wantage
38:43
board member violated the code when he
38:45
unilaterally visited the school and took
38:46
pictures of open windows in the middle
38:48
school and items in the board office
38:49
bathroom which
38:52
he then spoke about to reporters
38:56
no individual action
38:59
in advisory opinion board member would
39:00
violate the act by participating in an
39:02
exit interview or even merely observing
39:04
the exit interview
39:06
because he'd be
39:09
breaching the obligation to refrain from
39:11
becoming directly involved in those
39:13
day-to-day activities particularly when
39:15
it comes to personnel you'll see on the

39:16
agenda superintendent recommends
39:20
it goes directly to this
39:22
in that the state department of ed
39:24
charges the superintendent
39:25
through his certification through his
39:27
licensure with certain responsibility
39:29
and has certain training to make certain
39:31
recommendations and to ensure
39:33
by way of
39:35
roll-up certification
39:37
and expertise
39:38
to ensure that hr did what it was
39:40
supposed to do to ensure that curriculum
39:43
is done what it's supposed to be to
39:44
ensure that the business office has done
39:46
what it's supposed to do so that you can
39:48
rely upon those representations jill did
39:50
you have a comment question i had a
39:52
question but please not to interrupt you
39:53
please
39:54
um so those are great examples of things
39:57
that are truly clearly operational and a
40:00
board member micromanaging and stepping
40:02
into the shoes of the superintendent or
40:04
the administration
40:06
but i would like um clarification and
40:08
maybe your point of view on a
40:12
principle that was often discussed
40:14
at the community level and at the board
40:16
table over the last 18 to 24 months with
40:19
the pandemic there was a lot of churn

40:21
around the distinction between policy
40:24
which is clearly a board responsibility
40:26
and operations which is of course the
40:28
responsibility of the superintendent and
40:30
administration would you mind just
40:32
speaking to that a little bit and
40:33
clarifying for me
40:35
how you see that split of
40:36
responsibilities thank you for the
40:38
courtesy of that question had the last
40:39
18 to 24 months been
40:42
charged
40:44
the last 18 to 24 months have been the
40:47
the greatest study and difficulty in
40:50
public education that hopefully we will
40:52
never see
40:56
the board
41:00
absent policy action
41:03
would not have
41:05
technically legally
41:07
a voice on going from six feet to three
41:08
feet
41:11
the board
41:14
the mandate goes away
41:17
absent policy action the board would not
41:20
be taking action
41:22
would not be required to take action
41:25
to say mass or no masses
41:27
when we talk policy we're talking
41:29
uppercase p
41:30
and we got up the bylaws and then the

41:32
1000 and the 2000 3000 etc
41:35
this board elected with the
41:37
recommendation the prior superintendent
41:39
to take specific policy action
41:42
you know this
41:45
and there were certain appendices
41:47
that included certain protocols
41:50
that's an example of policy action this
41:52
board elected to do that and that put
41:55
those protocols directly in front of the
41:56
board
41:58
to consider to analyze to discuss
42:01
debate take action
42:03
i will tell you there were districts
42:05
that did not
42:07
there was a determination made here
42:10
going back now a year and a half ago or
42:11
so
42:14
that
42:15
since certain law referred to
42:18
action being taken by boards
42:21
that policy action would be taken
42:22
strauss esme our policy
42:24
uh
42:25
depository provides recommendations to
42:28
us as well recommended it that's an
42:29
example
42:30
of policy
42:33
operations
42:34
what what time does the building open
42:36
and close

42:38
what does the schedule look like
42:40
what days are we going to be in session
42:42
or not oftentimes that's not
42:45
a board conversation now we've had them
42:48
here because the board approves a
42:49
calendar right
42:53
but oftentimes and i think we could be
42:54
guided by when we talk about policy
42:56
uppercase page certainly those things
42:58
that are in written policy
43:01
are up to the board
43:03
if they're not even if they're in a
43:05
regulation
43:07
they're not up for board action
43:10
thank you for your question
43:12
i'm like a little hung up let me double
43:14
click on one area so the the required
43:18
in the beginning of what you said you
43:19
talked about um
43:21
some schools did and some schools didn't
43:23
get involved for example in 653 63 feet
43:27
so this idea of is it
43:30
you know the board is not
43:32
required but can they get involved can
43:35
you clarify that a little bit because
43:37
you you you
43:38
i was just using that as an example yeah
43:40
no so not 63 pick something else this
43:43
idea of so what board is required versus
43:46
can
43:47
how about versus going too far and

43:49
getting involved in operations does that
43:50
make sense the spectrum sure it would be
43:53
too far
43:55
we changed here
43:57
at the middle school
43:58
the dismissal flow
44:01
i don't know if anybody if anybody has
44:03
any opinions on that
44:06
my kids are long past that
44:09
right
44:11
for the board to say
44:13
hey you know what we really ought to be
44:15
going east to west not west to east and
44:17
also we closed off this lane right
44:20
that's too far
44:22
that's operational
44:24
i understand that the wrestlers used to
44:26
meet in this room and now they're
44:27
meeting in that room
44:29
i understand that the spring musical is
44:31
being offered on this weekend it used to
44:33
be on that weekend
44:35
i understand
44:36
i mean this is even talking about
44:37
personnel we've assigned this individual
44:39
to teach this level of chemistry i
44:42
really think that she's better suited to
44:44
biology
44:45
that's too far
44:50
real life example so when you're talking
44:52
about operationalizing or implementing

44:55
recommendations from for example a state
44:57
agency like the department of health is
44:59
that considered policy or operations
45:05
i would respond by saying why and how
45:07
and when
45:10
well
45:11
it it when i say why why are we having
45:14
the conversation is it about an agenda
45:15
item
45:17
how is it here is it at a committee
45:18
level and and when right
45:21
is it right to have that conversation or
45:22
not i am going to talk about
45:25
we'll get to it about the nine o'clock
45:27
hour
45:29
i uh thank you i am going to get to this
45:32
conversation of a standard of care
45:35
and you know we've got a surplus of
45:36
lawyers on the board they can talk about
45:38
standard of care
45:40
but a lot of that gets to the standard
45:41
of care
45:42
right we've got no option with the masks
45:45
after march 7 we do
45:48
we've got no options right now when we
45:49
talk about contact tracing we hear
45:51
there's going to be more coming we've
45:52
heard before there's going to be more
45:53
coming
45:55
what's the standard of care who do we
45:57
look to and why how are we going to make

45:59
that decision so i i will get to that
46:02
thank you
46:03
i will confine my board action to policy
46:05
making planning and appraisal i will
46:06
help frame policies and plans only after
46:08
the board has consulted those who will
46:10
be affected by them
46:12
and and that is discerned in the
46:13
community that's also discerned through
46:15
the administration
46:18
i'll skip these cases mindful of our
46:20
time
46:22
what information may a school board
46:23
member set access you may access the
46:25
information that you need to make a
46:27
decision
46:28
we've talked about this with hiv matters
46:30
we've talked about this with discipline
46:31
matters we've talked about this with
46:32
personnel
46:37
there are some districts where i have
46:39
heard conversations about we want to see
46:41
personnel files before we make a
46:43
decision about a new hire
46:46
that is not this board
46:48
but what level information of
46:50
information is needed to take the action
46:53
there are limits and they're reasonable
46:54
limits that's the point
46:58
skip through some of these slides folks
47:02
the board of the whole is different than

47:04
a board by committee
47:08
as
47:09
you might guess
47:10
a board by committee operates by
47:11
committees that do not sit here
47:14
and have their conversations in public
47:16
they also don't have a quorum there are
47:18
three or four members that meet
47:20
periodically and the public hears
47:22
reports the public hears summaries
47:24
they're often here very detailed
47:27
stepping through those minutes
47:31
facilities is going to consider policies
47:33
going to consider that's different than
47:35
a board of the whole
47:38
where a board meets publicly and has all
47:41
those conversations and presentations
47:44
wrestles with decisions publicly
47:47
and it's an important difference
47:49
because the level of conversation is
47:50
different the level of questioning is
47:53
different
47:54
there's a certain element of trust
47:56
placed by the board in making that
47:58
governance decision
48:00
to operate by committee
48:02
that
48:03
his or her colleagues
48:05
are having appropriate conversations are
48:07
considering the the right information
48:09
and that when those recommendations come

48:10
forward you can rely upon them
48:13
our policy here says
48:15
committees are authorized are board
48:17
members rubber stamping personnel and
48:18
other recommendations
48:21
i think that folks in the public may
48:24
think that there's rubber stamping at
48:25
times when questions aren't asked and
48:27
please know
48:30
that there is a tremendous amount it's
48:32
like
48:33
it's like the iceberg
48:34
there's a tremendous amount of action
48:36
that happens behind the scenes at the
48:37
committee level which can be hours and
48:39
hours and hours
48:41
and discussion and executive session and
48:42
preparation of agendas before
48:45
folks come out here board members are
48:47
not rubber stamping personnel and other
48:49
recommendations
48:51
board members do have a responsibility
48:54
to follow recommendation unless
48:58
you conclude it's arbitrary
49:00
unless you conclude the process
49:03
there's a comment before about patterns
49:08
unless you conclude that the right
49:09
questions weren't asked unless you
49:10
conclude that the process is flawed
49:12
unless you keep hearing certain issues
49:14
right i will vote to appoint the best

49:17
qualified personnel available
49:20
after considering the recommendation of
49:21
the chief administrative officer that's
49:23
just required by law
49:27
and a couple of examples
49:32
central regional
49:33
board members didn't violate the code
49:35
when they voted not to reappoint an
49:36
employee to reform a position despite
49:38
the contrary recommendation because
49:40
it gets to that why why why did they
49:42
vote against
49:43
well because
49:47
they knew the prior experience because
49:49
they knew the qualifications of other
49:51
folks who had applied
49:56
i will support and protect school
49:57
personnel in the proper performance of
49:59
their duties this can be involved folks
50:03
public employees have more protections
50:05
under law
50:06
than private sector employees do
50:10
and board members are charged to be
50:11
sensitive to
50:14
those rights
50:17
to report concerns to the superintendent
50:19
the board president and make sure that
50:20
an administrative process happens
50:23
to chase down concerns
50:25
certainly not to bring up concerns here
50:26
this is why

50:28
rice notices have to be issued and if
50:30
employees can be discussed this is why
50:31
personnel discussions happen in exec
50:35
and a couple of examples here
50:37
really difficult examples
50:41
hillsboro
50:42
famous community
50:45
board member violated the code when he
50:46
sent an email to the superintendent
50:49
also sent to the ba and all other board
50:50
members that was threatening and
50:51
intimidating
50:53
putting the superintendent on the spot
50:54
to provide an accounting and personal
50:56
leave
50:59
so
51:00
when the when the law says support
51:03
district personnel it's all district
51:04
personnel
51:14
come on
51:18
maybe i'll just do this trick
51:20
oh it went
51:24
look at this
51:25
president of the board violated the code
51:27
by posting the following comments on his
51:28
facebook page and a link to a picture of
51:30
the superintendent now if we could only
51:32
do something about our local terrorists
51:34
that destroy dreams and burn futures
51:39
don't do that
51:44
is the role of the board president

51:45
different it is
51:47
you self-govern
51:49
you're one of nine
51:51
the chair has certain additional
51:53
responsibilities
51:55
certain additional roles
51:57
listed here presiding
52:00
directing the board secretary during
52:02
meetings taking certain specific legal
52:04
action the only individual who's
52:05
authorized to speak on behalf of the
52:08
board of education is the super is the
52:10
board president
52:12
appoints committees
52:14
serves as a member of committees
52:18
each one he has a right to go
52:22
what happens after a split vote is the
52:24
issue decided
52:27
right it's a democracy
52:29
i have a right to my opinion i've right
52:30
to keep bringing it up right
52:34
yes and no
52:37
the sec here said
52:40
in the context of a dispute over
52:42
contract
52:43
once the issue is decided once the vote
52:46
is cast
52:47
that's it
52:50
if it's a budget issue it comes up
52:51
annually
52:54
if it's a programming issue it could be

52:55
brought up at another time
52:58
if it's a single issue comes up once and
53:00
goes you have a right to speak your mind
53:03
you have a right to ask questions on the
53:04
vote and you have a right to cast your
53:06
vote
53:08
once the vote is cast and tallied
53:10
whether it goes up or down
53:12
that's it
53:16
here's jill's very important question
53:19
nj'sa
53:21
the law njac regulation executive orders
53:25
i'll stop right there
53:28
are they binding on school boards or may
53:30
the board exercise discretion
53:32
let me stop right there
53:39
you say this when you're sworn in
53:42
i will uphold and enforce all laws rules
53:44
and regulations of the state board
53:47
desired change shall be brought about
53:49
only through legal and ethical
53:50
procedures
53:52
and there's been a tremendous amount of
53:53
conversation
53:55
about covet guidance coveted
53:57
recommendations
54:01
executive orders
54:02
are have effective law right
54:06
regulations
54:08
rules of the state board go back here
54:11
all of this

54:12
ain't discretionary
54:14
but then when we come over to here this
54:17
is where the hand ringing comes
54:20
six feet three feet ten days five days
54:24
how we contact trace how we don't
54:26
what is going to happen when the mass
54:28
come off
54:30
students are circulating more
54:32
differently
54:34
are we bound to follow guidance
54:37
i think there's two answers
54:39
the federal money had strings attached
54:41
to it
54:43
you know this
54:44
compelled the board to follow certain
54:46
guidance and recommendations
54:50
once we get past that folks
54:53
the rest of this guidance
54:54
is guidance
54:59
i have some questions oh sorry yeah let
55:02
me let me let me uh let me let me finish
55:04
my thought and then we'll talk about it
55:06
and then we get to this
55:08
how does the school district determine
55:09
the standard of care
55:11
because that's the legal issue
55:13
and we have conversations
55:16
regularly about this
55:17
some standard of care is obvious right
55:20
standard of care
55:22
the responsibility we have to one

55:23
another the responsibility the district
55:25
has to make sure this room is safe the
55:26
responsibility we have to make sure our
55:28
buses are safe
55:29
responsibility we have to make sure our
55:31
classrooms are safe
55:33
a reasonable standard of care
55:38
i was thinking about this today
55:41
covid hit
55:43
us domestically march of 20.
55:46
we fast forward to march of 21 we knew a
55:48
whole hell of a lot more about covid
55:50
than we did in march of 20.
55:52
march 22 we're going to know a lot more
55:57
if you remember back to march of 20
56:00
there were folks that were taking their
56:01
mail and putting it in their garage and
56:03
letting it cool out for days
56:07
there were folks that were using
56:08
antiseptic wipes and wiping everything
56:10
down remember those days
56:12
look back now
56:14
it's unnecessary
56:17
our understanding of what's needed and
56:19
what's necessary has evolved
56:21
this has evolved
56:24
and i come back to my answer before
56:29
it's super important for any entity to
56:31
ask the question
56:34
of why are we following or why are we
56:36
disregarding

56:38
and if we're disregarding how are we
56:39
disregarding
56:42
are we disregarding certain
56:44
recommendation
56:45
because
56:47
50 of the school districts in this
56:49
county are also
56:50
because the state department of ed has
56:52
said this is not binding because we're
56:54
green or yellow
56:56
because case rates are down because
56:58
vaccination rates and booster rates are
57:01
from a percentage standpoint where where
57:02
they are we're social distancing in the
57:04
way we are
57:06
or are we disregarding if we're
57:08
disregarding because we don't like it
57:11
because certain sources say it doesn't
57:13
have substance
57:14
the standard of care with something like
57:16
this evolves
57:20
in this i think is the conversation when
57:22
we talk about recommendations we talk
57:23
about guidance
57:24
because the potential legal exposure is
57:27
it's disregarded there's an outbreak
57:29
someone gets sick and there's legal
57:30
claim
57:32
and then we get into those things the
57:33
lawyers on the board could talk about
57:34
what's foreseeable what's reasonable

57:36
what's not
57:40
if
57:41
and proving causation with an infectious
57:44
disease you know is tough right where
57:46
and how
57:48
but if it can be proven
57:50
then boards have to be able to answer
57:51
the question why did we not do these
57:52
things
57:53
jill please i'm i'm done
57:55
oh no that was really helpful um you
57:57
clarified a couple things for me but i
57:59
have one very specific question and then
58:02
one like fuzzier question with a comment
58:04
so the very specific question
58:06
is with regard to the federal funding
58:09
and the strings that are attached are
58:11
those strings attached to us following
58:14
laws regulations and executive orders
58:17
which have the net effect of a law as
58:19
you mentioned
58:20
or are they also ticked and tied to
58:23
following uh recommendations in the
58:25
public health guidance like the cdc and
58:28
new jersey department of health
58:31
certainly the former and also the latter
58:34
to a certain extent i think though that
58:37
that
58:38
that conversation of what the strings
58:40
are and when they uh applied and
58:43
attached

58:44
were getting passed
58:46
you know those coveted relief dollars
58:48
have been received and allocated and
58:50
spent
58:51
uh and that conversation in that
58:52
analysis goes back
58:54
a year
58:56
not so much now
58:58
okay yeah that's helpful but i guess my
59:00
like my fuzziier comment slash question
59:02
is just
59:03
i find it hard to believe that
59:05
the state agencies intend for us to
59:08
adopt all of the recommendations
59:10
outlined in a public health guidance
59:12
because it says in the guidance itself
59:15
these are recommendations and even in
59:17
like the faqs and things they say you
59:20
should adopt what makes sense there's no
59:22
one-size-fits-all approach adopt what
59:25
makes sense based on your local
59:27
circumstances for example vaccination
59:29
rate you know community transmission in
59:32
school transmission have we had an
59:33
outbreak no so i would just think that
59:36
we could um you know fulfill our ethical
59:38
responsibilities and exercise our
59:40
standard of care a reasonable standard
59:43
of care
59:44
but still take a more pragmatic approach
59:46
to um whether or not we're going to

59:49
implement as policy every recommendation
59:51
that comes from a state agency and i'd
59:54
actually ask
59:55
my second part is
59:56
you know i'm very focused right now on
59:58
the coveted guidance but this is
60:00
applicable to all of the guidance coming
60:02
from state agencies that impacts um mtps
60:06
so can you speak a little beyond covid
60:09
if you will because like like we've all
60:11
agreed we're turning a corner sure
60:15
what what's the
60:17
what's the heat indicator called
60:19
the wet ball the wet
60:21
what's called
60:22
james going to know
60:25
james now what's up of course james
60:29
there are certain days it's recommended
60:30
that our football players not take the
60:32
field in august
60:34
do they or do they not
60:38
and and that's one indicator of what's
60:40
recommended or not right
60:42
i mean
60:44
we could talk about recommendations all
60:45
day long we could talk about how many
60:46
people are allowed to be in a place we
60:47
could talk about how many people get in
60:49
an elevator
60:51
we could talk about certain stressors on
60:54
certain facilities right

60:56
i think those are other examples and
60:58
what do we do
61:00
in interpreting that we look to folks
61:02
that can make facilities recommendations
61:04
we look to folks who can make security
61:06
recommendations when it comes to our
61:07
internet
61:09
we look to folks who can make
61:10
sophisticated uh recommendations when it
61:12
comes to you know curriculum learning
61:14
accommodation all those kinds of things
61:15
right
61:16
i digress
61:18
let me uh move this along folks because
61:20
i'm mindful of our time and i would just
61:22
sit here and talk about this all night
61:24
john i'm sorry just one
61:26
i just want to clarify one thing please
61:28
what i heard as
61:30
get past
61:31
the strings attached to the federal
61:33
dollars was spending the money
61:36
is that
61:37
is that
61:39
accurate because i feel like that's
61:40
gonna hurt if the board has a specific
61:42
question about the federal dollars
61:44
received and and what strings were
61:46
attached what i would suggest is that
61:48
james and i answer that question
61:49
specifically and we're happy to do that

61:52
and then the second thing was
61:54
i guess i'm having a little bit of a
61:55
harder time
61:57
okay
62:02
please
62:07
sir
62:08
please don't interrupt
62:10
this is not this is not
62:13
it's not the public comment time
62:15
thanks bill thank you
62:18
um and just with standard of care i know
62:22
you know obviously in the medical field
62:23
it has a very specific right definition
62:26
it's evidence-based it's data-driven
62:29
it's prevailing trends in the community
62:32
so
62:32
is that standard of care length is that
62:34
definition anywhere that we can
62:36
reference i think that well
62:40
standard of care is a legal concept that
62:41
we apply to different circumstances as
62:43
to the responsibilities between people
62:46
right there's a standard of care when
62:47
you leave tonight you get in your car
62:49
and you file the speed limit
62:50
there's a standard of care if there's
62:52
ice in the morning whether or not mike's
62:54
gonna let the buses run uh or or what we
62:56
do with the sidewalks right so when we
62:58
talk about standard of care and an
62:59
evolving standard of

63:00
care you know educators often talk about
63:03
change in education taking decades
63:07
covid required change
63:10
overnight
63:12
so interpreting what that standard of
63:15
carry is and what responsibility there
63:17
is to safeguard one another has taken
63:19
time
63:20
so can we look to 18a can we look to 6a
63:23
can we look to uh an executive order to
63:26
say these are all the things that factor
63:28
into the standard of care what i would
63:29
suggest is they all do
63:31
the question becomes
63:33
just does jill noted
63:35
does it require every single
63:36
recommendation
63:38
and i think the answer is no it doesn't
63:41
but discerning which and when and how is
63:43
why we have to answer the question of
63:45
why did we accept these and disregard
63:47
those
63:49
thank you
63:52
i will recognize that authority rests
63:53
with the board and will make no personal
63:55
promise nor take any private action to
63:56
compromise the board that's obvious what
63:59
it means
64:08
similarly i'll refuse to surrender
64:10
independent judgment to special
64:11
interests or partisan political groups

64:13
use the schools for personal gain
64:16
or for the gain of friends
64:18
there's a reason why
64:20
board office
64:22
is nonpartisan
64:25
and this gets to that
64:30
what board information is confidential
64:33
folks everything is confidential except
64:34
for what's in that agenda and what's
64:36
discussed at a public meeting frankly
64:38
certainly personnel certainly student
64:40
information hiv the kinds of things that
64:42
happen in exec
64:43
are confidential and remain confidential
64:51
we talked about this with regard to
64:53
another tenant may a board member
64:55
investigate a community concern the
64:57
answer is yes but not individually
65:01
interpreting the wishes and questions
65:04
of the community a community member asks
65:06
a question
65:08
that can be referred to the
65:08
administration for answers
65:13
specifically i will refer all complaints
65:15
to the chief administrative officer and
65:16
will act on the complaints at public
65:17
meetings only after failure of an
65:19
administrative solution
65:21
i kind of gets to the no surprise rule
65:24
certain individuals also have certain
65:26
contractual protections that complaints

65:28
have to be brought to their attention
65:34
volunteering i'm i'm gonna wrap up
65:39
your role changes when you go from
65:42
parent in the community member of the
65:43
community
65:46
to being on the board and then having
65:48
ultimate executive authority over all
65:50
employees of the district
65:52
and the sec speaks to that
65:54
the sec
65:56
encourages
65:58
and this often cuts folks because you
66:00
look at a community who's most involved
66:03
who's involved in home and school who's
66:04
involved in
66:06
sports who's involved in other things
66:08
oftentimes it's the folks who run for
66:09
the board
66:12
but the the sec recognizes that when
66:14
you're part of this executive you also
66:16
can't and there's a an advisory opinion
66:18
here
66:19
you can also
66:21
co-direct a play
66:24
where you're subject to the direction of
66:26
a teacher and a building principal who
66:27
is subject to the direction the
66:29
superintendent who's subject to your
66:30
direction
66:32
volunteering has to be one-offs
66:34
has to be here and there taking tickets

66:36
raising money
66:38
not directing employees that's what
66:40
these say
66:43
thank you for your time and thank you
66:44
for your great questions i just make i
66:46
just want to make one comment um
66:49
and thank you thank you for the
66:50
presentation um
66:52
but
66:53
the issue
66:55
with respect to
66:57
decisions that the school board
67:01
made
67:03
during the pandemic was required to make
67:08
or was strongly suggested to make was
67:11
somehow tied to money
67:14
i've heard
67:15
you know
67:16
i've heard
67:18
discussion about that like and seen it
67:20
on facebook i have never
67:22
seen anything
67:24
to suggest
67:26
that our decisions were tied to money
67:29
that was being given by the federal
67:31
government or state government if in
67:33
fact that's true and i'm not dispute i'm
67:35
not saying that that's not true if it
67:37
were true
67:38
i didn't know about it and anything that
67:40
i did

67:41
because if it were true
67:43
that
67:44
absolutely would have impacted how
67:46
strongly i would have advocated against
67:49
masking our kids forcing our staff to
67:52
get vaccinated
67:53
having quarantine periods based on
67:55
whether you're vaccinated or boosted or
67:57
any of this other stuff
67:59
so i take exception
68:01
to that
68:02
statement as having an impact
68:05
on individual board members in the
68:07
decisions that we made i don't know if
68:09
you were trying to infer that
68:12
but it certainly did not play any role
68:15
in any decision that i made
68:18
so let me clarify
68:20
and i certainly did not
68:23
intend to say
68:26
that board member decisions were
68:28
motivated by federal dollars
68:30
i was commenting on the federal dollars
68:31
as it related to what's required and
68:33
what's not
68:36
period i was speaking to
68:39
votes
68:41
and our conversations about appendices
68:44
and protocols
68:46
as
68:48
because the board took policy action

68:50
the board was able to take policy action
68:52
specifically as it related to cover
68:54
protocols
68:56
because it was set forth in policy
68:57
that's all separate concepts
68:59
this board and let me be super clear to
69:01
the to the public this board did not
69:03
take action
69:05
at esser one and that's your two funds
69:08
sir correct or no
69:10
[Music]
69:12
no it is the time mick
69:14
sr1 and sr2 funds were received
69:17
i'm almost a million dollars right like
69:19
eight hundred thousand for s or two so
69:21
no answer the question
69:23
no he's not going to speak to it this is
69:25
that let's measure the process
69:28
you listen this is not
69:31
this is not the process
69:36
sir
69:37
sir
69:38
this is not the process
69:42
please
69:42
please answer your question
69:45
sir if you're going to continue to
69:46
interrupt the meeting we're going to
69:47
have to ask you to leave
69:49
bill
69:51
and bill we are happy to
69:54
take your question

69:57
bill bill phil bill bill let's be
70:00
reasonable
70:01
you can come to me ask me this question
70:03
after the meeting you can talk to mr
70:05
volpe
70:07
hang on hang on this is not the time
70:09
this is not the proper process
70:11
i have an ethical responsibility you
70:13
just saw to follow the process i am
70:15
managing this meeting the way it's
70:17
supposed to be managed and i will
70:18
continue to do that follow my ethical
70:20
responsibility
70:22
thank you
70:28
so did you have anything else to say to
70:31
mr villanueva
70:33
okay that concludes the presentation
70:38
okay
70:40
so uh was there anything else under
70:42
superintendent's remarks
70:44
okay thank you we've already done
70:46
student uh board representatives we are
70:48
now going to move to board committee
70:50
reports
70:51
um who would like to start with the
70:53
board reports okay please sandra with
70:55
communication
71:01
i'm sorry i'm sorry that's why i asked
71:02
if you're doing superintendent budget
71:04
update okay
71:07
thank you mr weeks

71:09
uh
71:10
so the board members some of this
71:12
information was communicated through
71:14
brass tax as well as uh included within
71:18
mr villanueva's uh update with our
71:21
recent finance and operations committee
71:23
uh all of our department building level
71:26
budgets have been compiled and combined
71:28
into our district level budget after we
71:31
did so we were approximately 7.6 million
71:34
dollars over cap
71:36
as of today the budget's now down to 5.4
71:39
million dollars over cap
71:41
the reductions that have been made so
71:43
far to balance uh the budget and to uh
71:47
add in to that uh reduction from the 7.6
71:51
to the 5.4
71:53
are in the following areas uh capital
71:55
outlay we reduced approximately 1.163
72:00
million out of our capital outlay
72:02
request the largest item there is about
72:05
a million dollars to resurface the
72:07
tennis courts that's an item that's been
72:09
routinely included in the budget and cut
72:12
through that process of balancing the
72:14
budget uh
72:16
new personnel the cuts that we've had to
72:18
new personnel requests have amounted to
72:21
approximately four hundred and fifteen
72:23
thousand dollars
72:25
we've had lease purchase reductions

72:28
uh in the amount of seven hundred and
72:30
fifty thousand in overall requests our
72:33
lease purchase is over a five-year span
72:36
so that amounted to roughly 150 000 in
72:41
reductions
72:42
to our lease purchase lines in the
72:44
budget
72:46
our department and school level
72:48
reductions
72:49
principals and department heads have
72:51
been requested to reduce
72:53
new requests out of their budgets
72:56
and prioritize their new request
72:58
those cuts have resulted in
73:00
approximately 330 000 in reductions uh
73:04
our individual departments and schools
73:05
are still evaluating uh their individual
73:08
budgets so we'll continue that process
73:10
over the next days and uh next two weeks
73:12
to come
73:13
uh key dates moving forward
73:16
just yesterday uh i believe it was late
73:19
last night actually uh the governor's
73:22
budget address was originally scheduled
73:24
for february 22nd that has been moved to
73:28
march 8th
73:29
we're awaiting additional guidance on
73:31
that we're hoping that something comes
73:32
out
73:33
for estimated state aid numbers
73:36
because march 8 is a very very late

73:40
date to get our school aid numbers so
73:43
hopefully we'll have more on that i will
73:45
communicate that out to the full board
73:46
once we know more
73:48
the week of february 21st
73:51
we'll have a release on our insurance
73:53
premium increases that's for both our
73:56
health insurance as well as our general
73:59
lines of insurance right now i have a
74:01
five percent increase built into the
74:03
budget but we're hoping that that
74:05
obviously is less than that five percent
74:08
and that will add to uh balance in the
74:10
budget
74:11
between march first and march 8th i'll
74:13
be in communication with mr weeks on a
74:16
board budget workshop as well as mr
74:18
villanueva
74:19
for our our annual board budget workshop
74:22
where we'll go into greater detail on
74:24
the budget
74:26
march 15th is our scheduled budget
74:28
introduction
74:29
march 21st the budget's due to the
74:32
county and obviously you can see how
74:34
that march 8th date is really late in
74:37
all of this
74:39
april 20th is our last day to advertise
74:42
the budget for
74:44
uh formal adoption and then april 26th
74:48
is our board meeting of which we will

74:50
adopt
74:51
the 2223
74:54
budget you thank you mr board secretary
74:58
okay does that conclude
75:00
that concludes the superintendent's
75:02
monthly report okay thank you um okay
75:05
let's move on to board committee reports
75:08
i believe dr alberti so this is ready to
75:10
go uh i'm here to present the
75:12
communications committee meeting and
75:14
happy to say much of it has already been
75:16
moved forward since we talked about it
75:18
in committee on january 26th president
75:21
at the meeting was mr volpe dr tate
75:24
myself
75:25
mcleaks jill uh false macaluso and
75:28
melissa arcaro burns um and we also had
75:30
guests um
75:32
lori perlow who works at the haddon
75:34
township communications consortium
75:37
we talked first about generally what we
75:40
hoped for as as a committee and
75:42
launching goals and expectations we
75:44
talked about the revised covid dashboard
75:46
and the daily clovid email that is uh
75:49
now in place that we've transitioned to
75:51
refer folks uh
75:53
to the dashboard rather than every day
75:55
getting the email there's now a link to
75:57
get to the dashboard um we talked about
76:00
the ideas behind that that we still want

76:02
to be transparent we still want the
76:04
information there uh and that there is
76:07
um
76:08
that it's it's not to hide any
76:10
information but to make uh more
76:12
efficient and understandable the
76:14
information that we have there and uh we
76:16
will hope that the community finds that
76:18
to be helpful as well we then spent time
76:21
uh going over what ended up being mr
76:22
wilby's slide there about the
76:24
communications
76:25
um process and how we are going to
76:28
engage with haddon township
76:30
communications consortium
76:32
i think we've all uh
76:34
lived into this need for improved
76:36
communications and this is just one very
76:38
structured way to do that one of the
76:40
things that is true of the survey that
76:42
we'll engage in is that it is developed
76:44
by a third party so that we can norm and
76:46
compare our results to what other
76:48
districts other communities are doing uh
76:51
as a way to to learn it's another
76:53
benefit of being part of a consortium
76:55
in that as well
76:57
but it does limit us in
76:59
uh
77:00
customizing the survey to the morristown
77:02
community and so we have um interest in

77:05
timing and length of that survey so that
77:07
hopefully as many people as possible
77:09
will participate so that we can get a
77:12
good sense of uh the needs for that in
77:14
addition to the survey
77:16
um the consortium
77:18
is able to help us with media relations
77:20
branding work crisis communications pr
77:23
marketing all of those things which we
77:26
haven't um had a communications person
77:28
like on staff at in morristown and so
77:30
this was a very economical way to get
77:33
some really important expertise uh as we
77:36
move forward
77:37
um we also talked at the communications
77:40
committee about the public comment
77:41
submissions and and did some
77:43
brainstorming about
77:45
good effective ways to do that and again
77:47
it was announced by both um mr weeks and
77:50
mr volpe that that's something that we
77:52
look forward to doing and monitoring
77:55
its effectiveness going forward
77:57
and then we also talked a bit about um
78:00
mr obi's interest in hosting town halls
78:02
and how we might um support that work
78:05
going forward
78:06
how we engage the community who you know
78:09
sits in those panels and that kind of
78:10
thing
78:11
and i think that's something that we

78:12
will
78:13
continue to you know roll out as another
78:16
opportunity for engagement going forward
78:19
any questions
78:21
i have a few questions about the um
78:24
the the new public comment
78:28
uh website um
78:30
i'm not sure if i'm phrasing it the
78:32
right way but i wasn't aware that it was
78:33
being rolled out
78:34
um
78:36
until just
78:37
or you know i guess at seven o'clock so
78:40
um
78:41
is that
78:42
is who's responding to
78:45
that public comment
78:48
website i mean is that is that a board
78:51
communication platform or an
78:54
administration communication platform
78:57
here's in i don't want to over emphasize
79:00
what it is what we'll be doing is we'll
79:02
be setting up a link like a google form
79:04
that people can access when they go to
79:05
check out the board agendas or the
79:07
minutes or anything like that and
79:09
they'll have an opportunity to put in
79:10
things that they would like to see
79:12
spoken about or a specific question uh
79:14
it'll go to james in his role as board
79:16
secretary and then james can forward

79:19
that to both mick and myself and it will
79:20
help craft our our uh superintendent's
79:24
remarks and our president's remarks so i
79:26
want to be very clear about that you may
79:28
ask a question and it may not be
79:30
something that we specifically address
79:32
but if we start to see patterns of
79:34
questions like things that we're unaware
79:35
of uh mr weeks and i can go back and
79:38
forth and say hey do you want to address
79:39
this in yours or should i it seems to be
79:41
a community need seven people have
79:43
outreached out to ask us to address that
79:45
and it's not something we've addressed
79:47
so it's not going to be a specific back
79:48
and forth it will end up going to james
79:50
in his role as board secretary and then
79:52
mick and i can craft things around that
79:54
okay so i guess it's not
79:56
it's not really a public comment yeah
79:58
yeah it's not like this is in lieu of
80:01
correct public comments is this is sort
80:03
of a repository of
80:06
questions comments concerns and i i will
80:09
certainly make that clear that it's not
80:10
in lieu of public comments
80:12
anybody who submits uh question comment
80:15
or concern through the website is still
80:17
welcome to come to a meeting and give
80:19
additional actual public comments this
80:21
is like some guiding some guiding ideas

80:23
to help form our communications got it
80:25
and that's really
80:29
[Music]
80:30
um make sure that this is not linked to
80:33
the comment this is just another
80:34
opportunity to communicate with the
80:36
board and superintendent but that this
80:39
is
80:40
very distinct
80:42
that's all i was going to say that it's
80:43
another avenue to
80:45
because public comment is not a q a
80:48
session this is a vehicle for the
80:51
community members at large to
80:53
like mike said feedback concerns
80:56
questions and then at least as i
80:57
understand it mike during your
80:59
superintendent's remarks you will
81:01
thematically address
81:03
some of those areas sure like like i
81:05
said i can't guarantee to everybody who
81:07
responds that i will address every
81:08
single but especially if i see themes
81:10
and patterns um if it wasn't something i
81:12
was going to address i feel it's my
81:14
obligation to address that if it's a
81:15
pressing community concern so maybe for
81:17
purposes of clarity we should brand it
81:19
very um clearly um when we launch
81:22
and not use we will not be called public
81:24
comments it will not be called public

81:26
comment when it's all said now yeah and
81:28
just just to add to that um you know the
81:31
thinking around this was you know as as
81:33
everybody just saw who who made it
81:36
through the excellent presentation that
81:38
mr magno made um
81:42
i enjoyed it actually um
81:44
we have you know pre-set guidelines that
81:48
we have to follow so this is a way to
81:50
try to look at those guidelines and find
81:52
ways as i said in my opening remarks we
81:54
want to have this dialogue we want
81:56
communication we want understanding um
81:58
so you know what happens sometimes is
82:00
people may comment they they may have
82:02
that comment before they come
82:03
um and so if they do please send it to
82:06
us
82:07
and and then we'll use you know all the
82:09
tools we have one of them may be to
82:11
speak to it in either the president to
82:13
the superintendent's remarks one of them
82:14
may be to reach out to that person
82:16
directly absolutely right uh you know so
82:18
this is just we want the public to be
82:20
aware that there are ways to communicate
82:22
with us there's a process
82:24
um and and since we're on the topic let
82:27
me address you know again what is going
82:30
on here um
82:31
this works when we follow the processes

82:35
and we need to do that and we want to
82:37
make sure that we are open and
82:39
accessible
82:40
but within the parameters
82:42
with which you know we conduct these
82:44
meetings
82:45
so
82:46
you know we will have public comment in
82:48
a few moments
82:49
we hope people understand what public
82:51
comment is about but that is not the
82:53
only way to voice your concerns to
82:55
express
82:56
your questions and to get responses from
82:59
us if you want the responses please
83:01
follow the processes we are more than
83:03
happy to engage in those processes and
83:05
and follow through with you
83:07
okay
83:08
so hopefully mr villanueva don't want to
83:11
get too far from your question uh that
83:13
that speaks to it
83:14
yeah yeah it did i mean and we don't
83:16
need to talk about here i have some
83:18
thoughts about it that we can talk about
83:21
okay well yeah i don't want to burden
83:23
the record any more than that
83:26
from what i understand the keystrokes
83:28
are free here so
83:30
yeah we got it it's recording so yes
83:32
that too

83:34
youtube's not charging just
83:36
to that so thank you sandra for the
83:38
update um
83:40
working in the communications
83:42
field um
83:45
to the points that you guys are making
83:47
communications tends to be a really
83:49
broad term
83:51
that means different things to different
83:54
people so we've done communication
83:56
surveys before
83:58
in some respects
84:00
not with a lot of effect or not with the
84:02
necessary effect so
84:04
i think it would be really helpful
84:07
i think defining we
84:10
i see the board is really trying to
84:12
create more opportunities
84:14
for transparency and open discussion
84:16
and i think it's really important to
84:18
make sure we're defining we're clearly
84:20
articulating what those opportunities
84:23
are
84:24
how we're defining them
84:26
and continually reminding people because
84:28
we're close to this we do this
84:30
every day basically
84:32
but not everybody does and they don't
84:34
always know the best way to reach out
84:36
and the best way to get information so
84:39
it's kind of a suggestion as we go

84:41
through the process
84:43
to really make sure that we're keeping
84:44
that in the back of our minds that this
84:46
isn't everyone's day job or volunteer
84:49
day job
84:50
um
84:52
so but also to that point i was
84:53
wondering in your initial conversations
84:55
with laurie i think
84:57
[Music]
84:59
have you talked about like examples of
85:01
what some of the output might be for the
85:03
action plan like can can we just give
85:05
the community a little bit of an idea of
85:08
and us what we'll see
85:10
as that action plan like
85:12
do you know yet what type of output yeah
85:15
i mean so far what she's talked to us
85:17
about is you know who she's going to
85:19
talk to the stakeholder groups but also
85:21
things like where do people prefer to go
85:24
for their information you know the kinds
85:26
of platforms
85:28
frequency of communication kind of
85:30
structural things um and we're going to
85:33
be able to take a look at the survey
85:35
before it goes out like i said we don't
85:36
have much opportunity to tailor it but
85:38
now knowing cheryl that you have an
85:40
expertise in this i would appreciate any
85:42
you know input that that you have uh to

85:44
help us but i
85:46
i do think to your point you know
85:48
previously
85:49
you know we've had a communications
85:51
committee for a while we care deeply
85:53
about this work we're part of the
85:54
community we have a sense of
85:56
communications i also can appreciate
85:58
that there is an expertise and one of
86:00
the um affordances that being part of a
86:03
consortium allows us to do is without
86:05
having somebody fully on staff to do you
86:07
know that work
86:08
we're able to access and she works with
86:11
a number of uh
86:13
school districts across the state she
86:15
shared with us that she is the president
86:17
of whatever the association of school
86:19
communications people so so she's you
86:21
know very talented and comes you know
86:23
well respected and so hopefully it'll
86:27
do more than just
86:28
i'll say my scratching itch that we have
86:30
but actually move us to uh some some
86:33
effective
86:34
actions and that will present that and
86:36
hopefully people will feel heard and
86:39
validated in their own versions of what
86:41
communication looks like in in what we
86:43
plan going forward
86:45
can i just piggy back off or what you

86:46
said um sandra because i'm on the
86:48
communications committee and i really
86:50
loved being part of it and i thought
86:52
that we had a really productive at least
86:54
first meeting um for me and the way to
86:57
your specific question cheryl some of
86:59
the things that lori pirlo
87:02
gave as examples of tactics that we
87:04
might employ um
87:06
you know aligned with this strategic
87:08
vision to foster a culture of trust and
87:11
transparency through communications
87:14
would be um updates to our website um
87:17
you know leveraging more modern
87:18
technologies using social media those
87:21
are examples of things that we might use
87:23
as additional communication
87:26
levers or tactics to pull aligned with
87:29
the strategic plan that we have to
87:31
evolve communications to foster a
87:34
culture of trust and transparency that
87:37
said we agreed as a committee and that
87:39
we also wanted to make incremental steps
87:41
before we you know
87:44
got the feedback from the parent
87:45
community through this survey and
87:47
through the um
87:49
and i should clarify not just the parent
87:50
community the community at large through
87:52
the survey and the forums um and i think
87:55
that so many of the things that mr volpe

87:57
have done really are a testament to that
87:59
you're like an expert in communications
88:02
with the emails and the um you know
88:04
things that you're planning so i feel
88:06
like we're already well on our way in in
88:08
fostering this
88:10
cultural aspiration we're trying to
88:11
achieve through a multi-year
88:14
communication strategy
88:18
did i that's the way i saw it yeah
88:22
any other comments or questions for the
88:24
communications committee
88:26
minutes
88:28
hearing none uh we can move on to policy
88:31
which i understand dr schneider you're
88:33
going to take care of take over that
88:35
for now
88:38
yep absolutely
88:39
um
88:40
so we had a uh a really robust
88:42
conversation to be honest about a number
88:45
of things that aren't on the agenda so
88:47
i'll start there
88:48
um and i can quickly highlight what is
88:50
on the agenda so
88:52
the our conversation around 1648-11 um
88:56
obviously most of it has been has been
88:57
handled
88:58
um and spoken to already
89:00
the um in the context of the policy
89:03
itself uh no change needs to be made to

89:06
the policy as it stands right now
89:08
and as as things develop i suspect
89:11
either
89:12
um it will or it will just get um
89:14
[Music]
89:15
you know
89:17
removed completely depending on how how
89:19
the next you know set of guidance and
89:21
month goes but um the other thing we
89:23
talked about in the context of prove it
89:25
is the dashboard and the emails changing
89:28
and how that again
89:30
uh does not require a policy change
89:32
the
89:33
um we had a rather large conversation
89:35
about the dress code which again the the
89:38
dress code in morristown policy 5511 is
89:42
does not need to be changed what we
89:44
spoke about specifically
89:46
are the very specific
89:48
uh dress um and i won't call it code
89:50
dress policy that is in the high school
89:53
handbook and again um to kind of refresh
89:56
everybody starting there and then moving
89:58
down to the middle school and and ues so
90:01
uh
90:02
principal drew seibel came and presented
90:04
sort of the process that he has
90:07
gone through up until now
90:08
and where they are so they had 30
90:10
students in the committee

90:12
across all the grades and and all
90:14
different groups of students student
90:16
council faculty
90:18
advisory council home in school school
90:20
council um
90:22
everybody has had a chance to weigh in
90:24
and
90:25
the with the overall goal being to
90:27
remove the subjectivity in the language
90:29
and to align it with a more
90:32
um
90:33
you know
90:34
um equitable
90:36
way to approach dress policy
90:39
i shouldn't say policy but dress code um
90:42
the the discussion that remains is sort
90:46
of how to handle special events um which
90:48
again has always been the case so he
90:50
didn't think that would be a problem in
90:52
terms of
90:53
delineating how that would be different
90:56
um the one very specific
90:58
thing was in light of again the width of
91:02
the shoulder strap specific to
91:06
uh
91:07
a tank top for um male or female
91:11
and
91:12
again how many fingers so there was
91:13
still some sort of subjectivity and we
91:15
were trying to sort of
91:16
advocate that that not be the case

91:19
um
91:20
so that that is still something that is
91:21
being determined
91:23
uh the other things that we spoke about
91:25
were making sure that this is
91:27
rolled out in a
91:28
coherent way so that staff and students
91:31
know exactly what it means and what the
91:33
expectations are
91:35
where dress will be addressed in terms
91:38
of the day and in terms of the location
91:41
so that it is done equitably across you
91:43
know not you know students wouldn't feel
91:46
like they were being picked on and those
91:47
kinds of things by i said so
91:49
um again
91:51
this will be something that will be in
91:53
the handbook which we adopt in the
91:55
spring
91:57
and the policy itself does not
92:00
address any of these things so it is
92:02
really specific to the handbook
92:04
um and again
92:05
echoing the sort of successful process
92:08
that they went through so far
92:10
it would then be looked at and how that
92:12
can be applied to the middle school and
92:13
and sort of using that same template
92:16
uh the next thing we talked about was
92:18
policy 5530 which is the substance abuse
92:20
policy

92:22
this is again probably several meetings
92:24
away from being on the
92:26
agenda but
92:28
the the overall goal of the
92:30
administration and again the specific
92:31
high school but it is a district-wide
92:34
policy
92:35
was on trying to more adequately
92:38
represent the restrictions
92:40
for
92:41
um
92:42
for the students and the way to
92:44
understand the use and misuse of either
92:47
over-the-counter or illegal drugs and
92:50
the various permutations of those as
92:52
they as they pertain to our students
92:54
um again as it stands now there's a
92:57
two-strike policy moving to more of a
92:59
three-strike which again i'm not in
93:01
favor of thinking of it that that way
93:03
but um in just in the context of how
93:06
many opportunities students have for
93:08
um
93:08
[Music]
93:10
for demonstrating uh
93:12
you know appropriate use
93:14
uh again this gets to a lot of subtle
93:17
gray areas when it comes to the
93:19
over-the-counter prescription illegal
93:21
substances
93:22
um

93:23
and again
93:24
the conversation i thought was really
93:26
helpful at least for me and trying to
93:28
understand
93:29
and
93:30
as it stands now he's going back to
93:33
both um
93:34
our district
93:37
legal counsel and medical professionals
93:39
to try to understand exactly what falls
93:41
into these categories
93:43
um again i don't
93:45
i don't think it
93:46
is different from other context of
93:48
policy when we want to sort of remove
93:49
that subjectivity
93:51
and and make it so that it is very clear
93:54
and gives
93:56
the students and the school
93:58
the uh opportunities and i should say
94:00
and the guidelines that they that they
94:03
feel are appropriate
94:04
um
94:05
we looked at policy 9180 and 9188 which
94:08
deal with volunteers
94:10
very specifically just removing the
94:12
minimum number of hours for background
94:14
checks and making it more based on role
94:16
so again
94:20
there will be some uh volunteers who
94:23
will be exempt

94:24
um
94:25
if they are under direct supervision and
94:27
we try to again the way the policy will
94:30
then be crafted is more about the roles
94:32
and responsibilities of the volunteer as
94:34
opposed to and the sort of frequency
94:36
as opposed to some number of hours which
94:39
can be kind of arbitrary so
94:41
uh again this deals with requiring the
94:44
volunteer to get background check
94:46
criminal record check which anyone who
94:48
has any who does coaching or anything
94:50
knows is sort of required for for being
94:53
around our students
94:56
the organizational meeting
94:58
change
94:59
policy
95:00
151 is on the agenda this just has to do
95:02
with changing
95:04
the time at which
95:06
we have our reorg meeting i think it was
95:08
a legacy thing so we have our reorg
95:11
meeting in january since we have our uh
95:15
elections in november
95:17
the the policies that are actually on
95:19
for first reading are that one
95:21
um and the others are all mandated so
95:23
policy 24 1505 which deals with um
95:28
specifically
95:29
rewritten to provide additional detail
95:31
regarding requirements outlined in the

95:32
federal code with student surveys and
95:34
now analysis evaluations examinations
95:37
um
95:39
the regulation 2460.
95:43
deals specifically with um offering up
95:47
to one year of additional compensatory
95:49
special ed services
95:51
in light of the covid for students but
95:54
again it is specific within the child
95:56
study team and the iep that it be
95:58
required so it's not um a blanket
96:01
eligibility but that this additional
96:03
year of special ed services is available
96:07
um and then the two dealing with student
96:09
assessment 2622
96:11
um deals specifically with um
96:14
implementing an approved english
96:15
language proficiency assessment for
96:16
english language learners with an
96:18
individualized iep
96:19
to measure students progress in english
96:21
proficiency um
96:24
and
96:25
the
96:26
9560 administration of school school
96:28
surveys the new statute allows school
96:30
districts to administer an anonymous
96:31
voluntary does not
96:33
um
96:35
without prior notification to parents so
96:38
you can't

96:38
give
96:39
anonymous voluntary surveys analysis um
96:42
and again those are all language changes
96:44
that are mandated so
96:45
uh again those are the only ones that
96:47
are on the agenda
96:48
the other conversations
96:51
we'll be following
96:55
questions comments
96:58
policy
97:00
okay hearing none
97:03
can we please move on to
97:05
finance and operations and
97:07
knowing you just met monday thank you
97:09
for getting the notes
97:11
we met yesterday morning
97:13
hours after an exciting super bowl that
97:16
ended on a fourth and one
97:17
we uh we started our morning off talking
97:20
about the 2020 to 21 audit exit
97:23
conference
97:25
which was riveting
97:26
um
97:28
uh so we had a
97:32
committee was president administration
97:33
was present i won't walk through all the
97:34
names um
97:37
we had our auditors from holt mcnelly
97:40
and associates join us for the meeting
97:42
yesterday uh mike holt david gorski
97:45
who conducted our annual audit for the

97:48
year ended june 30 2021
97:50
um
97:53
as is typical our financial statements
97:55
were found to be presented fairly in all
97:57
material respects
97:59
with no with no
98:01
material issues
98:03
as i noted in the minutes um
98:06
and is which is reflected on the agenda
98:08
today there was one
98:10
area that requires a um
98:14
i'll call it a plan of correction i
98:16
don't know if that's the
98:17
technically the correct term but
98:19
corrective action plan
98:21
um with respect to our food service
98:23
account
98:24
um
98:26
there is
98:27
a statute of regulation
98:29
code provision that requires uh the
98:32
districts all districts
98:34
food service counts not to accumulate
98:37
more than three months worth of
98:39
expenditures
98:41
at any given point and
98:45
in 2020 or 2021 the district realized um
98:50
a substantial amount of revenue uh as it
98:52
related to food service given uh
98:54
reimbursements from the government
98:56
as related to to our launch program

98:59
uh and we also had low expenses because
99:01
um we weren't
99:03
in the buildings uh as often so
99:06
uh unfortunately uh regulations also
99:08
don't allow us to use those revenue
99:10
streams for other areas of the normal
99:13
operating budget so food service money
99:15
has can only be used for food service
99:18
related expenses
99:20
we generate so ultimately we generated
99:22
uh
99:23
the fund exceeded the permissible amount
99:26
we have now developed a
99:28
james and his team have developed a
99:30
corrective action plan
99:32
um
99:33
to ensure that doesn't happen again
99:35
which is part of the agenda this evening
99:37
um but we walked through uh in
99:40
high-level detail the
99:43
comprehensive annual financial report um
99:46
that is available for everyone's review
99:49
uh once it's published and i encourage
99:51
people to read it it is actually a
99:53
treasure trove of useful information
99:55
um
99:56
concerning enrollments
99:58
uh you know
100:00
amount we spent per pupil those kind
100:02
statistics related to
100:04
our operations are contained in that

100:06
audited report um
100:08
if you google it you can find it
100:10
um we also talked about the uh
100:15
district calendars that are on the
100:16
agenda for tonight um
100:19
the first
100:20
calendar
100:21
is this year's calendar which we are
100:23
adjusting
100:24
to uh have 181 days
100:28
rather than 182 student days given the
100:31
snow days that we've taken
100:33
um
100:35
i think at administration's
100:37
recommendation and i think the whole the
100:39
entire board has through various
100:40
committees have talked about the various
100:42
options associated with
100:44
dealing with this issue one of which was
100:46
to have a school day on the friday of
100:48
spring break which nobody thought was a
100:50
great idea
100:51
um
100:52
at least nobody that i've heard thought
100:54
that was a great idea um and
100:57
uh so we have reduced the number of days
100:59
to 181 for this school year and we are
101:02
statutorily required to have 180 so we
101:04
have some wiggle room in there which we
101:07
are
101:08
taking advantage of this year

101:10
uh the 2023 calendar is also on the
101:12
agenda tonight
101:14
um
101:14
[Music]
101:16
i don't want to steal your thunder mr
101:17
volpe but uh there's a sort of i think
101:20
it's kind of the
101:22
potential
101:23
cool feature of the calendar is there's
101:25
there's two
101:26
snow days built in
101:28
if we don't use those snow days
101:31
the
101:32
memorial day weekend could be extended
101:35
by two days
101:36
um
101:37
which could be a nice sort of quote you
101:40
know a nice a nice
101:42
break
101:45
if we don't use the snow days so we'll
101:46
see how the what the weather does um
101:49
we
101:50
also talked
101:51
about
101:53
um
101:54
things we've already discussed in terms
101:56
of the the new guidance from
101:58
or well the governor's
102:01
direction that the mass mandate will be
102:02
lifted on march 7th but we're waiting
102:05
awaiting guidance as mr volpe and uh mr

102:08
weeks that articulated in their opening
102:09
comments
102:11
um
102:12
mr heiser already gave the budget
102:15
overview so i won't retread that ground
102:18
and
102:19
that's about it
102:23
any questions
102:25
i have a question um so it's
102:29
with regard to the audit that was
102:30
conducted um it sounds like you did a
102:33
root cause analysis and put a good
102:35
corrective action plan in place um but
102:38
i'm just wondering um this is a little
102:41
bit sideways from the corrective action
102:43
plan
102:44
do you think there's an opportunity to
102:47
consider whether they
102:48
um
102:49
quality of school lunches could be
102:52
assessed and potentially improved so
102:55
there has been
102:57
a lot of buzz
102:58
in the parent community that there's an
103:00
opportunity to address the quality of
103:03
lunches
103:04
and so i'm not saying that there is a
103:07
problem but perhaps if there were we
103:09
could assess whether or not we could
103:11
provide more quality and more helpful
103:13
options you know right now of course we

103:15
get the every student gets
103:18
free lunch but
103:20
in any other years there's the reduced
103:22
and free lunch for students that are
103:24
eligible and then you know other
103:26
students can purchase lunch so perhaps
103:28
there's just an opportunity to use some
103:30
of these additional funds
103:32
from a quality standpoint did you talk
103:34
at all about that or have any
103:35
considerations
103:37
i i could say that we didn't talk about
103:40
that um as it pertains to the financial
103:44
audit um i'm not necessarily sure the
103:47
two issues are directly tied together
103:49
but i'll defer to james who's much more
103:51
familiar yeah and all i was saying was
103:53
if there's additional funding that can
103:55
only be used for
103:57
food service which is what i'm
103:58
understanding it can't be reallocated to
104:01
fund you know textbooks
104:03
then is there an opportunity perhaps to
104:06
you know consider as part of the
104:07
corrective action plan assessing whether
104:10
or not we need to enhance the quality of
104:12
lunches for all students just to be
104:14
clear
104:15
yes so the short answer is yes i
104:18
actually have a meeting this friday
104:20
with our new food management director to

104:24
have some of those discussions as well
104:26
as last year uh
104:29
the reason why this is ultimately
104:30
generated as a finding number one it's
104:32
called a net cash resources finding it's
104:34
required they're required to put it in
104:36
as a finding it's one of the frustrating
104:38
things where this is what's called an
104:40
enterprise fund and we're told that this
104:43
is where you can make money but don't
104:44
make too much
104:46
so it can be frustrating because you
104:48
have to balance that now you have three
104:50
months average expenditures that you
104:51
cannot exceed and that's what this is to
104:54
give you a perspective of what we did
104:55
last year to kind of help offset some of
104:57
the general budget expenditures as well
105:00
we did a substantial amount of
105:03
deliveries last year of meals
105:05
i charged bus drivers salaries for that
105:08
period of time for delivering the meals
105:09
to the food service fund as well as the
105:12
custodial support for loading up the
105:13
buses as well as some paraprofessional
105:16
salaries for a system with that as well
105:18
that was in tune of about a hundred and
105:21
seventy thousand dollars
105:23
uh or i'm sorry a hundred thousand
105:24
dollars then we purchased new equipment
105:27
in the tune of 170 000

105:29
so one of the things that we want to do
105:31
going forward is we want to look at this
105:33
and it is an opportunity to use the
105:35
funds to get creative in this area but
105:37
at the same time
105:39
this was generated specifically related
105:42
to
105:43
how we operated under covid i operated
105:45
the food service fund out of one
105:47
building with limited staff and we got
105:49
so efficient that when you got seven
105:51
days worth of meals you got a gallon of
105:54
milk and we didn't give you the boxes of
105:55
milk because they cost more money we got
105:57
down to that level of detail so when
106:00
we're back operating normally we can't
106:03
necessarily expect to generate that
106:04
level of revenue so we want to make sure
106:07
it's sustainable as well but yes we are
106:09
having those conversations
106:14
any other questions
106:17
or comments
106:18
finance and operations
106:20
okay thank you mr villanueva uh that
106:23
leaves a
106:24
curriculum we had our meeting january
106:27
20th in attendance was uh mike bulby
106:30
karen benton uh mark snyder sandra
106:32
alberti sheryl mcabilis myself drew
106:34
seibel and kat d'ambra
106:37
we discussed the

106:39
2223 high school program of study review
106:43
drew and kat presented the proposed
106:45
high school program of studies for next
106:48
school year
106:49
in general they also provided the update
106:52
that was discussed earlier
106:54
by mr volpe about the change the
106:57
adjustment to
106:58
the schedule with regards to the state
107:00
graduation assessment
107:03
requirements
107:04
um
107:05
so we discussed the
107:07
the student requirements for graduation
107:09
for the class of 2023 2024 and 2025
107:13
uh we took a look at the new courses
107:16
that would be offered next year uh the
107:18
one course was publication and
107:20
communication design along with nj gpa
107:25
recitation and portfolio we discussed
107:27
the redesign of courses introduction to
107:30
mechanical engineering will become
107:32
introduction to engineering systems and
107:36
introduction to electrical engineering
107:38
will become introduction to robotics
107:41
there was a discussion about having
107:43
honors cad 1 and
107:45
honors architecture will become honors
107:47
cad and architecture 1. and honors
107:50
tattoo and honors architecture design
107:52
will become honors cad and architecture

107:55
two
107:56
um
107:57
along with
107:59
cad three
108:00
will become honors cad and architecture
108:03
3.
108:04
we take a look at future considerations
108:07
of courses
108:08
that drew and kat were looking to
108:10
implement in the upcoming years as well
108:15
the
108:16
discussion was also about the district
108:18
is moving away from project lead the way
108:20
to reflect shifts in the next generation
108:22
science standards in a more dynamic
108:25
project-based learning manner
108:27
we were looking towards future grants to
108:29
continue the funding of the new programs
108:31
realignment and expansion of classroom
108:33
needs the courses discussed at the high
108:36
school
108:37
would require budgeting for curriculum
108:40
writing costs this summer but not the
108:42
additional staff
108:44
we then took a look at and because our
108:46
meeting was right after
108:48
last
108:49
board meeting we took a look at the
108:51
pre-k and kindergarten programs um the
108:54
tuition increases registration dates and
108:56
the integrated pre-k

108:58
um updates that were discussed in fno
109:02
in january
109:03
um we took a look at the edc summer
109:06
enrichment um tuition and brochure
109:09
uh we took um a uh
109:12
we looked at again because
109:15
dr benton had just given the start
109:17
strong assessment we took a more
109:20
in-depth look at that presentation we
109:21
reviewed the process for identifying
109:23
struggling students and providing
109:25
necessary support to them
109:27
karen was going to do a deeper dive into
109:29
mid-year student placements and basic
109:32
skills needs and report that back and
109:34
then we also discussed how the
109:35
information could be used appropriately
109:37
throughout the district
109:38
to support struggling students
109:41
additional points we were going to look
109:42
at in future was ways to again improve
109:46
communication of curriculum and
109:47
instructional shifts and changes
109:49
at the committee reporting level
109:51
administration and by building in grade
109:52
levels
109:56
hey thank you mr robano any questions or
109:58
comments
109:59
about that report
110:03
sure
110:05
excuse me ms mccouple

110:10
thank you lauren
110:12
just on the last point um
110:14
this is my first curriculum meeting
110:17
and i thought it was it was very useful
110:19
to hear all the conversation
110:21
um
110:22
i didn't know a lot of what was going on
110:24
because it was all new to me and a lot
110:26
of acronyms so one of the things that i
110:29
there's a lot of there was some
110:30
discussion of changing standards
110:32
um
110:33
so one of the things that i asked for
110:36
um going forward and dr benton
110:38
graciously agreed to
110:40
was to prepare a little bit more
110:42
information about what are the current
110:44
standards
110:45
and what is the change to the standards
110:47
and why specifically are we making these
110:49
decisions to um address that so or what
110:53
exactly is it that we're doing and why
110:55
so i really appreciate
110:58
you doing that for me as
111:00
we can understand more what these
111:01
changes are and what the implications
111:03
are so thank
111:04
you not just for me it's for everyone
111:07
but i just mean so i could ask better
111:09
questions
111:13
thanks anybody else

111:17
okay
111:19
any off-board committees uh
111:22
that there are
111:23
reports from
111:26
i have a short one for i'm
111:28
the new liaison to the
111:30
recreation advisory committee um
111:34
the students left but if they're
111:36
watching i'm sure they are
111:37
um
111:39
there's a uh
111:40
the team cafe event is coming back to
111:43
the rec center apparently it hasn't
111:45
happened since march 2019 and it's going
111:47
to be
111:48
march 19th at the rec center it's free
111:52
kids
111:53
from kids are from 9th to 12th are
111:55
welcome
111:57
um that's grades 9 to grade 12. uh it's
112:01
it's apparently a pretty fun event and
112:03
they're looking for donations of like
112:04
snacks
112:05
drinks
112:07
not alcoholic obviously
112:09
for the for the event so
112:12
that's that
112:20
i am the liaison to more arts and i just
112:23
wanted to make a quick mention that
112:26
um
112:27
more arts um does a lot of fundraising

112:29
and a lot of great a lot of great things
112:32
for all the arts um whether it's voice
112:35
music
112:36
um drawing
112:37
they
112:38
their gala was planned for the end of
112:40
january
112:42
they shifted gears um
112:44
to make it more of a an art show to sell
112:47
art as a fundraiser
112:49
snow storm had ended up all being
112:51
online they did an amazing job pivoting
112:54
um they were very happy with the return
112:56
that they made
112:57
i'm
112:58
i would highly suggest supporting them
113:01
they do great things for the community
113:03
including scholarships and grants the
113:05
teachers for the classroom
113:08
so i just wanted to give them
113:10
a little bit of a mention for doing such
113:12
a great job in our community
113:16
thank you anyone else
113:20
all right that concludes the board
113:22
committee reports now moving on to
113:25
public comment uh you would like to
113:27
entertain a motion to open public
113:29
comment um
113:30
uh actually motion is requested to open
113:32
the floor for public comment
113:36
so

113:37
mark and lauren
113:39
okay so um
113:41
we will begin this uh actually dr sander
113:44
can i ask you to do the timing uh when
113:46
your name is called
113:47
i'm sorry when you come up to the bike
113:49
to speak uh please state your name and
113:51
address
113:52
um you will have three minutes to speak
113:55
and uh as you know this is not
113:57
a question and answer back and forth
113:59
engagement period we tried to be clear
114:02
uh today and at other times that this is
114:05
a place where you can make comments um
114:07
but please avail yourself of the other
114:09
opportunities if it is a question that
114:11
you want answered uh certainly as we
114:14
said email we're gonna have the website
114:16
we're gonna have lots of different
114:17
opportunities for that um but with that
114:19
said uh please do not address board
114:21
members individually please be
114:23
respectful when making public comment
114:25
so please uh come up to the mic if you
114:28
would like to participate in that
114:32
good evening
114:34
my name is marianna now but i'm here to
114:36
read a testimony from miss frasier
114:38
hernandez
114:40
uh thank you for the opportunity of
114:42
giving testimony today

114:44
my name is fresa hernandez and i work
114:46
for the morristown district for three
114:47
years
114:48
before losing my job when a cleaner
114:50
contractor was hired and refused to keep
114:53
all 27 of us
114:55
on board due to our affiliation
114:57
affiliation with the union
114:59
we not only lost our income
115:01
but also our health insurance legal
115:03
support and benefits it's been seven
115:05
months since that day
115:07
and i wanted to give you an update
115:09
lose ortega who was five months pregnant
115:12
when she lost her health insurance had a
115:14
baby it was a girl
115:16
and we lost sadly we lost one of our
115:19
co-workers
115:20
mr felix mendoza who was 77 years old
115:24
and had been working for the district
115:25
for over 10
115:27
years
115:28
he passed away last october
115:31
and because he lost his health insurance
115:32
on july 1st
115:34
left a slew of medical bills
115:37
for his family to now pay
115:39
and last but definitely not least
115:42
the region 4 of the national labor board
115:45
has determined to prosecute
115:47
the cleaning contractor hscg

115:51
and the company is now liable for over
115:53
half a million dollars in bank wages
115:56
benefits and consequential bills
115:58
members of the board
116:00
it's been seven months
116:02
we're still not back at work in the
116:04
district we still do not have health
116:06
insurance
116:07
the schools are still underserved but
116:09
we're still fighting to the parents
116:12
thank you for supporting us on this
116:14
fight
116:15
we will continue and hope that we will
116:18
resolve this soon
116:19
so that we can all get back to work and
116:22
move forward thank you
116:29
so thank you for the comment i just want
116:31
to amend um what i should have said when
116:34
i opened the public comment this is um
116:36
and i apologize for not saying this this
116:38
is this section of public comment is for
116:40
public comment on agenda items we will
116:42
have a public comment uh section at the
116:44
end for other items
116:49
no no no i and i apologize i did not
116:51
make that clear so i'm not in any way
116:53
i'm just saying it for for now going
116:55
forward but thank you for your comment
116:58
anybody else
117:00
for agenda item comments
117:07
okay i'm hearing none i'm not seeing

117:10
anybody approach the mic i will
117:12
ask for a motion to
117:14
uh close public comment
117:18
dr snyder
117:19
dr alberti
117:21
okay thank you um all in favor
117:24
oh
117:27
stay that motion
117:30
how's everybody doing
117:33
i think you know who i am right bill
117:34
blanch
117:35
325 springhouse lane
117:39
uh mr volpe
117:41
thank you for being a leader because you
117:42
did address the march 7th update which
117:45
now we can be masked optional which i
117:47
think is exceptional so we can clap to
117:49
that right
117:50
we finally
117:53
can be a parent again
117:55
we're finally able to make decisions
117:57
about our children again
117:59
so thank you for that
118:01
um i find it extremely disturbing and i
118:05
know a lot of board members here
118:07
so i just find it disturbing
118:10
when we have board members that aren't
118:12
aware that we have accepted funds
118:15
to make decisions on behalf of our
118:17
children and mark i'm glad you brought
118:19
that up because you're an advocate for

118:21
our kids and i appreciate you and
118:23
everything you do on this board i don't
118:25
mean to point you out like this i should
118:26
probably should have used your name
118:28
thank you got it
118:30
always make mistakes
118:32
but nonetheless
118:34
is
118:35
is everybody aware
118:37
that morristown township accepted funds
118:40
sr1 and sur2 funding
118:42
to keep our kids in mass
118:46
is anybody aware of this
118:52
because you bragged about how you spent
118:53
a hundred thousand dollars and 170 000
118:57
about food
118:59
i'd like to know how these estro funds
119:00
were spent
119:01
so is that in the budget
119:04
that'll be an email i'll be sending to
119:06
you very shortly because to me
119:11
that doesn't sit well with me
119:14
you want to smell your breath
119:16
in a wet mask for eight hours
119:19
and try to learn as a kid
119:22
it doesn't work
119:25
to me that's stupid
119:27
it doesn't work
119:31
but a million dollars
119:34
a million dollars i think it was two
119:36
hundred thousand s of one eight hundred

119:38
and ninety five thousand s or two funds
119:40
were given to this board of egg
119:44
right
119:45
how was that spent
119:48
that's what i want to know
119:50
and thank you that's all i'm going to
119:51
say
119:52
respectfully
119:54
thank you for the time i appreciate it
120:04
thank you um
120:13
hi good evening i'm rachel lacaze 405
120:16
park lane forest town um i'd like to
120:18
thank mr volpe and the board for being
120:21
proactive and making a fast announcement
120:24
about morse mask optional policy
120:26
beginning on march 7th
120:28
i appreciate mr volpe's leadership style
120:32
and clear method of communication with
120:34
the district
120:35
and i'm also excited to hear tonight
120:37
about the new platform for public
120:39
comment that will make it easier for the
120:41
community to participate and feel heard
120:43
at meetings like this
120:45
i just want to speak quickly on a couple
120:47
issues pertaining to lunch in our
120:49
schools
120:50
two of my children attend morristown
120:52
public schools my daughter's in the
120:54
fourth grade at the ues and my son is a
120:57
second grader at baker

120:58
i recognize that we are in a shifting
121:01
landscape regarding covid policies and
121:04
hope things continue to trend back
121:06
towards normal however i want to bring
121:08
to your attention differences in the way
121:11
that mtps students are experiencing
121:13
lunch in case it's not on your radar
121:16
at the ues my daughter and her
121:18
classmates are still seated in
121:20
individual desks facing forward in rows
121:23
seats are assigned and they have not
121:24
been changed all year she tells me they
121:27
are not allowed to turn around during
121:28
lunch or talk to their friends and must
121:31
mask up as soon as they are finished
121:32
eating
121:34
on the other hand at baker the students
121:36
sit at long tables separated into groups
121:38
of four with space in between the groups
121:41
for my son lunch feels normal again and
121:44
fun and for my daughter it's the most
121:46
unpleasant part of her school day
121:49
they come home they compare experiences
121:51
and then they look to me their mother
121:53
for answers and i don't have any answers
121:56
um perhaps there's a difference that i'm
121:58
not aware of i acknowledge that
122:01
but from the children's perspective they
122:03
just want to know why covet is different
122:05
in one school versus the other
122:09
and

122:10
second at both schools
122:12
if children forget their water bottles
122:14
there are no water fountains available
122:16
anymore and there's also no backup water
122:19
supply
122:20
so my kids have both on different
122:22
occasions forgotten their water they
122:23
come home after seven hours saying they
122:25
had no water and none is available so
122:28
i'm asking you to please consider having
122:29
some supply of bottled water for
122:31
children who forget or a water cooler
122:34
somewhere in the building with
122:35
disposable cups
122:36
or perhaps turning the water fountains
122:38
back on at some point as soon as it's
122:40
appropriate
122:41
i know a student at the high school just
122:43
wrote an editorial about the lack of
122:45
water there i don't have a child in that
122:47
building but again same issue
122:51
and why are the vending machines at the
122:52
high school still empty perhaps that's
122:54
something else that could be changed in
122:56
the near future i'm sure we can all
122:58
agree that water is an essential element
123:01
to a school day
123:04
finally if the situation at the uas does
123:06
not change soon will you consider
123:08
allowing the children to change their
123:09
seats once in a while

123:11
and perhaps consider letting the
123:13
students at all the school eat outside
123:15
when the weather permits this spring
123:17
thank you
123:18
[Applause]
123:21
so
123:22
thank you for your comments again um
123:25
these are comments this sec this comment
123:27
period is for
123:29
um agenda items and i i don't see
123:32
anything we're voting on that for that
123:34
but we will have another comment period
123:35
at the end so are there any other
123:37
comments related to agenda items that we
123:40
can entertain now any other public
123:41
comment
123:44
okay
123:46
so uh do i need those motions again or
123:48
we actually had a motion
123:52
okay so
123:53
uh all in favor closing public comment
123:56
on agenda items
123:58
any abstentions
124:01
nays okay
124:03
thank you okay moving on um
124:07
we are now up to
124:08
[Music]
124:09
anything
124:10
uh
124:11
section
124:12
eight

124:13
uh i'm sorry
124:15
before i move on mr volpe did you want
124:17
to amend your
124:19
comments did you want to add anything
124:21
right now i'll i'll wait till the 10th
124:23
okay all right
124:25
okay uh so uh item eight uh reports to
124:28
the board um a business administrator
124:32
board secretary um
124:34
let's see
124:36
uh
124:38
number okay number one financial reports
124:40
of the board secretary number two
124:41
treasurer's report number three
124:43
cafeteria report uh number four
124:45
approvals of budget transfers uh number
124:48
five approval bills um
124:50
may i have a motion for approval of
124:53
items one through five
124:57
in a second
124:59
um any discussion about any of those
125:04
okay uh seeing none i'll call a vote uh
125:08
all in favor
125:10
any oppose
125:12
abstentions
125:13
yep abstaining
125:16
from one to
125:19
cafeteria report
125:21
three
125:24
four and five
125:27
all of them

125:28
so extension general on that one
125:30
and i was in favor i forgot to say i
125:34
okay
125:35
and then sure
125:38
okay
125:40
motion tags
125:41
all right
125:43
all right moving on uh
125:45
section nine
125:47
recommendations of the superintendent um
125:49
letter a 2021 2022 revised school
125:53
calendar uh letter b 20 22 23 school
125:57
calendar
125:58
um
126:05
so letter a 2021 2022 revised school
126:08
calendar um i recommend the board
126:11
approve this um
126:13
the revised 2021 222 school calendar
126:15
attached is exhibit 22-201
126:18
um i'll entertain a motion to prove that
126:22
second
126:25
okay any comments
126:26
discussion
126:28
all in favor aye
126:30
any opposed extensions
126:33
okay
126:35
moving on to letter b uh 2022 2023
126:38
school calendar uh i'll entertain a
126:40
motion to um approve this
126:44
the calendar for this year
126:48
second

126:50
any questions
126:53
all in favor
126:56
aye all any opposed
126:59
extensions
127:02
then
127:04
i want to see the three-year start and
127:06
end dates uh for school years um 20 22
127:10
23 23 24 and 24 25
127:14
the start and end dates for those
127:15
specific years
127:17
uh limited emotion to approve
127:20
those dates
127:26
okay any questions
127:27
comments i wonder if mr will begin
127:31
to
127:31
process
127:32
sure
127:39
sorry i have problems with the
127:40
microphones yeah uh this was a new
127:42
process to me um and apparently in
127:45
morristown for many years you have put
127:47
together three years uh worth of start
127:49
and end dates um and uh i got involved
127:52
in that process uh for the first time
127:54
this year obviously i was highly
127:56
skeptical of the process because i
127:58
thought it needed to be something that
127:59
was done by central administration and
128:02
the board
128:03
but it was very collaborative it was
128:04
done with union leadership it was done

128:07
with teachers it was done with the hsa
128:11
it was done with cabinet and and board
128:13
leadership and we looked at calendars we
128:15
counted dates we tried to build in snow
128:18
days it was a very collaborative effort
128:19
so what you're seeing here is not
128:21
something that i just sat at my desk or
128:23
mixed out at his desk and we said hey
128:24
we're going to come together we looked
128:26
at the needs of the community from
128:27
multiple different perspectives uh and
128:29
came up with the uh the three sets of
128:31
dates as well as the revised calendar
128:33
for this year and next year's calendar
128:35
and i think it went so smoothly um as
128:37
we've approved those other ones there
128:38
weren't even any questions because i
128:40
think everybody got their questions
128:41
answered in advance but uh the process i
128:44
was a skeptic it worked out great and i
128:46
want to thank mr pan who's sitting back
128:48
there and anybody else here who was
128:50
involved in that i know mr weeks you
128:52
were there as well uh but it worked very
128:54
smoothly and um that's kind of what the
128:57
process was very collaborative thank you
129:00
and also just to add something that you
129:01
had mentioned before what's nice is that
129:03
people now know 22 23 23 24 24 25 those
129:07
school years at least what the start and
129:09
end dates of school will be sure you can

129:10
start planning your vacations if you
129:12
need
129:13
graduations all of those things so
129:16
any other questions or comments
129:19
okay um
129:20
i believe we had the
129:22
motion
129:23
okay so all in favor
129:25
aye any opposed
129:28
abstentions
129:30
motion carries
129:32
all right letter d
129:34
uh policies and procedures uh the
129:37
policies that are on
129:38
regulations that are on for first
129:40
reading policy zero one five one policy
129:42
two five two four one five dot zero five
129:46
uh policy two five two four five one
129:48
that's a lot of numbers uh regulation
129:50
two four six zero dot three zero policy
129:53
two six two two regulation two six two
129:55
two policy
129:56
nine five six zero um so those are all
130:00
on for first reading second reading um
130:03
which maybe i'll do it policy six one
130:05
one five dot zero one
130:07
uh dot zero two and dot zero three uh
130:10
six three one one and policy eighty six
130:12
hundred uh those are all on for second
130:15
reading tonight
130:17
so may i have a motion for the approval

130:19
of items one and two
130:24
okay any questions
130:27
i appreciate the notation about the
130:29
mandatory
130:30
policies
130:31
and the adult high school policy is not
130:34
noted as mandatory so i'm wondering like
130:37
what was
130:38
was it just a shock test my
130:39
recommendation doesn't have
130:53
right and interpreting jack's nose
130:58
so it just doesn't say him on the idea
131:01
i can speak to that so um we don't have
131:04
an adult high school um we had an
131:06
existing policy that basically just said
131:09
should we have an adult high school
131:11
these are the things that we would do in
131:13
the
131:14
newly updated one they have added
131:16
language concerning in any adult high
131:19
school that you would have to
131:21
provide accommodations for students with
131:23
disabilities
131:24
or students with 504s and so what we did
131:27
is just we're just updating our current
131:29
one by adding the statutes that we would
131:32
have to follow should we ever adopt a
131:34
high
131:35
[Music]
131:37
mr score can i just um
131:39
just to clarify because i've never

131:41
approved anything on the agenda first
131:43
reading second reading so first reading
131:45
is we're approving that it will go to
131:47
second reading and that's when it gets
131:49
implemented
131:50
and then on second reading
131:53
these policies i know they're mandatory
131:55
they were on the december agenda not the
131:58
january agenda just to be clear
132:00
so for those of us who were not board
132:02
members
132:04
i read the policies should we be
132:06
approving should we abstain since we
132:08
weren't on the board at first reading
132:10
does it
132:11
does that dictate how we behave tonight
132:13
is my question
132:17
new members may vote uh if you feel that
132:19
you've read the policy and heard the
132:21
policy committee report your questions
132:23
were answered you may vote okay
132:26
thank you thank you
132:32
so we have a motion on the floor um any
132:34
other questions or comments
132:36
okay uh so we'll take a vote all in
132:38
favor
132:39
aye
132:40
any opposed
132:42
abstentions
132:44
okay
132:46
motion carries all right letter e

132:48
educational program number one
132:49
burlington county alternative school
132:50
placement for 21 22
132:53
uh number two home instruction same
132:55
period special edge number three special
132:57
education out of district placement for
132:59
uh the same period
133:01
i'll entertain motion for approval of
133:03
items one through three
133:07
seconds
133:13
[Music]
133:14
any questions or comments
133:18
okay all in favor
133:20
aye
133:21
the opposed
133:22
extensions
133:27
okay uh letter f finance and business um
133:31
number one travel expenditures approval
133:34
requests number two approval of state
133:35
contract and consortium vendor purchases
133:37
number three uh donations uh this one i
133:40
will uh give a little bit more
133:42
attention um recommend the board except
133:45
the following donation one thousand
133:46
child side masks and several canisters
133:48
of sanitizing wipes from an anonymous
133:50
donor views at the elementary school uh
133:52
number four 21 2021 financial audit uh
133:56
five resolution for participation in
133:57
joint services agreement or six
133:59
transportation number seven approval of

134:01
codisol uh to the nba board of agenda
134:03
board of education agreement
134:05
um may i will entertain a motion for
134:07
approval of items one through seven
134:13
any comments questions
134:18
okay all in favor
134:20
aye
134:21
any opposed
134:22
extensions
134:29
[Music]
134:31
all right
134:33
letter g um
134:35
employee relations number one
134:36
appointments two retirements three
134:38
resignation uh four change in position
134:40
in hours five additional class coverage
134:43
number six leaves of absence seven
134:45
extension of contract eight movement on
134:47
the salary guide nine substitutes ten
134:50
uh s esea title one tutors 11 athletics
134:53
and co-curricular clubs um
134:56
see i'll entertain a motion
134:58
for approval items 1 through 11. these
135:00
are all as discussed in executive
135:02
session approval of uh items 1-11 motion
135:05
please
135:08
all right
135:09
uh any comments or questions
135:12
secretary of roll call vote please
135:14
dr alberti yes
135:17
mr sarcara burns yes mr fairchild

135:20
this is false macaluso
135:23
mrs nicopolis
135:25
mr mano yeah mr villanueva
135:28
dr schneider yeah mr weeks yes thank you
135:33
mr perry
135:35
uh just for informational uh i'm sorry
135:37
suspensions letter ten uh number yeah
135:40
x10
135:41
uh suspensions uh a suspension uh b
135:44
superintendent's hiv report also all as
135:47
uh was discussed in um executive
135:50
entertainment motion for approval of
135:54
these items
136:00
there any questions or comments
136:08
any opposed extensions
136:16
noted
136:18
carries
136:19
um
136:20
11 the informational only section a
136:23
enrollment information b
136:25
uh
136:26
is there any old business
136:29
um
136:31
new business
136:33
actually
136:35
um
136:36
have something for new business i'll
136:38
start and then we'll open it up
136:40
so
136:41
proposing a letter a for board member
136:43
resignation

136:44
after four years and one month of
136:46
service to morristown township board of
136:47
education the board accepts with regret
136:49
the resignation of board member jack
136:51
fairchild effective february 13 2022
136:55
so
136:56
the motion i'm proposing is i recommend
136:58
the board accept the resignations of the
137:00
following board members jack fairchild
137:02
effective uh february 13th 2022.
137:06
uh should we go on and do any other new
137:07
business
137:08
we need motions we need them okay for
137:11
that one for that one
137:26
um so
137:27
what will happen here is uh as we've
137:29
done a few times uh at least in my
137:31
tenure uh there will be an application
137:34
process which will be posted sometime
137:36
soon in the very near future for people
137:38
to apply to fill that role the board
137:42
will
137:42
look at what applications we get
137:44
determine how we will move forward in a
137:46
process to evaluate those value those
137:48
applications and then um
137:51
appoint somebody to fulfill the part of
137:53
his term that extends through the end of
137:55
2022.
137:57
uh in november of 2022 uh mr fairchild
138:00
had one year remaining on his term

138:03
uh after this one so he was in year two
138:05
of a three-year term so in november of
138:07
2022
138:09
on the ballot will be the three board
138:11
member positions that are normally up
138:13
for election for a three-year term and
138:16
then one for a one-year term that would
138:18
start in january 23 and go through the
138:20
end of 23. um then following that in
138:24
november of 23
138:26
uh that position that mr fairchild
138:28
occupied would be up for a three-year
138:30
term so there will be four on the ballot
138:32
this november in short and somebody will
138:34
be appointed to fulfill from whenever we
138:36
appoint them this year through the end
138:38
of the year
138:39
we get all that right
138:41
i practiced all right
138:45
okay
138:46
so uh let me uh
138:48
we'll do a vote on this one so uh we had
138:51
the motion uh all all in favor
138:53
aye aye opposed
138:55
abstentions
138:58
okay that motion carries uh any other
139:00
new business
139:02
i have something um
139:05
i may i'm not sure how to address this
139:08
so
139:09
i'll share my thoughts and then get some

139:11
feedback from from you mick
139:13
i was really struck by the public
139:15
comment about the experience that
139:17
students you know particularly at the
139:19
ues personally as a parent i have a
139:21
child at ues the lunch experience um so
139:25
i realize lunch is operations and
139:26
clearly not a board matter but when i
139:29
think about
139:30
kind of the root cause it does strike me
139:33
as this absence of clear top-down
139:36
standards on everything from mask breaks
139:39
to
139:40
water to water fountains and a lot of
139:42
the covered mitigation measures that we
139:44
put in place
139:45
that may have been um good at the time
139:49
but those policies need to be
139:51
reevaluated today
139:53
not not when we get the updated
139:55
department of health guidance and so i
139:58
would like to to understand whether or
140:00
not we can
140:02
assess the lunch experience and other
140:05
experiences of the students it's clearly
140:08
ticked and tied to you know operations
140:11
but also the health and well-being and
140:14
social and emotional experience of our
140:16
children which i do believe is something
140:18
that the board should care about and
140:21
then as i mentioned also

140:23
i think it's very ticked and tied to
140:25
the lack of clear and consistent
140:27
top-down standards there's a lot of
140:29
discretion for how some of these coded
140:31
mitigation measures were operationalized
140:33
in the schools and so i'm not sure what
140:35
the board's role is or um
140:37
how to make sure that this one moves
140:39
forward it's probably not even committee
140:42
but i guess mr volpe i'm really looking
140:44
to you for your leadership and thoughts
140:46
on this one
140:50
yeah that's my job
140:52
and uh i i i heard as well and i sit
140:55
here at the dais with you and i i hear
140:57
and understand your concerns and it's
140:58
certainly something that we will look
140:59
into if we decide to make some changes i
141:02
can certainly report back to the board
141:03
uh about what we are doing um there are
141:06
some things that we can look at right
141:07
now there are some things that i've
141:08
heard that i wasn't even aware of and i
141:10
will use the i've only been here for two
141:12
months maybe for another month or two
141:14
i've only been here for four months but
141:15
there are some things that we can start
141:16
looking at right now certainly uh
141:18
ultimately in the end when we do have to
141:19
make some further decisions i do want to
141:21
see the guidance but i don't think

141:22
there's going to be guidance about water
141:24
fountains or how your lunchrooms are
141:25
arranged that's something that my
141:26
administrative team can look at that's
141:28
awesome thank you
141:30
and just to speak to uh the board role
141:33
in that it is exactly what you just said
141:35
you know we're we're too here to you
141:37
know take information from the public i
141:39
think that was specifically mentioned on
141:40
the side interpret the the will and the
141:43
concerns of the public uh share that
141:45
with administration and then i'm sure
141:47
potentially that could be a finance and
141:48
operations committee uh agenda item uh
141:51
for the next meeting where the
141:54
administration reports back through that
141:55
committee and that's to the regular to
141:57
the rest of the board uh about what
141:59
steps are being taken so
142:02
okay
142:03
any other
142:04
new business or discussion actually mr
142:07
hope yeah i just wanted to address
142:08
because it's it's a concern that i've
142:10
heard before and i want everybody
142:12
leaving on a positive note here um if
142:14
there's anything i've learned about
142:15
being in moore's town during this time
142:17
because we have a lot of passionate
142:18
people here passionate about kids and

142:20
passionate about a lot of things and
142:22
i'll be speaking to mr heiser and we'll
142:24
be thinking about the best way that we
142:26
can uh show our federal grant money and
142:28
what it's been spent on uh in in a
142:30
digestible format maybe become part of
142:32
my future comments we may email people
142:34
who ask us um but some of those things
142:36
too when the the comment was made before
142:38
about strings for federal money let me
142:40
let me be clear about that the federal
142:42
money that came through we had to use
142:43
for some mitigation efforts were related
142:45
to kobe specifically i'll give you just
142:47
one example because i don't have all the
142:49
information in front of me we hired
142:50
extra basic skills teachers for our
142:52
students because going through covid
142:54
students received learning loss the only
142:56
thing i want everybody to walk away with
142:57
is you have good people sitting at this
142:59
dais and they don't always agree on
143:00
everything
143:01
but they're very good people we'll make
143:03
it very clear there was no quid pro quo
143:05
in any way shape or form that if we
143:07
continued to mask kids we would get
143:09
money for that
143:11
it didn't it did not happen um and the
143:13
reason why we are continuing to mask
143:15
children is because of the governor's

143:17
executive order which i did announce
143:19
that effective march 7th we will be mask
143:22
optional so i know some things may have
143:23
been said and people may be a little
143:25
confused but i will try to make them
143:26
more clear and transparent and i want
143:28
everybody letting you to know that you
143:30
have people sitting up here who care
143:31
very much about kids and would have been
143:33
the first to blow a whistle to say hey
143:35
we were told we would get a bribe
143:37
essentially uh to keep masks on so i
143:39
want you walking away tonight feeling a
143:41
little bit better about that and know
143:42
that further communication will be on
143:44
the way about that i hope that helps
143:46
clarify some things
143:48
thanks mr volpe and um i'll just uh
143:51
piggyback on that and say you know this
143:55
we do want to address the concerns we
143:56
want to make sure the information's out
143:57
there and so um you know right there
144:00
it's kind of an example of what we'd
144:02
like to do uh if you have concerns if
144:04
you have questions uh please reach out
144:06
to the proper channels um while we do
144:08
have to maintain the structure and the
144:11
regulations that we operate under
144:13
we're trying to within that structure
144:15
expand the opportunities and also
144:18
frankly uh to cheryl's point i believe

144:19
it was
144:20
make people aware of those avenues and
144:23
and encourage you
144:25
um wholeheartedly to utilize those
144:27
processes
144:28
ask us the questions we will certainly
144:30
provide you the information uh in the
144:32
appropriate
144:33
manner because that's the structure
144:35
that's how it works uh so with that
144:38
if there is no additional new business
144:40
or comment um we can move back into the
144:43
more open uh public comment section
144:45
um of the agenda so
144:48
um
144:48
[Music]
144:51
yeah
144:53
second
144:55
okay um so
144:57
um all in favor
144:59
aye any opposed extensions okay so again
145:03
uh as a reminder please come to the mic
145:05
state your name and address you will
145:07
have three minutes to speak uh
145:09
as we just discussed not a question and
145:11
answer session
145:12
but please
145:14
avail yourself of one of the many
145:15
avenues to ask questions if you have one
145:19
please do not address board members
145:20
individually and be respectful when

145:22
making public comment with that i'd like
145:24
to ask anyone who'd like to make
145:26
comments please come to the microphone
145:35
be sure i
145:37
okay
145:39
yes
145:40
[Music]
145:42
i'm not shy mick
145:45
um i do want to thank you i thought that
145:47
your
145:48
opening statement i think mr volpes and
145:51
then even uh mr magno's
145:54
affirmation you all were unified and on
145:57
the same page as far as why the decision
145:59
was made for march 7th and also the the
146:03
impact of guidance and i think that has
146:04
been a big frustration in the community
146:07
especially us lawyers who know the
146:09
difference between guidance executive
146:11
orders regulations and statutes so i
146:13
really appreciate the communication i
146:16
also want to
146:17
share that this was
146:19
you know i know that
146:21
based on what john showed that
146:24
you you know you don't want to do
146:25
committee work at the dais but there
146:27
also is something very satisfying as a
146:30
member of the community to sit here and
146:32
actually hear some of our thoughts
146:34
being asked by some of the board members

146:37
so that you won't necessarily have a lot
146:39
of public comment because there's been
146:40
dialogue
146:42
so in my job we call it
146:44
watching the sausage be made right so it
146:47
was pleasant to watch a little bit of
146:48
the sausage
146:50
be made
146:51
tonight and i want to thank you
146:54
thank you
147:00
the floor is still open
147:01
[Music]
147:04
okay
147:05
all right reading body language i think
147:07
we can move uh or request a motion to
147:10
close public comment
147:14
okay all in favor
147:16
aye any opposed abstentions all right uh
147:20
moving on may uh i will entertain a
147:22
motion for adjournment
147:26
seconds we'll just take one of those uh
147:29
all in favor
147:30
aye aye opposed abstention