

Transcript – March 22, 2022 BOE Meeting

0:12

it's absent guys yes

1:43

um

1:58

yes

2:14

yes

2:24

yes

2:51

[Music]

3:07

oh

4:02

if we could ask everyone to take their seats please i'm mostly speaking towards the deus

4:23

like to call to order the regular meeting of the moorestown township board of education the meeting is called in conformance

4:29

with the open public meetings act with adequate notice provided as follows uh notice filed with the courier post march

4:35

2nd 2022 notice filed with the burlington county times on march 2nd 2022

4:41

um i'd like to ask if we could have a moment of silence but before we do i'd also like to add

4:47

uh somebody to consider during this moment of silence i think we're all familiar with officer brian wright uh

4:53

who's served our schools faithfully nothing's happened to brian but his mother his mother passed away earlier

5:00

this month so if we could just keep brian and his family and our thoughts as we have this moment of silence it'd be appreciated

5:16

thank you everybody please rise for the pledge of allegiance

5:21

i pledge allegiance to the flag of the united states of america and the junior

5:26

department for which it stands one nation under god indivisible with liberty and justice for

5:34

all

5:40

hey mr heiser would you please do the roll call dr alberti

5:48

mrs arcara burns mrs fallows macaluso here

5:53

mrs mcopolis miss romano mr villanueva

5:58

dr schneider here mr weeks president thank you

6:04

ford has already met an executive session um so moving on let's see

6:10

uh to routine matters can i uh have a motion for the approval of the minutes from the february 15th uh executive

6:17

session and the february 15th regular meeting

6:22

any questions concerns i just i just ask on the minutes that

6:28

and i talked to mr heiser about this that item f

6:33

seven the vote for items f one through seven indicates that i abstain from all of them

6:39

um and i only abstain from item seven so i just asked that they'd be amended to reflect that

6:46

anyone else okay so with the amendments that mr

6:51

villanueva noted uh all in favor aye aye any opposed

6:58

extensions okay any communications for the board

7:07

okay sing none i will uh move on to president's remarks

7:15

so welcome and thanks to all of those in attendance and those online

7:21
uh as many may be aware we are a citizen
7:26
we are citizen representatives elected to serve as stewards over the resources
7:32
and policies of the school district we also collectively it's loud
7:38
we also collectively directly supervise one employee mr volpe we all take our responsibilities very
7:43
seriously and are committed to doing that to the best of our abilities currently much of our focus has been on
7:50
debating and voting on the new budget which we're going to do tonight negotiating a new contract with our
7:55
teachers paraprofessionals custodians and secretaries and ensuring that this board is fully staffed and operating effectively
8:01
meaning we have a board member position to replace tonight i want to provide an update on
8:07
where we are with all three so as i noted we are currently in negotiations with the morristown
8:12
education association as some of you may be aware our current contract expires this year
8:18
the mea and the board's negotiating committee have been meeting for the last two months or so to work on an agreement
8:24
work out a new agreement and we have found agreement on some issues but there are others on which
8:29
agreement is currently eluding us but we are still interested in working out a settlement
8:35
while i cannot go into specific details about those issues i would like to talk about our approach to this process and
8:40
our guiding sentiments and also speak to you about speak to you about what is not holding
8:47
things up from the committee's end it was also almost exactly two years ago
8:54
that we were confronted with an unprecedented development in our lifetimes a pandemic that presented a far-reaching
9:00
and deadly challenge to our lives our norms our fortitude our caring and our spirits
9:08
when the decisions were made to pause much of what we took for granted in our daily lives
9:13
and routines we were forced to find new ways to cope to overcome and to persevere
9:20
among the places where we found some of the hardest challenges were those that provided public services that all of us
9:26
relied upon namely education and health care certainly our businesses and other
9:32
entities face challenges but it was in those places where we were already working for the collective good
9:37
that we strove to dig deeply come together and support our frontline workers as they took care of us
9:44
while our students were learning from home we all got a closer look into what the learning and teaching process was
9:52
many were surprised at what they found discovering that it was perhaps more challenging than they were called or
9:57
expected as the child of two public school educators and someone who worked in k-12
10:03
who has worked in k-12 education for over 20 years the experience was not new to me however it reinforced my
10:09
appreciation for what our educators do for our students and each other on a daily basis
10:15
so from my perspective the differences that remain are not over our appreciation for how much we value our
10:21
teachers as i have been trying to represent here we absolutely do value them
10:26
i know that to a person those on this board have respect and admiration for what our educators do
10:33
i'm a product of this community and these schools and am thankful for what the individuals who are part of it
10:39
have done to provide the educational foundation on which i have thrived i and those of us here with children in
10:46
the district trust them to also provide that experience for them as well for our children
10:52
i also respect and value this district enough to volunteer my time and efforts to be a steward at this district of this
10:57
district's continued growth and success and it is in that role as stewards that we are striving to find
11:03

a way to balance the care for our current and future educators and the district as a whole
11:09
i wholeheartedly believe we can and will find a path forward primarily because we must
11:15
i also believe that there is a desire and openness from this board and the mea to continue to find creative solutions
11:21
and we will ultimately succeed in doing so related to this is the larger issue of
11:27
the budget as a whole in conjunction with feedback from the board this administration has provided
11:33
an example on finding creative solutions with the budget proposal we will see tonight
11:39
i do not want to steal any of the thunder from mr volpe or mr heiser in their presentation however i will say
11:44
that i am encouraged by what they and the rest of the individual individuals involved in the process have achieved
11:51
i hope that appreciation is demonstrated by the board during our upcoming vote
11:58
not only is it is the budget that will be proposed balanced it also contains new and enhanced programs that
12:06
are aligned with our strategic strategic goals of providing a world-class learning environment for our students
12:11
in an era of constrained resources increasing costs and the ongoing challenges of preserving the
12:17
unparalleled learning experience that morristown is known and respected for i believe that we are on the right path
12:23
with this budget and these negotiations a final note we will have a special
12:28
board meeting on april 5th where we will interview candidates to fill a current board vacancy the goal
12:35
will be to have someone seated at or close to the april 26 forward meeting so thank you those are my comments
12:42
turn it over to mr volpe oh yeah i'm sorry yeah it's
12:49
educational highlights first and then sorry i forgot the order momentarily um
12:56
before i get to my comments i i just wanted my prepared comments i want to say that we have a lot of success in
13:02
this district and i witnessed some of that success on sunday i would love to point out
13:08
every wonderful thing that every student does and everything that we have achieved i'm not there all the time and i'm aware of these things
but on sunday
13:14
i got to go to the rutgers athletic center and see our unified basketball team win the state championship
13:22
in convincing fashion more impressive than the score that i saw were the efforts that the kids gave
13:29
and the sportsmanship that they showed and it was thrilling to be there in the middle of the parents who got to see
13:34
their kids up on the big screen they did slow motion replays when our kids made a basket and it was really
13:40
tremendous to see some of our staff members out there coaching these students on a sunday uh pretty far it's
13:46
pretty close to me the rutgers athletic center but it's quite the drive there and i just really wanted to recognize uh
13:52
those students and those staff members for those outstanding efforts it was just because i got to see that in person that i wanted to say what
an impression
13:58
that that made on me i don't want to short anyone else who accomplished anything during the sports season but i
14:03
just wanted to point that out some other big topics to talk about tonight
14:08
and one of the things i'm happy to report is that our internal data relative to covid looks extremely
14:13
promising as you may remember before our last board meeting i met with the other burlington county superintendents new
14:19
jersey board of health county board of health our administrative team our school nurses board leadership our
14:25
school attorney and our school physician after much discussion and deliberation it was decided to keep current protocols
14:31
as is through the month of march in order to compare coveted transmission data in schools in a state of mass
14:37
mandate versus mass optional since that time i have continued to meet with the aforementioned stakeholders as
14:43
well as solicit continued input from each board member each board of education member

14:49
after an additional meeting with our school nurses i am anticipating that by the middle of next week it is likely you
14:54
will get another communication from me announcing the removal of restrictions pertaining to covid protocols the most
15:00
significant of which will be the discontinuing of contact tracing and the end of students being forced to
15:05
quarantine if they are not sick there are still some details to be worked out between now and then all of
15:11
which will be communicated to you however this is one step closer to a return to normal for students and is my
15:18
hope and my sincere desire to continue to move in that direction so pay attention to things next week
15:24
as you may also know the board of education continues to look for ways to improve our communications with stakeholders and the
community at large
15:31
to this end we are taking multiple steps first we have recently sent out a survey to families staff and the community
15:37
about our current communication practices if you have not done so please fill out the survey which should take no
15:42
more than 15 minutes and uh a link is available on the homepage of our website
15:48
if you could help us encourage others to do so that would be appreciated furthermore the leadership of morristown
15:53
township public schools values the opinions and inputs of students staff parents and community members on any
15:59
topic we welcome such engagement or continuously looking at multiple ways in which to foster that environment
16:05
recently we have created a google form where members of the community can provide input as to items you would like
16:10
to see addressed in the superintendent's report or the board president's reports it is
16:16
currently active on the meet the board of education page of our website but we're looking to see if that's the best place or not and i will
publicize the
16:23
fact that we have this in my email version of the superintendent's report this week finally on april 12th at the community
16:30
house from 6 30 p.m to 8 p.m i'll be hosting my first town hall and mr weeks
16:37
will be my special guest and it will be moderated by two of our very own high school seniors
16:42
leila riemann and colin the welland soon if interested you'll find ways to
16:47
submit questions in advance of the town hall as well as how to ask a question in person if you are attending this would
16:54
be a great opportunity for me to get to know the community better and have some of your questions answered in a more
16:59
informal format than a board meeting we often say here it's not a time for question and answer april 12th would be
17:04
a time for me to go back and forth with you and answer your questions tonight the board will be voting on our
17:10
preliminary budget the budget process is a long and arduous one but also extremely thoughtful
17:16
in its considerations the board's goal was to be as fiscally responsible as possible and still deliver the
17:22
outstanding education that morristown is known for while keeping an eye on the future
17:27
indeed this budget tonight shows that the board is looking forward to ways that we can enhance the educational experience of our students
17:34
considerations were given that could have led to a slightly smaller overall budget however doing so would have compromised
17:41
many of the things that makes morristown morristown this board was not interested in compromising transportation for certain
17:47
students this board was not interested in eliminating extracurricular activities for students especially in a world where
17:53
we need to become more social again and not less most importantly this board was not interested in cutting the people and
17:59
programs that are unique to morristown so what will this board be considering when voting on the budget tonight
18:06
essentially a commitment to our values and parts of our interrupted strategic plan later during mr heiser's presentation
18:13
i'll be the speaker for a few of the slides as i highlight a continued commitment to the mental health and
18:18
well-being of our students in a post-pandemic time making sure that we are meeting students where they are educationally in the
18:24

foundational years a commitment to making improvements in student technology technology
18:29
infrastructure professional development and curriculum writing these are all keys to the outcome we
18:35
want which is a world-class education for students make no mistake about it each individual
18:41
member of this board had and still has their own point of view about the budgetary process
18:46
really difficult questions were asked and answered in the end tonight the board will vote and regardless as to what the count of
18:52
that vote is the board will speak with one voice and take the next steps in the evolution of the morristown township
18:58
public schools and again for everybody who always comes i appreciate you coming out and watching all this work in action tonight now mr
19:05
president that concludes my superintendent's report
19:10
thank you mr volpe all right now for what everybody came for the student reports
19:17
right oh i'm sorry the budget you want to do oh you guys want to see the budget
19:24
i'm kidding i'm kidding claire claire honestly what do you think
19:31
tonight go ahead um hello everybody my name is claire haran i'm a big budget fan however i am
19:38
also the i'm also the senior class liaison to the board of education um and tonight i will
19:44
be talking about senior trip uh which i do talk about every month but i actually have updates this month to share with
19:50
you um on monday we had for monday or tuesday i think it was last night so monday wednesday yes monday it's a lot
19:58
going on um we had our pre-disney trip meeting it's a universal
20:03
trip though so they have to qualify that in every speech um so we had our meeting and it was really
20:08
informational um each student had to bring at least one parent and they had a little question and answer at the end
20:14
uh with a brief overview of everything that's going on there are two separate flights down to orlando and back one on
20:20
southwest which um is completely chartered so it's all nhs and then there's one on spirit which is later
20:27
that day on april 2nd the day we leave um so it'll be mostly mhs students with
20:32
14 best friends that mr cybel was calling them last night um
20:37
so i'm super excited our room assignments have been released our flights i'm on the uh earlier flight
20:42
which is nice to get my tan going and um in orlando in preparation for prom which
20:49
peyton we'll talk about later um but we're super excited uh the meeting was pretty great um my dad did recognize
20:55
some jokes from four years before though so mr cybel may need to update his material a little bit
21:01
the one thing that i picked up the most was do not prank call um which i hadn't even it hadn't
21:07
occurred to me until he told me so we'll see if it happens enough um yeah it was really good super excited
21:14
so we leave april 2nd and then we come back on the next thursday night around 11 o'clock p.m
21:19
um it was really you know told to us you have to be there on friday you have to be the day before so
21:25
i'm sure everybody will be there from the senior class um the day after the trip um and also i'm here to talk about
21:32
the senior class service project that we've been doing um all the other grades have completed
21:37
their service projects for the year um the seniors were still about to kick start it um i think it's going to happen
21:44
after the senior trip but we are running a book drive for book smiles in cherry hill
21:49
um i'm this reading phase right now where i like i'll read like 10 books and i won't read for three months um so i'm in that
21:55
right now but i'm buying a bunch of books i'm super excited to participate in our book drive to uh you know share
22:01
the wealth and uh donate something back to the community i know everybody's really looking for a lot of why a
22:06
rom-com novel so they'll be getting a large shipment pretty soon from me um but i'm really excited to uh

22:12
participate in the community and finally you know follow up our three successful drives with one from the seniors
22:18
and i'm going to pass it off to payton thank you very much
22:27
hello happy second day of spring so i'm gonna talk about three things tonight and they
22:34
all have to do with prom so first i'm gonna talk about the junior service project which we did a prom
22:40
drive and we ended up collecting a little over a hundred beautiful and wonderful dresses that can all be used
22:46
for prom so i'd like to do a special thank you for everyone who donated um so
22:51
we will be donating to our school and we're also going to send about 20 to 30 dresses to
22:58
um one of the schools in the camden school district to donate to other communities in need um the next thing on thursday we are
23:05
going to bring back the prom fashion show so basically during all of the lunches there's a group about 10 boys
23:13
and girls are going to do a prom fashion show which is going to promote the formal expressions prom and tux shop
23:21
in maple shade so it's just a fun event to get people excited about prom then the real event happens on may 13th
23:29
it's going to be at the crown plaza which is not the crown plaza anymore
23:35
double tree it's gonna be a doubletree and it's a beautiful hotel we have a theme but it's a secret so you'll find
23:41
out soon and yeah it's on friday the 13th so that should be interesting
23:47
that's all i have to say about prom passing it off thanks miss emmel [Applause]
24:01
hi everyone i'm bavika the sophomore class liaison so for our service project
24:06
we chose to donate to wolf love rescue and this is a foster home and a dog
24:11
rescue organization they work with animal aid usa which is a volunteer organization that
24:18
goes to georgia every 28 weeks to rescue abandoned and unwanted dogs
24:24
and these dogs are then given to wolf love rescue as their foster home so one of our class advisors mrs furlong
24:31
actually is a volunteer for wolf love rescue so we decided this would be the perfect organization for us
24:38
and our service project lasted from february 28th to march 4th
24:43
so freshmen had the task of bringing in dog treats we got to bring in used or new towels juniors got to bring in dog
24:50
food and seniors were given dog treats overall it was a great success we
24:55
collected a total of 75 items which is absolutely amazing for our drives
25:01
and mrs furlong will be bringing these items to georgia april 1st so coming up
25:06
and so they're really excited to receive all of our shipments because
25:11
we can do whatever we can to help these foster homes since a lot of times they don't receive a lot of donations so the
25:17
sophomore class is really excited to be able to do something to help our fellow community even it's not humans directly
25:24
and yeah we're really excited about that looking all the way into the future until graduation
25:30
student council has started to discuss graduation and how we can play a role in this ceremony to make sure our seniors
25:37
have a memorable and successful graduation so in
25:43
we will be selling waters and flowers at graduation to raise money and overall we
25:48
are just very excited to be there for our seniors and help them and make sure they have the best graduation possible
25:54
and a bit of a more normal graduation so thank you
26:11
good morning oh i'm so used to doing the announcements
26:16
good evening everyone my name is yvette and i'm the freshman class liaison i'm
26:21

here to talk to you about two things today i'm here the first thing is the event that we're planning on hosting at
26:28
the end of the year so last year because of covid we hosted our pep rally in the sp spring towards
26:34
the end of the year and all the students had a blast and they really wanted to do it again so with popular vote we are
26:41
planning on doing a similar event which is like something like pep rally which would be at the end of the testing week
26:48
in may then the second thing is the student council end of year activity
26:54
so this year we decided on going bowling and our plan to raise money
26:59
for our outing came from our senior class vice president who suggested a 3v3
27:04
basketball tournament where the winner would get some sort of prize and there would be a fee for entering and then
27:11
uh it would be just fun for everyone who competes there'll be like a certain number of teams for from every grade and
27:17
then playing against each other and then the overall winner would get the prize and then student council we student
27:24
council members would volunteer there and some teachers would help out as refs and to supervise too
27:31
hopefully the money we raised will be enough for us student council members to take a well-deserved break as we work
27:36
very hard and we all like to eat a lot thank you
27:46
thanks as always to the students we really appreciate your insight perspective and kind of
27:52
reminiscing a little bit about the stuff we went through in high school yeah so anyway thanks again uh you're welcome
27:57
to stay for the budget presentation miss her and your own record as being a fan of the budget um but uh if not if there's homework
28:05
please feel free to excuse yourselves but thank you again all right
28:12
all right we'll move on so we don't notice mr heiser thank you mr president
28:20
dylan can you uh pull the presentation up for me
28:28
while dylan's in the process of doing that i'd like to just start by thanking the board
28:34
our central administration administration our building administrators our faculty and staff the
28:39
budget process is never a simple one it's a uh long and arduous process
28:46
that hopefully culminates tonight with a vote with the board speaking together and uh
28:51
and moving forward the present the budget so i can submit it to the county
28:57
so i will go into the budget introduction so what we will talk about is the
29:02
development process the process that we undertake to ultimately put together the budget
29:08
uh obviously it's divided into two areas revenues and appropriations so we'll talk in a little bit more detail of
29:14
those areas our budget adjustments those are the adjustments that we have made to
29:20
ultimately balance the budget those adjustments could be to revenue they also could be two appropriations
29:26
the bulk of those adjustments are two appropriations typically however we did uh have some favorable areas on revenue
29:33
as well we'll take a look at the actual budget introduction which is where the budget
29:39
stands as of today what the board will be asked to vote upon the tax impact of that budget and then
29:45
the budget highlights uh which is the key uh initiatives within the budget uh
29:52
for the 22-23 school year so the budget development process so the
29:59
process starts out with the priorities of board committees and administration
30:04
so all of our board committees meet with our administrative teams and develop
30:10
their priorities curriculum has its own priority our finance and operations committee has a priority
30:17
so we develop those priorities and move the budget forward based off of those priorities our central administration

30:22 evaluates the needs of the district related to technology curriculum personnel and facilities
30:28 our school administration which is our school-based budget budgets are developed based on the needs of faculty
30:34 and content level supervisors and then revenue and appropriations are updated over time based on finalized
30:41 numbers so typically in january the budget process is a lot more of a fluid process
30:47 and it starts to be honed in through january through february and it really really
30:52 starts to heat up in march as we start to get finalized numbers for example tuition is a prime area where that
31:00 number changes over time based off of what our student actual enrollment is as
31:05 well as the actual tuition rates that we received from out-of-district uh uh entities of where the students are
31:12 placed uh and then obviously our benefit that's benefits are another area that we put in
31:18 projected amounts and as time goes on we get confirmed increases that then we can
31:24 update the budget for we obviously always try to project high so we're not
31:29 having to go back and cut and we're in that process experience and that we
31:34 can go back and find some some money in that process
31:41 so our budget calendar which was approved by our finance and operations committee i believe it was back in
31:48 october where we are at in that step right now
31:53 we're down at that third the last bullet point march 22nd budget introduction and approval on
31:59 march 8th we held our budget workshop with the board as well as on that same
32:05 date the governor's budget address was also that date march 10th we did find out our state aid
32:11 number which i'll speak to in a further slide so what happens after today
32:16 if the budget is approved for me to submit it to the county i submit it to the county
32:23 it's due by march 28th the county then reviews it it goes through a state approval process
32:28 and then they approve it to be advertised for the public and the budget adoption and
32:35 the public hearing is scheduled for april 26 currently
32:42 our initial budget when we started this process we started this process and we
32:47 started uh this is the revenues that we started with uh so
32:54 after everything was said and done we took a look at all of our building-based budgets
32:59 all of our capital outlay everything needed in the district
33:05 we had revenues roughly of 78 million 695 396.
33:11 those revenues at that point in time are a rough estimate because
33:17 a lot you'll see in a further slide you'll see a lot more increases and decreases because obviously at this
33:23 point in time we didn't know our state aid number we also don't necessarily have a good grasp of
33:30 our tuition number when you start this process so as time progresses that's
33:35 what i mean by it's a very fluid process as time progresses you get to hone that in
33:42 on our appropriation side the key thing here our appropriations everything's
33:48 said and done when the full budget was entered we were 7.6 million over budget
33:54 inclusive of a two percent tax increase so obviously that indicated to us right
33:59 off the bat that we had a lot of work to do to cut the budget back to a balanced budget and to get somewhere where we
34:06

could get a budget that can be put forward for approval so to do that
34:12
we'll talk a little bit later about that but uh i'm going to go into a little bit of detail on the revenues and
34:17
appropriations and then we'll talk about the adjustments that were made to cut down to a balanced budget
34:23
so our local tax levy a two percent increase is one million three hundred and forty four thousand six hundred and
34:29
sixty four dollars our state aid was originally budgeted flat so that was what we saw two slides
34:36
ago a future slide will show there is a five hundred and eighteen thousand two hundred nineteen dollar confirmed
34:43
increase from the governor's budget address which was held on march 8th
34:48
and confirmed on march 10th when the actual numbers were shared with us our budgeted fund balance budgeted fund
34:55
balance is always this kind of confusing number that you know takes a little bit of an explanation but our budget fund
35:01
balance what it is is it's our prior year audit access surplus so our 2021
35:08
school year audited access surplus that's the number directly from our audit
35:13
plus allowable adjustments for any free general fund excess balances that are
35:19
projected as of june 30 2022 so ultimately that's a 415
35:26
815 dollar increase compared to the prior year that you'll see in a future slide as well
35:34
and then our other revenue sources so our other revenue sources are primarily consist of tuition
35:42
and then extraordinary aid and then facility rentals uh we are projecting an increase of 68 318
35:51
in this area uh which is primarily driven by increases with our preschool and
35:58
kindergarten tuition rates
36:04
so our tax levy our tax levies compose the two separate levies there's a
36:09
general fund levy and a debt service levy our general fund levy is our levy
36:14
that accounts for our district's annual operating budget it's our salaries it's our benefits it's supplies it's
36:20
everything we do as a school district uh in our normal operations our debt
36:26
service levy accounts for paying off the debt associated with long-term capital
36:31
projects that were previously approved in a referendum so this is a five-year view of our
36:39
of our tax levy history you can see that last year our uh increase on the general
36:45
fund levy was 2.29 our debt service went down by 2.28 for a
36:52
net of 1.98 percent and then you can see down there at the bottom
36:57
the effective tax rate increase is 1.76 so the effective tax rate increase is
37:04
different than the levy increase because as ratables go up there's more taxable
37:10
properties within the community to spread that taxes across
37:15
so the effective tax rate is different than the levy increase by that amount
37:21
as ratables go up the the effective tax rate obviously goes down
37:29
so one thing that we did last year as well is we refinanced one of our issuances that came up for availability
37:36
to refinance which was our 2012 outstanding debt uh refinancing that
37:42
this is just a snapshot the blue line was before our rv finance
37:47
the orange line is after our refinance so in the fiscal year 2223 which is the
37:54
budget that the board's going to be asked to vote on tonight
37:59
that equates to 90 544 dollars in savings uh two that goes

38:06
right back to the levy uh coming right off the levee how much we need for to repay our debt service
38:13
uh so that there's a another slide in the future that goes a little bit more into detail on that as
38:18
well so this is our state aid number so when
38:24
we did the budget workshop at the at on march 8th we didn't have our state aid number so i couldn't update this
38:31
slide for this and i apologize because the one heading there should be 20 23
38:38
but ultimately what you see here the green line is our uncapped aid how much
38:44
the district should receive in accordance with the funding formula the way it exists
38:50
the blue line is how much we actually receive the yellow line is the
38:56
difference between the green and the blue line ultimately moore's town under s2
39:03
has historically been an underfunded district in accordance with state aid so
39:08
s2 the purpose of s2 is to narrow that and bring us to the funding that we
39:15
should be receiving year to year so you can see that over the last three years it has the green line is growing
39:22
closer uh the blue line is growing closer to the green line and we want to see that
39:27
trend continue so that yellow line we want to see that go all the way down to zero and we want to see that blue line
39:34
touch and meet that green line
39:40
this slide shows our other revenue sources uh which uh is primarily consistent with prior
39:48
years uh tuition we do have a slight uptick in our tuition that we are expecting again
39:55
that's due to increasing our preschool and our kindergarten tuition rates
40:00
uh facility rentals there's a slight decrease that's in anticipation for minimum wage
40:06
requirements for some of our uh some of our rental programs uh overall
40:13
the other governments there's about a fifty thousand dollar increase there that is primarily due to uh
40:20
expecting fifty thousand in additional extraordinary aid based off of our actual uh claims and
40:27
applications that we've submitted in the past but overall relatively consistent year to year here
40:40
appropriations the mea contract is set to expire on june 30th 2022
40:46
we will be in year three of three with our mo contract insurance we originally projected a five
40:53
percent increase our health insurance was confirmed at a 2.62
40:59
confirmed increase our general insurance was confirmed at an eight and a half percent increase and our student
41:06
accident lines of coverage were confirmed at a one percent increase uh instructional supplies and materials
41:12
our school budgets came in at zero percent so no increase compared to the prior
41:18
year and our appropriations consist primarily of these
41:25
five departmental budgets which is our curriculum budget there's a future slide on that that goes
41:30
into a little bit more detail that mr volpe will cover technology there's a little bit more
41:36
detail that mr volpe will cover about that as well and then our administration facilities and transportation
41:43
and our capital outlay budget our capital outlay budget when we were originally 7.6 million over
41:49
uh a little over two million dollars was uh in capital outlay that's an item every
41:56
single year that you know we have requests that are put in there that we have to cut out for example one
42:02
one item that's included in there has been included in there year after year is the tennis courts
42:09

milling the tennis courts and repaving the parking lot as well behind the high school
42:14
those two items amount to roughly uh one million two hundred and fifty thousand
42:20
those are just things that are hard to do in your operating budget uh that ultimately we have to cut out
42:28
every year to balance the budget but we still go through the process of
42:33
including them in because obviously at some point in time we're going to hit a point where they're going to have to be
42:38
done our appropriations so some of the key items in our appropriations our
42:44
curriculum includes the adoption of new ela curriculum for grades k-5 professional development and curriculum
42:51
writing special education budget includes some
42:56
one-to-one nursing needs and related services technology we have two grade level
43:02
replacements of one-to-one devices server and infrastructure upgrades cad computer replacements
43:09
operations increase anticipated for fuel and contracted transportation services
43:15
one of the biggest issues is minimum wage impact across uh several programs that we run
43:22
uh substitute rate increases were made in 2021 that had to be
43:27
accounted for in the 2223 budget we also increased our driver salaries in
43:33
uh the 21-22 school year that had to be accounted for in the 22-23 budget
43:44
so this is a article that uh came out i believe it was february 10th
43:49
inflation surges seven and a half percent on an annual basis even more than expected in highest since 1982.
43:56
so we do a lot of creative things with our purchasing we participate in state
44:01
contracts where we can we participate in county cooperatives where we can
44:07
the bulk if not all of our ordering uh especially at the building level is done through a
44:15
system called edata that system is a global bid that's put out to get the best price
44:22
for specifically for school materials um but we're not immune to uh to what we
44:30
see going on in the economy right now nobody's a stranger to pulling up to a gas pump right now and paying you know
44:37
four dollars a gallon of gas we're not immune to that uh yes we can
44:42
buy things in bulk and yes we can get a better deal but it doesn't mean that we're not going to see increased costs
44:47
so this budget also accounts for that
44:54
so our adjustments made to date to ultimately balance the budget tuition costs
45:00
originally we had budgeted a higher number than what was needed based on enrollment uh and where
45:07
uh finalized tuition rates came in so that led to about 570 000 in cuts there
45:13
department building level budgets were cut by 504 000 and again building level
45:19
budgets came in flat compared to the prior year so these were new requests that were being cut not existing
45:26
items our capital outlay there's that 2 million plus number there that we ended
45:31
up cutting out from capital outlay our lease purchase was cut by 958 000
45:39
in requests which resulted in 191 000 in annual payment our lease purchase is a
45:46
five-year lease purchase so you cut a million dollars out of it you
45:52
ultimately cut roughly 200 000 in annual payment staffing our
45:59
staffing was adjusted by two million twenty eight thousand this is more this
46:04
is new positions uh being adjusted or removed from the budget found uh those

46:10
positions are found from within by looking at efficiency purposes uh
46:15
repurposing staff that can be used in other areas retirements leaves of absences things along those lines
46:21
uh benefit adjustments 608 000 cut from benefits now a portion of that
46:27
is obviously as you cut a new position request there is a benefit component of that so that the bulk of that is that
46:34
are additional state aid so we saw a 518 000 dollar increase in state aid
46:40
and utilization of bank cap so there's a future slide that goes into
46:46
explaining what uh the amount that we're using in bank cap and ultimately what that is
46:52
uh and then other revenue adjustments sixty eight thousand three hundred and eighteen dollars that's primarily in
46:58
tuition uh taking a look at our uh tuition that we received from other districts and and other individuals
47:08
so our current status now you see a lot more a lot more increases in decreases in the
47:16
far right corner there because as time goes along we get a better handle on where our revenues are going to go
47:23
we have our confirmed number from the state aid we put in an additional 50 000 in the
47:29
extraordinary aid an additional 95 000 in tuition
47:34
and so on and so forth budgeted fund balance 415 000 there at
47:40
the bottom um our appropriations
47:47
we do have the budget is now showing that it's balanced
47:52
appropriations 49 million in salaries 16 million 500 000 in benefits
47:59
and then 15 million 172 in other
48:04
expenditures so our budget is now balanced um to
48:09
[Music] explain bank cap bank cap was the bank cap that we are
48:16
requesting utilization of was generated in the 2019 2020 school year so in the
48:22
2019-2020 school year we had what at that time what was called a health care benefit adjustment
48:28
so it was additional taxing authority that could have been utilized at that point in time to ultimately take our tax levy
48:37
up to 6 64 747 000. that year we only went to 64 194 000
48:46
which generated five hundred and fifty two thousand eight hundred and twenty four dollars of bank cap
48:51
in 2021 we used 168 000 of it in 2122 we used 190 000
48:59
in 2223 were requesting the use of 194 796 000.
49:10
so the tax impact with the utilization of bank cap our
49:16
general fund tax levy is going from 67 million two hundred and thirty three thousand two hundred seventeen dollars
49:22
to sixty eight thousand seven hundred and seventy two dollars six hundred and seventy seven dollars
49:29
and our debt service levies going from four million five hundred and eighty six thousand to four million five hundred
49:35
and twelve thousand roughly so you can see that decrease in our debt service there uh due to the refinancing
49:43
so ultimately uh on the average assessed home of 457
49:49
thousand uh 793 dollars the increase amounts to
49:55
122.8 cents a year
50:02
and at this point i will turn it over to mr volpe thank you mr heiser
50:08
so i did i did want to uh point out a couple things here and i tend not to read slides
50:13

thank you for all the numbers mr heiser i was an english teacher so i want to tell a story on my slides um and the
50:19
story is from what he said right there is yeah i'm asking for about
50:24
12 and 22 cents a month uh from the average
50:29
uh homeowner some people that'd be a little bit more some people that'll be a little bit less we should didn't have to
50:34
ask for that but the circumstances being what they are i want to make sure that uh everyone understands that uh
50:41
with a budget proposed it's not just to keep morristown morristown the way it is it's to keep it the way it is and to add
50:48
value so i'm going to talk about some things briefly on a couple slides that do connect to our strategic plan and are
50:53
things that are certainly going to add value to the district and the first one is care solace
50:59
we have been through very difficult times um mental health is a priority for staff
51:04
members for parents and also for students and there are some times that
51:10
the counselor in school or additional things we can do for kids simply is not enough
51:16
and we turn to parents and say you may want to look at some outside resources
51:21
and if you've been the parent of someone trying to get outside resources for mental health in the middle of this
51:26
it's hard it is extremely hard by bringing care solace as a tier three
51:32
intervention in our school we are going to be able to direct you to people they're not employees of the school it's
51:38
a service we're going to help you make those connections who are going to be that intervention for kids who are in
51:43
crisis and for parents who don't know where else to go that is going to be something that's going to be available
51:48
to you it's also going to be available to staff members so it's a it's significant uh that is
51:54
being added there um and you can see all the things that it will uh certainly provide for us there so that's one thing
52:00
mr heiser can go to the next slide also along with the lines of our strategic plan for world-class learning
52:07
with the previous one being social and emotional learning we need to replace some things and upgrade some things when
52:13
it comes to technology you can't be a world-class learner if your things aren't working and uh mr
52:20
harry over time has made things stretch he has frankenstein different laptops
52:25
together to make things work it's time to replace some things things things come to an expiration date we also want
52:31
to up upgrade our infrastructure um as well as our security so these are some things that we all
52:37
want to touch upon as we keep moving forward and might keep moving forward little insignia got cut off there but we
52:43
just want to keep moving forward with technology mister can you go to the next slide too
52:50
when it comes to world-class learning we need to make sure that we are doing things in the area of curriculum and instruction in order to
deliver that we
52:57
already have an outstanding teaching staff so i've got the talent i need to make sure that the talent has the right
53:03
tools at all times i believe our senior liaison made a joke
53:08
at mr seibel's expense about recycling a joke that was used four years ago with a
53:14
with a younger sibling well we don't want to have the same kind of joke going on in our curriculum
53:20
um times change kids change circumstances change
53:25
curriculums need to change as well and i would just point out without reading it that the couple of underlying ones we're
53:31
looking at eight plus new curriculum and 37 revisions and nine standard updates
53:36
that need to be done in order to be minimally compliant with what the state is saying we should do as far as
53:41
standards go and minimally compliant is not the morristown standard we will do the minimal compliance and we
53:48

will excel beyond that but you can't do one without the other you've got to build the foundation and move from there
53:54
we also want to arm teachers with the resources that they need and also provide plenty of opportunities for
54:00
professional development as we keep moving forward so that is all a very big initiative and the biggest initiative is
54:06
is going to be on the next slide uh when it comes to curriculum and this is our k-5 ela curriculum adoption and dr ben i
54:13
promise you're not going to have to give another presentation on this she's presented on this like four times but having been an elementary
principal
54:20
myself for 10 years the most important instruction we are going to give students the most
54:26
important not the only important is literacy during their elementary years and you got to have the right program
54:32
and you got to have the right people teaching it and you got to have the wherewithal to do it and that's what we are looking to do we are
going to be
54:38
implementing a new curriculum program that's going to affect a lot of students and a lot of teaching staff
54:44
curriculum needs to be written for that and i'm proud of dr benton for looking into this and doing it cheaper than our
54:49
previous revision and it's honestly a much better program so as we start to look at all of these
54:55
things too these are the new ads this is what is adding value to our budget we
55:00
are moving forward we are going to keep moving forward and uh it's my promise
55:05
that as long as i'm here every time that i'm asking people to pay for something it's gonna be for something more
55:12
so this budget that we are looking at tonight is uh tapping into our interrupted strategic plan that we need
55:18
to figure out what we're doing over the next year or so with that but we want to make sure we follow through on a couple
55:23
of core principles number one as i had mentioned a commitment to social emotional learning of students
55:29
and their mental health and that world-class learning and all these things here can do that
55:35
and i believe that's my last slide correct yes so when it comes to this budget we want to keep it aligned with our values
55:42
and we want to keep moving forward thank you
55:47
thank you mr heiser mr volpe uh we'll have an opportunity to discuss the
55:52
budget in more detail when we get to that line item later um but i will just say i appreciate
55:59
uh not only the depth but also the story uh that's being told that we're continuing to
56:05
consider even with the challenges how to continue to reinvent reinvest in our organization so
56:11
thank you for that all right uh let's move on to board committee reports
56:17
so i don't know we can start from my right lauren if you want to go
56:26
sure um with the change of tonight's board meeting date we actually had two curriculum committee meetings in between
56:33
the last board meeting um the big discussion for our february 17th meeting
56:38
was the adoption of the ela k-6 k-5 curriculum that mr volpe just
56:45
discussed so and uh dr benton gave a presentation on last month um we also looked at the priorities for curriculum
56:52
in the current budget um dr benton gave an overview of some of the changes to the spring pd calendar
57:01
um and was looking to develop professional development frameworks moving forward for how to implement then
57:07
the new ela k through 5 um curriculum and and provide the staff
57:14
support so that the implementation next year went smoothly and then we also looked to review the curriculum adoption
57:20
process and so that then led us to the march 17th meeting in which we um at the beginning
57:27
reviewed the covet protocols that mr volpe announced at the beginning of the meeting
57:33
we looked at the wams program of studies that was presented by ms caravano

57:40
at wims they were looking to change the scheduling options to provide more
57:46
opportunities for students to take exploratory arts courses that did not impact necessarily any of the
57:53
program of studies being offered it just was a different way of offering the current existing programs to start
57:59
students um we took a look at keralsalis which mr volpe um
58:05
shared on his powerpoint and the committee was in support of that additional program
58:11
uh we also looked at the curriculum adoption process and uh dr benton laid
58:17
out a five-year cycle that we would be looking at as a curriculum committee
58:22
as a way of planning out how curriculum is presented and planned for going forward
58:28
dr bennett also reviewed new standards that we as a district needed to implement again mr volpe kind
58:35
of touched upon some of the standards that were the reason for the curriculum writing
58:41
needed and some of the curriculum changes um so we took a look at that and then finally we looked at
58:47
how we were moving forward as a committee and as a district with our equity diversity and inclusion plans
58:54
dr benton explained some of the new implementations this year with
59:00
diversity and representation giving more voice and choice to students some of the professional development
59:06
that's taken place this year and also a look at how we were selecting curriculum
59:11
resources moving forward in the future she gave examples of work being done in the district this year that
59:19
related to and reflected um our district goals of you know improving our equity and diversity
59:25
and that's about it hey great well thank you ms romano dr
59:32
snyder if you want to do policy please sure uh policy committee met on march 8th uh
59:38
the first thing we did was uh discuss the kobut 19 protocols that mr volpe had
59:43
just mentioned the only additional thing we talked about how policy 1648 would be impacted and it was
59:51
suggested to be put on a future policy committee meaning to sort of address any changes that would be necessary to 1648
59:59
we discussed a number of policies that are not on the agenda for first or second reading the first of which was
1:00:04
again 5530 which is the substance abuse policy that is again tabled for a future
1:00:10
meeting in light of the fact that it is currently under a review from um
1:00:16
board attorney and administration to sort of take back those uh recommendations
1:00:23
the committee maintained the concern with sort of how various substances would be categorized and the level of
1:00:29
discretion that would be available to administration within each substance category's specific discipline
1:00:36
policy 24 31.4 was the prevention treatment of sports related concussions and head injuries
1:00:42
again that wasn't discussed other than to say that it was tabled for a future meeting after board attorney review
1:00:49
the policy 7540 which is the joint use facilities
1:00:54
is not on the agenda and it was not recommended for adopting as we do not have joint use facilities at in
1:01:00
morristown um and policy 3233 was discussed uh which deals with um
1:01:08
the use uh about political activities and the use of facilities and time
1:01:13
the the conversation was around the fact that there is a similar policy that is
1:01:18
adopted dealing with support staff 42 33 um and
1:01:24
the the conversation was around having 32 33 and 42 33
1:01:31

um mirror each other so instead of putting on this new policy for uh staff dealing with that it was
1:01:39
recommended to wait one month to have both policies uh the one that deals with staff and
1:01:44
support staff so that they are identical in language so they again will be on for a future
1:01:50
meeting the policies that are on for first reading tonight um there is one change
1:01:56
uh but 9180 which deals with school volunteers this policy is around the requirement
1:02:04
for school volunteers regardless of hours of student contact to have a background check fingerprinting which
1:02:11
would be reversed by the school district and it was very clear that the definition of volunteer does not include
1:02:16
some person who occasionally comes into the classroom chaperones a field trip something like that um but we were it
1:02:23
was removal of the hours as some delineator of of student contact and
1:02:28
instead this this would be under the discretion of the building administrator or
1:02:33
the superintendent to determine that a particular frequent volunteer who has student contact and
1:02:41
has sort of authority in some purview would require a background check
1:02:47
a very similar policy 9181 was discussed in response to volunteer athletic coaches
1:02:53
which is very similar that was tabled as there is an additional component dealing with
1:02:59
confidential matters and what that volunteer would be required to do if they learned about of
1:03:06
so that was under attorney review and we'll come back so that is not on the agenda um the anti-hazing which is a mandated
1:03:12
policy 5541 deals with language changes um
1:03:18
i'm sorry no that was the next one this deals with uh um
1:03:23
specific how to handle uh hazing and how it is would be different and it
1:03:29
can also be hiv but it would be specific to the high school and whams um and it
1:03:34
would be the specific language around how it was how it becomes student con a student code of conduct issue
1:03:41
and again it can also be an hiv if the criteria are met it would not include elementary as that
1:03:47
is handled under the code of conduct and 8465
1:03:52
again was a language change dealing with dealing with bias crimes and bias um
1:03:59
removing the word hate and changing it to bias um and there are really no changes any on any of the policies on
1:04:05
for second reading uh 2451 was uh there was an a a larger version put
1:04:12
on for first reading so the abbreviated version that's on tonight's agenda is the corrected correct version uh on for
1:04:18
second reading um any questions
1:04:26
uh two comments um i think
1:04:31
uh with respect to coveted related policies i think there's a series of them in the
1:04:36
sort of 1648 range that the committee may want to take a look at
1:04:42
and to explore how to deal with those as we continue to roll out of the pandemic
1:04:49
and then on the political activities um policy that you had mentioned there's
1:04:56
so if i remember correctly there's a policy that addresses political activities
1:05:03
as it pertains to staff members and there is a line in that policy that says that political activities will not take
1:05:09
place on at school facilities um
1:05:16
there has been some discussion in the past about whether we should have a
1:05:21
policy that is specific to buildings and school facilities that basically reiterates that very point

1:05:29
that morristown schools will not have political activities on its campuses
1:05:35
there has been some debate in the past about whether um
1:05:41
we can and i think that if you're going to be discussing the
1:05:47
political activities as it pertains to support staff uh perhaps
1:05:52
there may be some discussion about this issue that we talked about in the past as it pertains to hosting political
1:05:57
activities on school grounds because i don't think it should happen um
1:06:02
i think there's perhaps or at least some people believe there's ambiguities ambiguity as to that point and so we may
1:06:09
i would see ask that the committee uh review that and consider whether we do want a policy
1:06:17
that makes it absolutely clear that political activity will not take place on our school grounds
1:06:23
yeah no i think the the the it was flagged in light of a
1:06:29
change from facilities to premises so it was like a language which was then flagged in the context of like we don't
1:06:36
have a policy for one group but we have a policy for another so trying to sync that up but what you're describing is an
1:06:43
offshoot of that for sure so sounds good and we did we did talk about that as a
1:06:49
committee and agree that we would address it going forward so it is going to be on the agenda for a future policy
1:06:54
committee meeting because i share your sentiments just since we're on that i'm curious
1:07:02
is there guidance or definition around what because i i see this is where the problem is what is political activity is
1:07:08
a you know sitting politician serving our area coming to school to read a book
1:07:14
is that political activity is it a campaign event and that's what i'm wondering like is there any guidance on
1:07:20
that or is that something the committee has considered i think
1:07:26
yeah i mean and that was sort of the discussion that we had over the summer um and i think it's sort of you know it
1:07:32
when you see it like i i would imagine that um you know even if it's a sitting
1:07:38
politician showing up to campus in a vote for me type t-shirt or something along those lines that that would
1:07:44
be considered political activity but but i think there was disagreement about that yeah well we have to figure
1:07:50
out yeah is it coming with signs to a veteran's day activity
1:07:56
or just coming to a better example that kind of thing and so i'd be curious you know to hear how the committee
1:08:02
looks into that and not just the the kind of depth that i'm curious about and we talked about that at the
1:08:07
committee meeting how it wouldn't be a clear-cut policy that we could write in the moment and propose that there were
1:08:13
lots of things melissa even talked about we certainly wouldn't want to impact clubs that the students have for example
1:08:19
we want it to be thoughtful around any type of policy of this nature so we've only just brought it up for discussion
1:08:24
and we'll take all of these things into consideration
1:08:33
great uh what's going on mark do you uh mr villanueva you want to do sure
1:08:40
you could call me mark um both trying to be consistent
1:08:46
let's do that
1:08:52
and operations committee met on march 14th we discussed the coveted protocols that
1:08:58
mr volpe addressed in his opening remarks and you know it
1:09:04
as the students were speaking it was just awesome to hear like the excitement
1:09:10
of everything that they're doing this spring and you can it's palpable and
1:09:16

it all you know a lot of it relates to the things that they're able to do now that these now that we're out of the
1:09:21
pandemic we're getting closer to being out of the pandemic and you can just see it in their faces and it's and it's great
1:09:27
um and you know i know that there were some that wanted some of the the measures that
1:09:34
hopefully will be removed uh early next month to have happened earlier and i was one
1:09:39
of them but i am really i really appreciate the approach that was taken and um it's again it was
1:09:46
evident when when we hear how excited that the students are to uh to be moving forward and we're not hearing
1:09:52
some of the you know uncertainty that we heard in the past about what would what could be done what
1:09:58
couldn't be done so you know we talked about uh covet obviously mr heiser gave us a budget update
1:10:05
i won't reiterate everything that he just talked about we
1:10:12
also discussed the status of our custodial vendor
1:10:17
um we have seen some improvements in the cleaning that has taken place
1:10:25
mr heiser talked about food service issues we've
1:10:30
had some complaints over the last 24 months or so about the quality of
1:10:36
food and strike that i don't want to say 24 months because
1:10:42
i think immediately after kobe when we were doing the deliveries i think uh there was people were pleased
1:10:47
but i think recently more recently we've had some complaints about food quality a
1:10:52
lot of that is attributed to the packaging and sort of the way that we've
1:10:57
had to deliver and provide food to students given the covet restrictions things have
1:11:03
to be individually wrapped which which impacts the quality of the food and consistent with the theme of
1:11:09
getting back to normal after spring break we anticipate to have some adjustments to the way that we
1:11:15
serve food to more of a normal routine and so hopefully the food quality will improve
1:11:21
mr heiser also talked about some new equipment that we may be purchasing including a conveyor style pizza oven
1:11:29
or ovens and some grill tops that should also help improve food quality
1:11:36
meal prices for 2022-2023 will be going up by 10 cents a meal we have to get up by law we have to
1:11:43
charge three dollars by the 2024 school year so we are incrementally increasing to that number
1:11:50
we discussed the insurance market as it relates to cyber liability
1:11:57
governmental entities and educational institutions are are becoming
1:12:02
more frequent targets of cyber breaches and this is resulting in
1:12:09
a hardening of the insurance market which requires us to get insurance with less favorable rest favorable terms including
1:12:15
high deductibles and high premiums so we are shopping our insurance through
1:12:23
the gif as well as privately and i believe correct me if i'm wrong james but uh security audit is built
1:12:29
into the budget for next year which will help us evaluate
1:12:34
the um stability and status of our current security measures which is an important
1:12:40
step in my mind and perhaps could help us
1:12:46
get more favorable insurance rates if we demonstrate that we're being very proactive in our cyber security
1:12:54
we're going to be selling two buses that's on the agenda tonight and through the through a municipal bid process the
1:13:01
these buses are picked apart and have exceeded their useful life and so we'll be putting them on uh municipal
1:13:07
and that's on the agenda as i said we discuss care solace which i won't

1:13:14
repeat because mr volpe went through it in detail and
1:13:20
the last item we talked about was a significant item that we talked about was with respect to
1:13:27
the rental rate that we charge to the recreation department for
1:13:33
a summer program um they get a very very you know they get our most favorable rate
1:13:40
um that we our goal is to break even we don't want to make money off of the rec department
1:13:47
for their for the programs that they run out of the ues um and so the rate that we charge
1:13:55
generally breaks us even sometimes we may lose a little bit but um the committee is supportive of keeping that
1:14:01
that rate in place and so that is about it
1:14:08
any questions comments
1:14:14
you're hearing none um communication we did not have a meeting
1:14:20
in march that i can recall last one was february 23rd
1:14:26
yeah was before so uh and and dr albert is not here tonight i anyway
1:14:33
to my knowledge nobody's speaking to that so okay yeah
1:14:38
i was gonna yes and we should reiterate please
1:14:43
fill out the community survey and and i'll just put another plug-in for um we need community members who are not
1:14:50
necessarily parents or employees to fill out the survey so i for one ask my mother to send it to her
1:14:56
bridge club uh yeah everybody at the evergreens like we would like to hear all their opinions as well
1:15:02
yeah well my mom likes to be useful i believe we have a communications um meeting on the
1:15:08
30th 30th okay all right thanks for that all right so
1:15:14
uh any other off board committee reports
1:15:21
is there anything from any of the cheryl excuse me mrs mccopolis
1:15:26
i always get the tricky one um i do have a quick update i was not able to attend
1:15:33
the more arts meeting last month or earlier this month because the budget workshop conflicted
1:15:39
but i did want to share a quick note about um
1:15:44
their scholarships are open for seniors and the portal is open now on the
1:15:50
website and so i'll just read this to you quickly so i don't misrepresent anything the scholarships are non-competitive and
1:15:56
needs-based they're not needs based they're designed to recognize those students who have
1:16:02
participated in the fine and performing arts in any capacity even if they have not been enrolled in
1:16:08
the programs at the high school um i.e like a dancer who has no course
1:16:13
offerings so they do not need to be majoring in the arts in college to receive an award
1:16:19
there are a few targeted scholarships for which an essay is required and only one of each is given
1:16:26
the majority of them are given in unlimited numbers as long as there's money to do so
1:16:31
so i encourage you if you know somebody or want to share this information to check out the more arts website
1:16:38
and look into the scholarship thank you anybody else
1:16:45
unfortunately i missed the speak meeting last month but there is a meeting this
1:16:50
thursday at 9 30 and you can join it's via zoom and
1:16:57
you can go on their facebook page and find the zoom link and if you can't find it email me and i'll make sure you
1:17:04

get it okay great thank you mr carl burns all right uh so
1:17:12
at this point we will finish the committee meeting reports we'll move to our public comment uh this
1:17:18
first public comment period is about agenda items so we welcome a public comment on agenda items please come to
1:17:25
the mic state your name and address you will have three minutes to speak
1:17:30
and as you know this isn't necessarily a question and answer period so follow up with an email or a direct
1:17:38
conversation that would be the best way if you seek an answer please also do not address board members
1:17:44
or people on the dais individually and uh we expect and know people will be
1:17:49
respectful of making public comments so with that would anybody like to
1:17:54
engage public comments oh sorry
1:18:00
motion to open public comment second all in favor
1:18:06
opposed abstentions sorry about that i'm too eager to get to it
1:18:15
all right we'll take that as a sign okay uh motion to close public comment
1:18:23
all in all favor any opposed extensions
1:18:29
okay so now we will move to reports to the board um
1:18:36
so this contains what's up okay several items the business
1:18:41
administrator board secretary financial reports treasury reports cafeteria reports
1:18:46
um [Music] the approval of budget transfer and approval of bills
1:18:52
so i will entertain a motion for approval of items one through five
1:18:58
thank you second second thank you any questions or comments
1:19:06
okay are you none all in favor aye any opposed extensions
1:19:14
okay thank you that carries um next uh recommendations of the
1:19:19
superintendent uh so we have policies and procedures uh first reading the ones that were mentioned uh second reading
1:19:27
let's see and so i will entertain a motion for approval of items one and two please
1:19:37
any comments or questions okay hearing none i'll call for vote all
1:19:43
in favor aye any abstentions opposed
1:19:51
all right letter b uh number one burlington county alternative school placement for 21 22 home instruction
1:19:57
same period homeless placements same period special education in district placements
1:20:03
for 2122 as well i'll entertain a motion for approval of items one through four
1:20:11
thank you thank you any questions comments
1:20:17
okay all in favor aye aye any opposed
1:20:23
extensions all right moving on to letter c finance and business
1:20:29
travel and related expense reimbursement is number one number two adoption of the tentative budget
1:20:35
which we are all very familiar with now so for these two items i'll first entertain the motion to approve
1:20:44
thank you second and mr heiser may we have a roll call vote oh i'm sorry sorry discussion questions
1:20:50
comments yeah i wanted to make a couple of comments
1:20:57
about the budget and ask a question or two perhaps but um i was this obviously my first time being
1:21:05
part of the budget cycle um i spent a lot of time in the workshop and then subsequently in the office hours so
1:21:11
thanks to mr heiser for your patience in supporting me through this process it was incredibly helpful

1:21:19
one big area of focus for me was the two percent tax levy and
1:21:26
pressure testing whether or not we were you know having taken it the past couple of budget cycles whether we were in a
1:21:33
state of being where we were kind of automatically um assuming a two
1:21:38
percent levy into our base budget or were we really kind of taking out a sharp pencil and pressure testing
1:21:45
whether or not we need it to take it to the max increase or take it at all so
1:21:50
that was something that was a hyper area of focus for me spent a lot of time with mr heiser
1:21:55
i want to echo the sentiments that mr volpe shared at the outset around
1:22:01
things that we didn't want to cut like the modern and progressive curriculum offerings that we have
1:22:08
the busing that we do as a courtesy beyond the state mandated um
1:22:14
guidelines um things like extracurriculars and co-curriculars and all of the other special programs that
1:22:21
make our district unique and high quality so with all of that said i i looked
1:22:27
holistically at the budget and i felt really confident in the systems processes and controls that we
1:22:33
had i also very much appreciated the workshop where mr volpe and subsequently
1:22:38
mr heiser during our offer office hours you talked a bit about the go forward process you know this is an
1:22:45
extraordinary year from an inflation standpoint and hopefully this unprecedented you know haven't seen it
1:22:51
in 20 years inflation rate will go back to a closer to normal state in subsequent years so that coupled with
1:22:59
some of the enhancements that you've both spoken about making to the budget
1:23:04
cycle for next year which will begin in november really get me excited about the future
1:23:10
and being part of this board at the outset of the budget cycle for the next fiscal year with that could you comment
1:23:17
very briefly on some of the enhancements that you intend to make to the budget process going forward i don't know if
1:23:23
it's best for mr volpe or mr heiser to comment but i think that the public would appreciate hearing that
1:23:33
sure i can address a couple of these first we're going to be starting it earlier number one
1:23:38
number two we are going to be looking at how we allocate building-based budgets rather than simply rolling them over and
1:23:44
i would reference it rather than saying a zero-based budget a priority-based budget
1:23:49
because we don't we all know that we're not starting at zero we're going to have first grade we're going to have second grade so we're going
to look at
1:23:54
priorities and one of the things we'll be looking for at this time next year is you know the um the offerings that we
1:24:02
have that are beyond say the state mandates or things we're required to do what's the uh you know the the cost of
1:24:08
that and what's the per pupil cost of that how many students are taking advantage of that and we can make decisions based on that too there
will
1:24:14
be more hyper specifics but but globally those are some of the big picture items that we'll be looking at next year and
1:24:20
mr heiser did i did i kind of encapsulate everything there yeah so so from a from a big picture point of view
1:24:26
that's how we'll be approaching it thank you i appreciate that
1:24:35
i swear that's on purpose um i
1:24:40
just a process question so this the approval the vote tonight
1:24:48
is to take the budget to the county and then
1:24:53
it comes back to the board in april for a final approval so what happens between the county pro
1:25:01
you know the county looking at it and it coming back to us for a final approval and what can we expect
1:25:09

to happen within that process
1:25:14
as a business administrator hopefully not much um
1:25:20
so typically once the county reviews it and approves it that's their stamp to say go ahead
1:25:26
and advertise this budget if for whatever reason the board still
1:25:31
does have authority to make changes to the budget at that point
1:25:37
however if the board makes changes to the budget it has to be
1:25:42
done through the county and we have to communicate exactly what those changes were and what drove those changes
1:25:50
um so there is a vehicle for it's not common but it's not
1:25:56
you know i don't want to say it's a 60 40 type thing but typically the the
1:26:01
budget that you submit to the county is the one that you're then approving for adoption in
1:26:08
april when there are changes they have to be communicated back to the county and then
1:26:13
the county has to approve those changes
1:26:20
um i just want to say that similar to how jill is feeling i've
1:26:28
learned so much through this process um mr volpe mr heiser have been
1:26:34
the whole central administration team i think everybody's been fantastic in educating
1:26:41
i'm answering questions being very open i appreciate the
1:26:47
desire to keep the things that are all valuable to us as i've been pretty vocal about
1:26:54
i have a i'm challenged by the tax levy um
1:26:59
and i and i understand all the reasons why it has to be in there i guess in my mind as you're going
1:27:06
through this tonight one of the things that i'm thinking about is if they're what is a
1:27:12
i don't know the best way to say this but um you know what does a budget without the
1:27:18
tax levy look like um because i know we've been [Music]
1:27:24
fairly you know within range of actuals every year to our budget so i'm just trying to
1:27:30
i'm very i'm really struggling with um
1:27:36
putting more burden on our families um for you know third consecutive year i
1:27:42
think it is and i'm just trying to understand and wrap my head around the implications
1:27:47
of not having the tax levy in there and what that would truly mean for the district
1:27:54
i don't mean to ask such a big question i'm just really trying to understand it this is this has been a lot
1:28:01
now i think i think i can answer that pretty pretty succinctly without without complication uh pretty much everything
1:28:06
that i had mentioned on those five slides at the end they'd be gone um and uh mr heiser a approximately how
1:28:14
many we'd have to balance it probably probably for for every one percent about
1:28:19
eight to ten staff members so if we're talking about two percent then we're talking you know about doubling that
1:28:24
about 16 to 20 staff members and there's no way that if i were to eliminate 16 to
1:28:30
20 staff members that i could keep all the programs that we would have so that's what a
1:28:35
a zero percent increase would look like
1:28:44
and you have said that before so i i apologize for asking the same question but again i this is a pretty heavy
1:28:51
decision i feel um especially being new to the board and just learning everything
1:28:56
um what just for my own edification why does it come down to staff members

1:29:03
and not dollars does that sure yeah staff my staff members are dollars they're the staff
1:29:09
members are the the biggest part they're what makes our district go and they're the biggest part of our of our budget um
1:29:16
i mean we could look at some of eliminating some of the other things that we said um we had just valued we
1:29:22
could go towards you know eliminating the courtesy busting uh eliminating extracurriculars uh it means paying for
1:29:29
kids one way or or another um it's it's go and the majority of our
1:29:34
budget is made up of staff so if we cut from the smaller buckets we would not make up
1:29:39
uh the amount that we need to in order to get down to that zero percent there would absolutely 100 percent be staff
1:29:46
cuts sorry i have another question okay
1:29:52
far away no i'm just trying to answer yep so when do we
1:29:59
come upon a scenario where we don't have to take a tax levy and we don't have to
1:30:05
cut stuff good question it's certainly not this year um and and i would say too that
1:30:12
this is one of the areas that i think i know i've expressed to the board members of the public too uh that i believe in a
1:30:17
lot of advocacy advocacy work sometimes there are legislative solutions not administrative solutions and i would
1:30:23
argue that the two percent cap not just for this district but for a lot of districts forces you away from doing
1:30:29
that i could be in situations where let's say there wasn't a cap and one year we had a bad budget here and i needed to raise
1:30:36
taxes or the board needed to i want to make clear i don't raise taxes
1:30:41
the board needed to raise taxes four point two percent uh you can go four point two percent and then next year things were good you could
say okay we
1:30:48
can go to zero because we were able to lift it up the year before it's put school districts in this game well if i
1:30:54
don't raise it and we're not doing that but overall if i don't raise it to two percent this year then i'm gonna have a
1:31:00
lower tax levy the next year so i better make sure that i do it this year so it's kind of a shell game in the
1:31:07
state of new jersey that some people are doing but as far as morristown goes i can't answer that question for you
1:31:13
unfortunately i would love to be able to say i can deliver all services for this school district pay my employees well
1:31:21
add value to the district and do it at no cost i think if i did that i'd go on a tour and sell a book and be a
1:31:27
millionaire might not be a superintendent anymore but as we look harder and harder at this
1:31:33
budget we will have to make some decisions about you know do we want to continue the offerings that we give i
1:31:40
would say that the answer at this dais is yes and we'll continue to look for efficiencies there's only so much paper
1:31:45
you can buy in bulk there's only so much cheap offerings that you can look for a
1:31:51
digital service eventually if you're looking to
1:31:56
not raise taxes at all it will affect staff because it's the biggest bucket that we
1:32:01
have to go into thank you i appreciate all the answers
1:32:06
these were just things no that's that's okay that's my job it's uh what i'm played to do
1:32:16
um i just quickly wanted to thank everyone in the administration who worked diligently on this budget and i
1:32:22
have to say all the years of sitting through the budget presentation this was the
1:32:28
clearest most concise um one that i feel like i've experienced and i
1:32:35
feel like i can walk away tonight knowing um what additional things you're adding
1:32:40
to the budget and i love that and i really do appreciate um your
1:32:45
commitment mr volpe's mental health of our students i think that's incredibly important and i think that

1:32:51
that's something that the community has expressed you know that they're concerned about that
1:32:56
um and i do really you know people move here because we offer this exceptional
1:33:02
education we have uh wonderful teachers very involved and passionate parents and
1:33:09
students who are interested and want to excel and that requires investment
1:33:16
just like anything else and i um nobody wants to raise taxes i mean
1:33:21
nobody does but if that means that we continue this path of excellence and our
1:33:29
offerings then i support that
1:33:40
i have another question um
1:33:48
sorry i'm trying to think about how to say it um
1:33:54
we had the budget meeting on the 8th um and i don't
1:34:00
and there's not a lot of people here this evening have we received any questions from the community
1:34:05
about the budget or about the tax levy um i feel like in years past we've we've
1:34:12
heard a little bit more than i feel like we've heard this year i i won't speak for mr heiser i haven't had any
1:34:17
questions specific to the tax levy i have had a couple of people suggest that we spend money here or spend money there
1:34:24
instead of here but nothing nothing significant and nothing atypical for any budget process that i've been through
1:34:30
that being said i have not had any specific questions about the tax levy
1:34:35
neither is mr heiser if you didn't hear that
1:34:43
i don't have anything that came directly to me or
1:34:48
dr schneider so okay well the reason i ask is because i just i don't feel like
1:34:55
i only have a a good beat from you know certain people that i talk to and i'd love to have more feedback
1:35:02
um on where people are where people stand um you know we i just want to reiterate
1:35:10
and i can't say this enough when i sitting on the other side of this table
1:35:15
i i agree with melissa this is i feel like this has been more transparent
1:35:20
and the greatest learning process that i've been through since i've been on the board two months
1:35:26
um and it's a very heavy decision and i i feel like the again central
1:35:34
administration mr volpe mr heiser have done an amazing job
1:35:40
answering questions and making sure that we are not cutting things that are important to us
1:35:45
and i guess my question is if if it's a yes tonight because we all feel good
1:35:51
that we've gone through the process and we've made the best decisions and then we start to hear
1:35:57
more concerns from the community would that be something that would trigger
1:36:03
what we talked about before in terms of the process and any changes usually i think it's when these
1:36:09
decisions are made that people start to hear about it and then share feedback i mean it's it
1:36:15
certainly could i'm not going to say feedback from the community does not sway me in any way shape or form
1:36:22
but we have people sitting here right now um we've advertised it over a couple of
1:36:27
weeks since the board workshop um i can't imagine
1:36:33
i can't imagine the amount of concern i would have to hear that would have me suggest a different budget to the board
1:36:40
because even if people are coming along the lines i don't want my taxes raised
1:36:47

my commitment is is what i put up there are those five things and i would follow through on them and if the the board and
1:36:54
the will of the board was no we we aren't going to cap um that would or to what everything we had
1:37:00
said that would force me to do things but me personally as superintendent and trying to push this forward
1:37:07
that like mr heiser said not a lot of change in between then that's my budget you've seen my budget
1:37:12
you've seen what i'm putting forward and i certainly hope that we get the support
1:37:18
to to move it through i understand um people can vote however they want and i have no problem with that but as far as
1:37:24
me getting several dozen hundred emails saying we don't want uh care solace or something
1:37:31
along those lines um i'll say thank you i appreciate it it's what i value and
1:37:36
and i think everything in here is important for students and i just want to say i wasn't
1:37:41
suggesting that you i i was not suggesting that at all no no i didn't i didn't take it that way i was just kind of talking i was just saying as a board
1:37:48
member who's really trying to get an understanding and a pulse on the community as a new member
1:37:53
who is just learning this whole process and going through it for the first time um
1:37:59
you know i guess i'm speaking more from a board perspective i do not expect you to ever change your position i think
1:38:05
you have made it very clear and you have shown leadership mr volpe that personally i want to thank you for
1:38:11
because we that is something that i think we truly need in this district um so i do
1:38:18
appreciate that from you one hundred percent um and if the question came off the wrong way i
1:38:24
apologize i was just thinking more like as a board member if i if i vote one way and then i hear
1:38:30
things that make me feel like oh i don't i guess i didn't really have a good pulse and that's something a learning
1:38:36
process i think we're still going i think that then process wise too and i took no offense whatsoever and i also
1:38:42
appreciate the compliments i have a very good team here my administrative team as well as the board members asking these
1:38:47
questions keeping us on our toes uh making sure we're doing everything dotting eyes crossing tees it's great to
1:38:52
be a part of this um so no no offense was was taken in any way in any way shape or form and now i forgot what your
1:38:59
your question was well okay yeah oh i was gonna say no you if
1:39:04
you get questions from the community if they're reaching out to you you can direct those to me you can direct those to mick we can push
things through our
1:39:10
committee structure see if there are other things that we need to do so if you're asking more so process wise yeah
1:39:16
you are you are one member of the board i wouldn't take all the pressure on you send it to me or mick we can put it on a
1:39:21
committee meeting agenda we can talk it through and and come up with solutions from there
1:39:27
if i could cheryl just kind of insert myself a little bit um because i hear a frustration that i
1:39:32
think all of us have felt at one point and that's that um
1:39:38
we want people to understand and to know um and to have the information that we
1:39:44
have for making these decisions you know i appreciate i think you gave a
1:39:50
great endorsement for running for the school board right because now that you're on this
1:39:55
side of the table as you pointed out you you do have i think a greater depth of understanding and access but we want
1:40:02
everybody to have a reasonable amount of access to all of the information that we have so i'm encouraged by the
1:40:08
communication survey that we're going to do because what you're speaking about is understanding better how do we
1:40:16
get people to to know more to to have those converse and to be able to have those conversations and and
1:40:23
you know basically understand that these are informed decisions and that they're not made
1:40:28

lightly and to give a chance to voice their concerns right so i think that's the
1:40:34
ongoing work it's great to hear that we're going to start earlier i think starting earlier in the process we'll afford more opportunities for
1:40:40
conversation uh finding different ways uh i'll echo the sentiments that we
1:40:45
appreciate the way this information was presented because i think it was more digestible and certainly we want more people to
1:40:52
digest it and so the combination of starting earlier the communication survey and
1:40:57
whatever else we can come up with because i don't think we should stop will help i think address the concern you have
1:41:03
that somebody hears about it after the fact why didn't i know that and i i wanted a chance to speak to that
1:41:09
so jill i just want to add to your laundry list
1:41:14
of enhancements going forward the whole idea of doing the base budgets for buildings on a per pupil basis and
1:41:21
ticking and tying things back to our strategic priorities that's really important to me going forward in
1:41:26
addition to the starting earlier and the other enhancements you mentioned so i just wanted to say that one more time with emphasis
1:41:35
any other thoughts comments anybody wants to share
1:41:42
okay sorry now sorry i jumped the gun before roll call vote um
1:41:48
for items one and two please dr alberti mrs arcaro burns yes
1:41:56
mrs fallows macaluso mrs micaopoulos
1:42:03
yes miss romano yes mr villanueva yes
1:42:09
dr schneider yes mr weeks yes thank you
1:42:17
thank you everybody so moving on uh still under the same letter items three travel expenditures
1:42:23
approvals approval requests number four approval of state contract and consortium vendor purchases number five
1:42:29
donations number six overnight student trip seven middle and middle school and high school athletic schedules for
1:42:36
spring of 22 and number eight english language learner three year plan approval
1:42:42
i'm sorry also nine let's see there are esea consolidated grant amendment number two application
1:42:48
uh 10 burlington county educational services unit professional services for 2223.
1:42:54
number 11 non-tuition non-resident tuition students for the same period and number 12 sale of the surplus property
1:43:03
um yeah yeah okay uh 13 the keras alice agreement 14 the
1:43:09
catapult learning nursing services for 21 22 20 number 15 uh the 2020 security school
1:43:15
security grant uh securing our children's future bond act 16 food service management contract 17 school
1:43:22
lunch prices number 18 the semi corrective action plan
1:43:29
uh items 1 through 17. you may have a motion for approval
1:43:35
i'm sorry 18. yep typo sorry i read what's put in front of you
1:43:41
items one through 18. that correction i have a motion for approval
1:43:47
so moved second second
1:43:52
thank you i just had a quick question yeah i had emailed earlier today about the um
1:43:58
number 18 the corrective action plan just wanted to get a sense was this something that we
1:44:04
saw with similar districts having this issue was this really morse town specific
1:44:10
i i just wonder in hindsight was there more we could have done to provide these
1:44:15
services and obviously i'm assuming now kind of post pandemic we're able to provide these
1:44:22
services and these corrective measures will easily be met but i guess i'm a little bit concerned with

1:44:27
the lack of services that were able to be provided and how that reflects
1:44:32
yeah i'll let dr tate speak to the service end but what i can speak to the reason we've had this for the last
1:44:40
uh three years i believe it's been three fiscal years so the corrective action plan that we've
1:44:46
put in place has worked in the sense of when we first started this process we
1:44:52
were achieving like 57 of our projected revenue we missed our mark
1:44:57
by 800 so we we were 98.5
1:45:03
uh and you have to achieve 100 of revenue so we were right there
1:45:09
so we have to do this process again but from everything that we put in place
1:45:15
the the correction is is there and it's not necessarily that the services aren't being provided
1:45:21
and i'll let dr dr tate speak to that but it's more making sure that they're being claimed
1:45:27
once they're provided
1:45:34
mr heiser that is correct the services were provided it is it is within the claims uh also certain licenses licenses
1:45:42
are needed uh in the district to to uh to claim
1:45:47
uh some of these funds and uh mr heiser mr volpe and i are looking at that for the next school year
1:45:53
in order to make sure those things are in place certainly not required by employees to
1:45:58
have those certifications but it is something that we can do to capture more funds
1:46:07
i just had a quick question though so 13 the care solace agreement we had talked about how is on next year's budget
1:46:15
but i just wanted to kind of make a point of saying that this will be something that becomes available this
1:46:21
current school year um i don't know if i mean i'm not putting a date on it because obviously we talked about in all the committees
1:46:27
but um this is something that the community can look to be in existence prior to the end of this current school
1:46:32
year with information to follow yes and i just want to clarify that this was not a bait-and-switch of any kind uh curseaus
1:46:39
was originally uh brought to us by was it the high school home and school association that brought it to us um for
1:46:46
implementation this year and it can be up and running as early as april 1st and i believe i don't want to speak for them
1:46:51
that they are going to be helping us out with the implementation for financially for the rest of this year but we wanted
1:46:57
a budget for it next year because we already see the value so the district will be taking it from there did i misspeak on anything with that no
1:47:08
one correction so our uh katyambra our um supervisor for counseling services
1:47:13
along with our counseling and our cst brought the need because they felt that it was in you know an
1:47:20
overwhelming need and they saw this so they kind of spearheaded um finding this
1:47:25
resource and then a home in school graciously you know offered to help with the financial um cost of it for this
1:47:33
year so that we could have the services available immediately versus building it into next year budget since it was an
1:47:39
unanticipated cost for us absolutely thank you for that correction
1:47:45
for that clarification any other comments or questions about those items one through eighteen
1:47:54
all right uh call for a vote all in favor aye aye any oppose
1:48:00
extensions carries letter d employee relations one
1:48:05
appointments to retirement three resignation four change in position hours and start date five leave of
1:48:11
absences leaves of absence six extension of contract seven movement on the salary guide eight substitutes
1:48:18
nine title three tutors ten athletics co-curriculars clubs and eleven curriculum approval of one i may have a
1:48:25

motion for approval of items one through eleven please so moved second
1:48:31
second thank you if we have a roll call vote please mr volpe
1:48:37
i'm sorry mr heiser one more over oh questions comments on any of those
1:48:47
dr alberti mr arcara burns yes
1:48:53
mrs fallows macaluso yeah mrs mcopolis
1:48:58
ms romano mr villanueva dr schneider yep yes
1:49:04
mr weeks yes thank you aries
1:49:10
all right uh let's see 10 uh suspensions uh letter a
1:49:15
suspensions b suspension superintendent's hiv report um
1:49:20
may i have a motion for these items please
1:49:26
any questions comments okay all in favor
1:49:31
aye aye the opposed extensions all right next is the information only
1:49:38
portion uh that's all available there may i have any comments about old business
1:49:47
you're none new business
1:49:52
so just reflecting back on the last board of education meeting and i think february at some point in time
1:49:59
um there was public comment from a number of individuals about things that they were passionate about
1:50:05
one person spoke about the experience at lunches being different across the schools and mr volpe you had made a
1:50:13
commitment to lean in and assess whether there was an opportunity to
1:50:19
change lunches or do things differently you spoke about this at the policy committee a bit i
1:50:24
believe for maybe communications so maybe you could just share with the public and kind of close the feedback
1:50:30
loop there happy to do so um and i had a chance to speak to ms powell at ues because i
1:50:37
think that's where the uh the question was and i've been over to ue several times although students are sitting
1:50:42
right now in uh desks and rows i can assure you that they are turning and talking and they are socializing and i
1:50:49
had already spoken i've spoken to miss powell as well as
1:50:54
all of my principals about taking a look at your lunches and i'm anticipating
1:50:59
again that i'm going to be rolling back some covid restrictions next week and
1:51:05
schools are going to be making um more adjustments and changes as it as it goes
1:51:12
forward the only thing i do want to um i don't want to raise expectations too
1:51:17
high because when i announce the rollback prior to my arrival in order to make cafeterias work we actually moved
1:51:24
like tables from buildings to buildings and cafeterias became gyms and gyms became cafeterias so i just want to make
1:51:31
it clear it's not going to happen like that my principals are preparing to make those recommendations but it may take
1:51:37
over a weekend certainly i would think by the time we're back from spring break things are going to look very different
1:51:42
but i know that my principals are aggressively looking to see if these things can get done over the weekend um
1:51:48
in in between if our data stays clean as it is right now and once they get that
1:51:54
recommendation from me so in short um i have been there i have seen it uh kids
1:51:59
are socializing and i do expect that we're going to see more changes uh after my announcement and i hope my hopeful
1:52:05
announcement next week thanks i appreciate it i have just one um hopefully quick thing
1:52:11
and i don't i'm not even sure that this is the place but

1:52:17
um roberts elementary school does an amazing program with their lunches
1:52:23
and i don't know if everyone is familiar with it but and i'm sure i'm going to get this
1:52:29
slightly wrong basically there's a fridge in the cafeteria when the kids have something that they
1:52:35
take from the cafeteria line that they don't like or they don't want to eat they put it in a bin in the middle
1:52:41
cafeteria for anyone to take it if they want the kid goes home at the end of the
1:52:46
day they're hungry or they know maybe they won't have something after school they can take it
1:52:53
when the lunch is over the bin goes into the fridge and then once a week
1:52:59
that food goes to a food bank a volunteer from the bank comes and empties
1:53:05
the fridge and then any food i don't want to say not fit for human
1:53:10
consumption because i think i'm being dramatic but um you know really squished up apple or
1:53:15
whatever uh i believe that they donate those um things to a local um
1:53:22
animal rescue and i know that this is really not the place but i want to see this program in every
1:53:29
school in this district because i think it is exceptional and we're an exceptional district and i think this is
1:53:35
a great way we could give back to the community so after this you can tell me what i need to do
1:53:42
or who i need to talk to kind of get it rolling but it is it's a really it's and it's just one of those things
1:53:48
that roberts does because they're robbers so my kids don't even go there [Laughter]
1:53:54
so thank you well yeah i can addre first first time i'm hearing of it so i'm very proud to hear of that program let me see
1:54:01
what i can find out administratively uh what we're doing if we're doing anything in other buildings if it's if it's something easy to do that that
may not
1:54:08
even rise to the board level um if i can handle that great if not and we need to take some kind of board action in some
1:54:14
way shape or form i'll bring it back here
1:54:19
find any issue with it coming up here all right any other new business
1:54:25
okay thanks everybody all right uh so now we'll move into our final uh public comment period and this is the more
1:54:31
general one so may i will entertain a motion to open the second public comment period
1:54:39
movement second all in favor aye aye okay so as we move into public comment
1:54:45
again remember uh please come to the mic state your name and address um
1:54:52
please be respectful in your comments you'll have up to three minutes to speak uh
1:54:57
and lara is for whomever comes up
1:55:05
hi lisa trapani 350 bridge bro road um that program that was you mentioned that
1:55:12
was mentioned by mrs marcaire burns was started by two power professionals at
1:55:17
roberts vicki wolff and sally wilson because they
1:55:22
were tired of seeing the waste that goes on so they're two mea staff members who started that and maintain it and make
1:55:28
sure that it's followed through one so thank you that's wonderful thanks for that additional information
1:55:40
good evening everyone uh billy daniel thomas 539 north church
1:55:45
street having been present for the special meeting addressing the budget
1:55:52
and the very comprehensive and thorough presentations of mr volpe and mr heiser
1:55:58
i'm very appreciative of the information that was shared in such a transparent
1:56:04
fashion um as a community member

1:56:09
it was very helpful for me to hear and see those things that the the board and
1:56:17
administration is contemplating additionally i applaud and appreciate
1:56:24
the careful and and intentional considerations that each
1:56:29
board member has taken in review of the budget and listening to the comments and
1:56:34
questions presented at that special meeting and this evening i walk away
1:56:41
with the feeling that the interest of our most important stakeholders our students
1:56:47
are in very good hands so i just wanted to share that and thank you thank each of you
1:56:56
you
1:57:03
hello uh dan miller uh 301 springhouse lien um as of this morning there are still
1:57:10
those uh dopey mass required signs up on the high school i can't speak to all the schools but
1:57:16
and high school so i don't know if that's something that is taken care of at this level or
1:57:22
if it's a per school basis but you know we're a school district that goes above and beyond so
1:57:28
it's about 10 days too late uh oh yeah and we spoke about the whole
1:57:34
address thing that i have to say my address um
1:57:40
is that a rule or is that just something that addressing individual board members yeah when i give you my address these
1:57:45
are the address oh the address
1:57:54
no not at all you can come on over we'll have a bourbon but uh i just think it's a silly rule to
1:57:59
have sure go for it um
1:58:14
very good i think that would be a good thing especially if someone comes up here it's not comfortable like i said but if we
1:58:19
could take those signs down because it's probably about a year and a half too late but 10 days even later thank
1:58:32
you anyone else
1:58:38
okay seeing no indication of anybody else coming up i will
1:58:44
entertain a motion to close public comment
1:58:59
that should be everybody all right all in favor aye opposed of sentience
1:59:05
thank you everybody have a wonderful rest of your evening get home safely
1:59:11
and enjoy spring