

Transcript for 4.26.22 BOE Monthly Meeting

meeting of the moorestown township board of education is called to order this meeting is called in conformance with
0:05
the open public meetings act with adequate notice provided as follows that's better
0:10
notice filed with the courier post on july 1st 2021 and notice filed with the burlington county times on july 1st 2021
0:18
i'm going to ask if we could have a moment of silence
0:31
please rise for the pledge of allegiance
0:36
i pledge allegiance to the plagues of america
0:55
hey mr heiser can you please call roll dr alberti
1:00
mrs arcaro burns present mrs fallows mackaluso
1:06
this is micaopoulos mrs morano
1:13
miss romano here mr villanueva here dr schneider here mr
1:19
weeks president thank you okay we've already conducted the executive session
1:24
uh portion of our meeting and let's see moving on um
1:31
i will uh call for a uh kind of a call for approval of the
1:36
minutes i have a motion to approve the minutes for the meetings from march 8th march 22nd and april 5th both the
1:43
executive and this regular meeting and the special meetings second
1:49
any comments questions hearing none all in favor
1:55
aye any opposed extensions
2:01
okay got that noted okay moving on are there any are there
2:07
any communications for the board
2:14
okay hearing none we'll move on start with uh president's remarks
2:19
so good evening uh we anticipated a larger crowd this
2:24
evening so i'm glad we moved to a larger space uh seems to be a prudent decision
2:29
on our part uh so we appreciate the engagement and interest of those who are in attendance especially the members of
2:34
the morristown education association to whom i extend a sincere and heartfelt welcome
2:40
tonight we will be voting on the approval of the 2022-23 budget
2:45
this budget is the result of many hours of work discussion and efforts by our administration and staff
2:51
while difficult choices were made about what stayed in and what did not i believe these efforts will pay off in
2:56
the excellence in educational experience and opportunity we will continue to be able to provide our students
3:03
while still living within our means in addition to the budget part of the board's work also involves renewing the
3:09
agreement with our teachers paraprofessionals secretaries custodians and other represented staff
3:15
as i noted in my remarks in a previous board meeting we are still working through negotiations and i want to share
3:20
a bit of perspective now this is not the time or place to go into details but what i have said and
3:26
will say again is that it is not due that the fact that we haven't come to a
3:32
resolution yet it's not due to the lack of respect for what those members of our district
3:38
do and what they've provided for our students and school community is not due to a lack of understanding of
3:44
what we have all been through over the last two years with the pandemic and adapting to different ways to help our children

3:50
succeed and thrive it is also not due to a lack of understanding about the challenges we
3:55
all face with the economic conditions that exist finally it is also not about a lack of
4:00
desire to take care of those who take care of our children and form the backbone of our educational community
4:06
reasonable people can differ on the way to get to an outcome and have mutual respect while they work
4:12
through those differences that is what we all strive to teach our children as they grow and learn to compromise and negotiate their way
4:19
towards understanding and solutions i know we are all well-intentioned passionate people who care deeply about
4:25
finding a way forward we are all committed to a resolution and
4:30
are still working to find that pathway it may take more efforts and some
4:37
this isn't an oscar speech i'm being played off it sounds like
4:45
so as i was saying it may take more efforts and some additional guidance to do that and if we're resolute
4:52
open trusting and understanding i believe and know we will find that solution and can maintain mutual respect
5:00
while doing so interestingly our differences in getting to a mutually agreeable solution are not
5:05
the only thing we have in common we share a focus on the goal of finding a path forward that addresses those
5:10
differences fairly and provides a way to come to an agreement an agreement that allows us to get back to the goal of
5:16
continuing to provide an exceptional educational experience for each child in an operationally and fiscally
5:22
sustainable way that is our charge that is our commitment
5:28
and that is what i believe we will find a way to do and once we do it is my sincere hope
5:34
that we can appreciate the process it took to get there that we can understand that the process though challenging at times was what
5:40
helped lead us there and hopefully learn from it and work together to secure the foundation for the next time we are in
5:46
this process we all owe it to those who come after us and sit in these seats and do this work
5:51
that we are all fortunate and honored to do i also want to briefly touch on our
5:57
evolving communication strategy some have asked for changes to the format in this of this business meeting
6:03
for the board of education that we hold in public on a regular basis those changes have specifically included
6:09
a request to change the public comment portion of the meeting turning it into a question
6:14
and answer session as a board and in our various committees we have discussed this request and
6:21
determined that we will fundamentally maintain the meeting structure as it is at the same time being responsive to
6:27
that request we have created and will continue to highlight those ways for the public to ask questions and receive
6:33
answers in what we believe are the most effective ways possible to recap quickly
6:39
please bring concerns to the attention of teachers and building administration beyond that there are subject area
6:45
supervisors district administration and other personnel the answers that are generally sought
6:50
are often available directly from those people however if those avenues are not effective then please by all
6:57
means bring your concerns to the attention of the superintendent and the board leadership in addition to being
7:02
available by email for the board and phone and email for the superintendent we have created an online form for
7:07
submitting topics and items you would like addressed in my or the superintendent's remarks
7:13
the communications committee will continue to hold community engagement forums we have engaged with a communications
7:19
specialist who administered a community communications survey and will follow up soon with in-person focus groups to help
7:25
improve communication and dialogue additionally mr volpe held his own town hall at his own expense
7:33

a summary of the questions and answers from that event is available on the district website
7:39
we feel that these and other similar opportunities which we expect to introduce provide ample and more
7:44
effective opportunities for the dialogue i have told you that the board is interested in please avail yourselves of these
7:51
opportunities should public comment in its current format not meet your needs thank you and i'll turn it over to mr
7:57
volpe thank you president weeks i'd like to first turn it over to my director of
8:04
human resources carol butler uh to recognize one of our standing retirees who's not here tonight but we'd still
8:10
like to acknowledge that person
8:17
good evening everybody all right we're here tonight to honor uh
8:24
one of our our own teachers who've been in the district for about 19 years she worked at ues
8:29
uh miss cheryl davini has retired she's actually in florida she's watching everyone wave to her okay
8:35
mrs benny served as an undeniably excellent sixth grade teacher science teacher at the ues for 19 years her
8:41
enthusiasm for teaching and learning were evident in her everyday approach with students and colleagues mrs domini loves sharing her
passion for
8:48
science and work diligently each year to make science come alive in her classroom she has touched the lives of thousands
8:54
of students many of them who have gone on to pursue careers in the science and medical fields
8:59
we want to wish mrs davinie all the best in her next chapter she is adored as a mother a grandmother
9:06
a wife and is looking forward to treasure time with her family she is currently on a retirement and
9:12
birthday celebration trip with her family and could not be here with us this evening please give us a warm welcome to thank
9:18
mr benny for her service to our students [Applause]
9:31
thank you carolyn congratulations to mr benny for me the past month has been filled
9:37
with the opportunity to visit schools meet students in club settings co-observe teachers with principals in a
9:43
few schools and getting to know more members of the community as we move into the final two months of the school year i'll continue to do
9:49
those things knowing there's still much work to be done before the end of this school year and looking ahead to next school year
9:56
one of those work items includes responding to the concerns of some community members response surrounding the new jersey health
standards released
10:03
in 2020 as of friday april 14th the new jersey department of education released a memo
10:09
that spoke of to some of the more controversial state standards and what the state's intent was in implementing
10:15
those standards based on that clarification i'm prepared to let you know how the morristown township public schools will be
10:22
interpreting and delivering instruction about those standards one of the more controversial standards
10:28
states by the end of grade two every individual has unique skills and qualities which can include the
10:33
activities they enjoy such as how they may dress their mannerisms and things they like to do the performance
10:39
expectation states discuss the range of ways people express their gender and how gender role stereotypes may limit
10:45
behavior based on the state's memo how will we interpret this
10:50
students typically begin to develop an understanding of themselves and people around them in elementary school
10:56
from an early age certain assumptions are sometimes made such as math and science or boy subjects and that the
11:01
arts are for girls we would make it known that any student can enjoy and choose any subject that
11:07
they like similarly when students grow up they can have any type of profession they like
11:12
for example if a girl wants to be a construction worker a job that is stereotypically a male job she can
11:19
similarly if a boy someday wants to be a nurse he can the message here will be that both boys

11:24
and girls can enjoy subjects that they want to enjoy and aspire to be whatever they want to be

11:30
this will be coupled with the fact that everyone deserves respect regardless it's through their choices and who they

11:35
wish to be someday another standard that has gained some attention states by the end of grade

11:40
five puberty is a time of physical social and emotional changes the performance expectation states explain common human

11:48
sexual development in the role of hormones in parentheses example romantic and sexual feelings masturbation mood

11:55
swings and timing of pubertable puberty onset based on the state memo how are we

12:01
interpreting this as the memo from the new jersey department of education states that all items in parentheses are merely

12:07
suggestions and do not necessarily have to be addressed our schools will not be addressing

12:12
romantic and sexual feelings or masturbation as it relates to our delivery of curriculum

12:17
parents can address such issues with their children if parents need the assistance of a school nurse in helping to address an issue in this area they

12:24
should feel free to reach out to them one final controversial standard i will be addressing states by the end of grade

12:30
8 there are factors that contribute to making healthy decisions about sex performance expectations states define

12:37
vaginal oral and anal based on the state memo how are we interpreting this

12:42
in accordance with the new jersey department's memo intent that youth who are unable to appropriately name sexual

12:47
acts may not be able to accurately report instances of harm or abuse if it occurs we will be defining the adjectives noted

12:54
in that standard and the body parts to which they refer this will be done the same way that students learn that ocular means having

13:01
to do with the eye to be clear there hasn't been and will not be explicit instruction about sexual

13:07
acts in these areas these definitions will be provided in one lesson in eighth grade and all

13:12
parents will be notified in advance when this day is parents will still have rights to be excused from such a lesson and it will

13:18
only be a small part of one lesson those definitions will be covered right there you may have heard

13:24
or read recent news stories about some schools in the state of new jersey interpreting these standards differently

13:30
than i have described there have been some stories about lessons that is superintendent i find

13:35
unnecessary to meet the standard as well as developmentally inappropriate however that is not the case here in

13:40
morristown please don't assume that because you heard of an inappropriate health lesson being taught somewhere in the state of

13:46
new jersey that is being taught here you're a concerned and inquisitive community

13:52
my teachers and i think there are a few of them here in the audience tonight and administrators are child centered

13:58
and focused on developmentally appropriate instruction to date i have not received one complaint about an

14:04
inappropriate health lesson being taught to students so if you have further questions pertaining to your child and the

14:10
instruction being provided ask your teacher there's a lot of them here wearing red

14:16
if you don't get a satisfactory answer ask your principal however it is my hope that my statement

14:21
today alleviates some of the concerns people have expressed to me as a reminder in addition to the new

14:26
standards reference here some families may still want to be excused from other health related curricula old or new

14:31
units or lessons for certain reasons in any such cases by our policy a form

14:37
is available on our website to help you with the next steps and to coordinate with your building principle for more specificity

14:44
that being said i've already spoken to the curriculum committee of the board about making our curriculum guides which are all posted online

14:51
more clear so that a person who does not have a background in education can more easily see the scope and sequence of

14:57
what is being taught in a particular curriculum this would include big ideas objectives and assessment methods but to

15:03
be clear it will not detail individual teachers lesson plans the curriculum committee will be

15:08
reviewing such a sample at our may meeting and if all goes well we'll implement that strategy moving forward

15:14
an immediate goal for me in that area would be to update all of our health curriculum in this way with some more specifics and have that posted and

15:20
available online before the start of next school year so that everybody can see what's being taught

15:26
on a completely different note but also a very important matter every three years you may or may not be aware

15:32
that all schools in the state of new jersey must test for lead in water in november such testing took place in

15:39
our schools the results of a first draw of water show that seven faucets district wide

15:44
were found to have led over the acceptable limits all seven faucets were in the kitchens of south valley roberts and morristown

15:51
high school a second draw on all faucets was conducted which concluded they were within the appropriate limits

15:58
in it but in addition to that as a precautionary measure the district started remediations in december to be

16:03
clear none of these faucets were used for cooking or drinking in any way

16:08
the precautionary measures taken included replacing all supply lines fittings valves and outlets as well as

16:15
installing lead filters it was determined that there are no more unacceptable levels of lead in our water

16:21
and we just received the final report on this matter as of yesterday afternoon so this is why you're hearing of this today

16:27
because within 72 hours of receiving that official report we are required to post those documents on our website and

16:34
inform the community there for your review if you should wish to do so the next testing year for lead will be

16:40
in the 24-25 school year finally at may's board of education

16:46
meeting i'll be sharing our efforts starting this summer and heading into next school school year that are funded

16:52
by the remaining federal funds through our esser grants categories of spending will be disaggregated in specific instructional

16:59
and facilities areas additionally it'll be clear which grant funds are paying for which efforts and the amounts

17:04
involved once i present it in may it'll be then posted online for all community members to view at any time

17:10
i know i've talked a lot already and i should kind of wrap it up shortly but i do want to say the best part of my job

17:15
is getting into the hallways and into your classrooms and seeing the wonderful work that you're doing for kids i understand why everybody is here tonight

17:22
but it is a pleasure being your superintendent and then i think at this point are we going over to the student

17:29
board representatives that's correct okay okay mr president weeks i'm sorry sure i actually i i was remiss and i i

17:36
forgot something during my remarks and i just wanted to circle back um some of you may have noticed there's a new board

17:41
member up here on the dais uh claudia moreno has joined us she was

17:46
sworn in yesterday so she is officially a member of the board so i just want to officially

17:51
welcome you um and thank you for for volunteering [Applause]

17:57
thank you just to be clear she's appointed to uh

18:04
fill the remainder of this year of uh the term that was vacated uh earlier this year and there will be an election

18:11
for that position later in the year i don't think you have anything to announce right now but we won't put you on the spot um anyway but just wanted to

18:18
be clear about that so thanks and now we can move uh we have two of our four uh student representatives who are here so

18:25
if you'd like to sorry if you'd like to approach the microphone go ahead and introduce yourself and and

18:32
please share your remarks hi everybody my name is bhavika i'm the

18:38
sophomore class liaison so first of all i hope everyone had a restful spring break i know for students and for

18:44
everyone the push from spring break to finals is the hardest but also the most rewarding

18:50
um for the rewarding part a lot of my friends who are seniors are committing um the voice or student newspaper just

18:58
released an issue we have two more coming up and yeah so that's a little bit what i'm here to talk about firstly a bowling

19:05
event so just for student council student council students or student council officers and advisors will be

19:11
going bowling it will be a great opportunity for all of us to bond with not only the class officers in our grade

19:18
but the class officers in the well for me freshmen juniors and

19:24
seniors as well as celebrate and reflect on all that we've done this year as student council

19:29
uh spirit week we've had our veterans day assembly we've had our martin luther

19:34
king day assembly and most recently our service projects so i'm very excited for that i'm absolutely awful at bowling so

19:41
i will definitely be doing more socializing than bowling so secondly i'd like to talk about a new

19:46
event that we have coming up from student council called quaker games just backtracking a

19:52
little bit to last year um as some of you may remember we had to move our pep rally to the last three days of school

19:59
and it was an absolute success i was mostly virtual last year and so for me

20:04
to come in just for the last three days and have fun it was very rewarding um and it was a great success and we had

20:10
great responses from the student body as well and so to rekindle those spirits and all of the fun that we had we are

20:17
starting a new event called quaker games and we are currently in the process of

20:22
finding so this will be similar to the spirit week that we had in the beginning of the year in october however we will have

20:28
completely new different games which we are currently in the process of deciding

20:33
so those are all my updates i'm very excited for the end of the year almost there

20:39
i hope everyone has a wonderful night thank you

20:51
good evening good evening everyone this is yvette with tall your freshman class liaison

20:58
there are a lot of people here tonight and

21:03
i see so many teachers that i had throughout the years it's like taking a trip down memory lane

21:10
uh today i'm here to talk to you about spring sports uh last year spring sports

21:15
had their seasons cut short so this year we decided to give you an update on how they're doing

21:21
baseball is 13-5 softball is six and two boys lacrosse is three and six girls

21:26
lacrosse is five and five boys golf is 6-0 girls golf is 7-1 boys volleyball is

21:33
6-1-1 and boys tennis is 8-1 i got all those statistics on

21:39
highschoolsports.nj.com so if any of them are wrong don't blame me

21:44
i play tennis and i can confidently say that playing a sport for the high school is a fantastic experience

21:50
not only do you get to compete and meet other kids from around new jersey who are your age but you get to meet so many

21:57
people from all the grades who you've never talked to even though they're in your own school

22:03
overall sports for morristown is very fun and i'm sure that all the athletes this season are thankful that it wasn't

22:10
cut short or canceled thank [Applause]

22:24
you i like that we have the students trained now we don't even have to excuse them they're just like

22:31
there's a budget talk coming up we're out of here we got homework okay

22:36
so i think mr heiser are you up

22:43

i'm sorry board committee reports okay i knew we were we had something else okay so um
22:50
why don't we start i don't know policy you're right next to me do you want to start mark sounds good
22:56
uh so the policy committee the policy committee met on april 5th
23:03
uh so we wrapped back with the student handbook for the ues and
23:08
williams and in a similar context to the high school handbook
23:14
the focus for from our end is on you know the continued discussion around the
23:20
implementation and uniform enforcement of the dress code so um that was that
23:26
was the majority of the conversation um and and sort of is continuing and ongoing
23:32
as far as the policy items so policy and regulation 5530 which deals with substance abuse was tabled uh the
23:40
district is still reviewing uh recommendations so that'll be on the may policy agenda
23:46
policy recognition 24 31.4 which is dealing with the prevention and treatment of sports related concussions
23:52
and head injuries was also tabled the the additional information is around so
23:58
the school physician this this policy is dealing with the school physician or athletic trainer not making the sideline assessment of concussion
any more and
24:06
requiring outside designation and specifically about the
24:12
you know the objective nature of whatever metric would be used so the mtps athletic director has
24:18
reached out to surrounding athletic directors to to sort of see how they're handling it as well but that will be on
24:23
the may policy agenda as well uh in a similar vein policy 5460 which
24:29
deals with the high school graduation requirements which are new [Music] the district is continuing to sort of
24:36
determine the logistics of how the new jersey graduation proficiency assessment will impact our students
24:42
we discussed policy 1648 uh which is the road forward the health and
24:48
safety on covert 19. specifically the conversation was how best
24:54
to go forward in the context of either repealing or uh adjusting the policy
25:00
the the conversation in the committee with administration's input was it'll likely be the summer and that it'll just
25:06
be repealed there are obviously lots of things going on in the summer so trying to wait until
25:12
we have a clear understanding of as a as we as a as the district reading until the district has a clear
25:18
understanding of what the state will require for the 22-23 school year before
25:23
it's just repealed and then something else would have to take its place to know exactly what we are moving to
25:28
um but the committee was obviously in favor of of its repeal as soon as logistically feasible to minimize the
25:35
impact on our students and policy 143 which deals with board member
25:42
election and appointment was discussed so as uh president weeks just said we uh
25:48
filled a vacancy just a few weeks ago and the conversation was around the existing policy and how or if it should
25:56
be modified to more clearly capture the three phases of that process so either
26:02
the interview process the deliberation or the actual voting the voting has to take place in public but the other two
26:08
there is some some wiggle room and we discussed
26:13
what what would be best to go forward so in light of no concrete sort of plan
26:19
we're gonna talk i'm gonna talk with the rest of the board to see how the last um
26:26
the last time we had to do it went and see if any concrete feedback and if a
26:31

new policy or this policy should be should be changed i should say policies for first reading for tonight
26:37
um policy 3233 deals with political activities of teaching staff this policy
26:44
very very closely mirrors a policy that it already existing 4233 for support
26:49
staff the changes um are not material
26:55
but um it did bring on a larger conversation in the committee about language
27:02
dealing with the the very subjective phrase of partisan political purposes um the the policy itself deals specifically
27:08
to teaching staff just like 4233 deals specifically with support staff so trying to so he talks about whether
27:16
uh a new policy is required or would it be a regulation
27:23
so we kicked it back to administration to sort of look at what best practices are
27:28
and how how it's best handled outside of this policy which is really specific to to
27:34
that so looking at a different policy that would capture
27:39
holding these sorts of things on site regardless of teaching staff or support
27:45
staff's involvement and i think that's the distinction and again the the subjective language around partisan political purposes is sort of
27:51
the the issue uh the other policy on for for first reading i'm sorry first meeting tonight
27:57
is 9181 which deals with the volunteer athletic coaches
28:03
again this mirrors uh the the school volunteers in its intent in terms of
28:09
after you know getting some approval um and going through the background check
28:15
and so forth beyond a certain number of hours the difference here between this and the school volunteer is there's additional
28:21
language around confidential student safety given the different nature of coaching
28:27
versus school volunteering brings it to the second reading so 91 80
28:33
55 41 and 84 65 there are no differences from first reading um
28:39
so again uh we talked about them last meeting but there's there's no no substantive difference no differences
28:45
between last first and second reading any questions
28:54
no questions quickly go ahead um sorry that was loud
29:00
1648-11 i thought that that had an expiration on
29:05
it of the end of the school year is that not correct
29:12
i there's aspects that karen do you want to speak to that
29:21
i may be speaking out of term but i'll do it anyway i i don't think the policy itself has um
29:28
self-termination language in it but i think the executive order that it follows contemplates that it's
29:35
only in effect until the end of the school year so i don't think the policy necessarily expressly
29:41
terminates on its own but i think um by implication when the exact executive order expires um
29:49
it would also expire but again i'm speaking out of turn i think i think the intent of of administration was that
29:56
there will be guidance prior to the end of the school year to know if it will be
30:01
you know what will happen to it prior to the end of the school year so but that's
30:08
speculative but yeah
30:15
any other questions for policy okay um finance and operations do you
30:21
mind going next mr villanova sure finance and operations met on april 13th
30:29
in person again we've been having our meetings uh in a hybrid model but um mostly in person which is refreshing

30:36
[Music] our first order of business was a presentation by michael rouse who's the
30:42
executive director of the esf camps esf is the summer camp that's run on the campus of the middle school
30:48
that we've had a relationship for a number of years with uh that has provided a nice
30:54
a nice opportunity for students in town and outside of town to participate in a
31:00
great camp but also give us a nice revenue stream obviously cove had an impact on camp
31:07
enrollment the last couple of years and we renegotiated some of the terms of our existing agreement
31:14
[Music] which will expire after this summer and i think there's a mutual interest in
31:23
extending that agreement presumably on terms closer to as they were originally intended pre-pandemic
31:31
so hopefully we'll have some updates on that in months to come
31:37
we also discussed our custodial bid which went out several
31:43
weeks ago i believe it's now closed mr heiser and we have received a number of
31:49
bids for custodial services that we're reviewing uh we have not yet analyzed those bids but
31:56
i expect we'll do so in the next month or so and hopefully i have some recommendations for the
32:01
board mr volpe already addressed the lead
32:06
testing issue which was the subject of our discussion at finance and operations this month i won't repeat what mr volpe
32:14
has already stated we talked about a number of transportation issues in my mind
32:20
probably the most significant is that non-renewals
32:27
are prevalent in the state and in the county and we're no exception uh
32:32
we believe that 11 of our 13 13 routes have been non-renewed
32:37
and this presents us with a significant problem budgetarily and operationally we are
32:44
going to have to get creative and get some
32:50
new companies in or hopefully get favorable terms from our existing bus companies to uh
32:57
to make sure that we've got efficient transportation lined up for next year um we're considering the possibility of
33:04
a joint bid with other districts but um for a number of reasons we're not sure that's going to work
33:11
um but we expect to get bid specifications out uh if not this week next week um and so
33:18
more on that to come we talked about the milk issue that struck parts of new jersey uh
33:26
several weeks ago probably about a month ago now where there was some contaminated milk that
33:32
hit some schools i think most notably camden there were some kids that got sick from drinking
33:37
milk that was contaminated with sanitizer um
33:43
we we became aware that one of our schools and forgiving i forget which one
33:48
the ues had uh had milk that was uh not contaminated
33:55
but was on the same lot um the
34:02
suspected content it was a suspected contamination and so
34:07
the department of health came out we had to sort of quarantine i hate to use that word but quarantine
34:12
the milk and have it destroyed in front of the department of health but thankfully
34:18
we don't believe it was actually contaminated and there were no issues in terms of kids ingesting any
34:25
contaminated milk mr heiser gave us an update on the
34:30

status of the county's review of our budget that we preliminarily approved last month and that's on the agenda for tonight
34:37
um dr benton gave us a presentation on her proposal
34:44
to use some sr funding for the steam program in the summer of 2022 which will provide four weeks of
34:52
programming for title one students at robert school as well as two weeks offered for students from baker and
34:58
south valley and those invitations for those students will be based on map data and other other
35:05
measuring points uh the committee supports uh dr benton's proposed allocation yes or funding for
35:11
for that program mr heiser gave us an update on our claim experience which has not been good uh
35:19
and that's in connection with our health and health insurance um as a district our claim experience hasn't been very
35:24
good but we are in a pool with other districts that have not that have had favorable experience and so that's the
35:30
benefit of being in these these pooling arrangements is that if you have a bad year claim-wise um if other districts
35:37
have good years then some then hopefully our our premiums won't won't go up and and hopefully it's a
35:43
it's a mutual relationship where when we have a good year and others have bad years we're helping each other
35:49
out um there is on the agenda tonight i believe
35:55
uh an item related to our vision benefits and we uh proposed to having um a three
36:03
percent mr heiser was successful in negotiating a deal with our
36:09
vision carrier to have a three percent increase on vision for one year
36:14
then with no increase for the following three years which in our view is a very good deal um to lock in three percent over the
36:21
course of four years um
36:26
there is uh as an add-on to the agenda that was made public today
36:32
uh a catasol relating to the ma agreement there's language in the ma contract related to use of
36:39
vacation time and through uh i'll call it an audit i don't know if it was actually a formal
36:46
audit but we just discovered that the application of vacation time under the
36:53
ma agreement was not necessarily consistent with the language of the agreement and so
36:58
the castle that is attached to the agenda this evening
37:03
is intended to clean up that that practice um and so we thank
37:09
ma and administration for coming to a reasonable arrangement to make sure that we are are actually
37:17
uh executing on the language of the contract as it was intended
37:23
uh miss mcglone gave a presentation she
37:28
would like uh she's proposed to have a new position to help her with with edc
37:34
um i think we're still exploring some of the details around that um and
37:40
so that's that's not something that's up for the board's consideration this evening but uh more on that
37:46
in the future any comments or questions
37:54
thank you thank you mr villanueva
38:00
um lauren would you mind not at all curriculum met on april 14th um
38:09
first we mr volpe advised the committee of the potential discontinuation of virtual
38:15
instruction during quarantine especially affecting uh k through third graders uh because of the challenges it presented
38:23
to the teaching staff and the instruction time required for that and just the cycle through of the timing of
38:29
how long it took to get the materials to the younger grade students um that was

38:34
just advise um that he was considering this uh situation and he will be
38:39
following up later uh with the committee um once a determination has been made on that subject and then a very large
38:47
portion of our meeting was as mr volpe already really eloquently uh explained about the
38:55
physical education and health standards i will try and just highlight the things
39:00
that maybe he missed that were in the minutes um one of the things we did look at was just the historical perspective it did
39:07
seem maybe compared to other districts we had implemented um these health standards
39:13
sooner than needed uh there was a history that was kind of explained that you know in 2020 we were getting ready
39:19
for uh cusack evaluation and assessment and we're really looking to rewrite a
39:25
lot of curriculum you know kind of quickly to get everything up to standard in code and so health and pe was in that
39:32
cycle to get ready for cusack assessment um to be
39:37
rewritten over the summer so with that you know being the case that's why our um curriculum was written and has been
39:46
you know being implemented over the last year and a half um [Music]
39:52
mr volpe pointed out that the state has since corrected the document that they were posting online which erroneously
40:00
kind of put everything posted as the end of grade two and you know really wanted to
40:05
credit the morse town staff for reporting that error and bringing that to the state's attention
40:10
um [Music] we went over as mr volpe explained the process and procedures for
40:18
students to opt out of you know various lessons uh when needed and what
40:25
that process was um kind of highlighted the point that you know as we're looking at the
40:31
standards that are set by the state we understand too as a you know teaching entity that you know not every standard
40:37
is given equal weight and so some of these um issues as mr volpe said you know
40:42
these lessons were taught in a one day you know class period it wasn't over and
40:48
over again over the course of weeks or months um he expressed again that the lessons in
40:55
the health were taught by nurses in the lower grades and that there was a balance to make sure that students
41:00
didn't feel you know that there was anything wrong with them and just that the indicators were just from a
41:07
very definition based instruction um
41:13
let me just see if there's other stuff here
41:18
oh we did talk about then a lot just about the process moving forward um mr
41:23
volpe and dr benton talked about um really bringing forward next meeting and
41:29
again mr wolbe kind of mentioned this a standard of procedures moving forward for how curriculum was going to be
41:34
developed and what that process and approval was going to look like we talked about last meeting how there was
41:40
a you know a more deliberate time frame for how curriculum would be implemented and
41:46
rolled out and piloted um and so looking to move forward
41:51
the administration was looking to put something more um concrete in place so that you know there
41:57
was that clear understanding of the standard or procedure so that committees also would have that better understanding too and it would be
42:03
brought to committees in a more consistent way um okay
42:08
and then we also talked so that was the health situation which did take up most
42:13
of the meeting and then we talked about at the end just looking at our numbers as far as
42:18

enrollment and what our needs were in the various grades in the various class sizes and
42:24
dr benton reported that at the moment we are looking pretty good with how our class sizes are in the lower grades and
42:31
our enrollment but still we know that a lot of times in the summer those numbers change and so
42:37
we need to be flexible for um you know what's anticipated as far as enrollment goes
42:43
and i guess that's about it any questions
42:51
i don't so much have a question as i just want to really thank mr volpe and dr benton for being so responsive
42:59
to the concerns that were raised from the community and within the committee itself
43:06
we did have very deep and honest discussion about
43:11
the feelings on the standards and the interpretations and i think the steps that you're taking
43:17
to allay parents concerns and give them opportunities to ask questions and learn more is
43:25
very um appreciated so thank you
43:32
it's great uh anyone else for mr romano all right thank you for that report uh
43:40
dr alberti could not be here this evening so i will give a brief overview
43:45
of the communication committee meeting um we actually had i'll call it one and a half meetings um
43:52
we we met on um march 30th and discussed the community survey that
43:59
i mentioned earlier in my comments uh sorry is that better this mic
44:06
is odd so i'll start again we we met on the 30th we started off with discussion
44:13
about this survey that was put out for the community we got a brief review on the 30th and
44:19
then had a more in-depth review on the 13th that was the other half meeting if you will
44:25
so we we found out that we did get a significant enough response that it could be the data could be normalized
44:30
and compared against other districts who've done done a similar survey the next step
44:35
in that um is to have focus groups and then once we have the in-person focus
44:41
groups then we'll be able to have a full kind of analysis of all the data and come up with the conclusions uh that we
44:47
could draw from that process we talked about the
44:53
web again another thing i mentioned in my comments earlier the online form for
44:58
people to submit comments that they wanted comment on during the school board meetings
45:06
for that that's that um process has not been well utilized so far so we talked
45:11
about potentially continuing to repeat that it's there and publicize it to make sure people know it's it's available but
45:18
we haven't had many questions on there and any of them that have been on there we've either addressed in the comments
45:23
between the superintendent or the president or those people have been responded to directly
45:29
we talked about the town hall that at that point was upcoming and understanding a little bit
45:35
about the format of that mr volpe explained to us what his thoughts were about that and his plans for that
45:42
we talked as a committee about addressing the uh
45:48
well i'll get this one first uh about the concerns that the community had about hybrid board meetings about q and
45:55
a and board meetings again something i spoke to in the president's remarks we also talked about how
46:02
we want to better understand how best to communicate as a committee i'm sorry as a full board
46:09
and being cognizant of the rules around quorum and not having email
46:15
conversations and discussions we have kind of a laborious arduous process for sharing

46:22
information among the board we want to see if we can streamline that but we figured that would be a better
46:27
topic to tackle when we have our board retreat which we're still planning a date for
46:32
we also talked about the process that we would go through for filling the board member vacancy
46:39
i think we can i'll conclude that that process worked out really well so uh that discussion we had was
46:45
obviously beneficial to that um so that was basically it that that was the uh the one and a half commute communication
46:52
committee meeting meetings that we had so any questions
46:57
comments all right hearing none we'll move on from the
47:04
board committee reports and we'll move to public comment so just a note to everybody
47:10
we actually have three public comment session sessions during this meeting we'll have this
47:15
first one which is uh on agenda items specifically then we'll have another public comment
47:22
period for budget items because we will be talking about and voting on the
47:27
2223 budget tonight and then at the end of the meeting as we traditionally do we'll have a public comment period for
47:35
non-agenda items so those three comment periods uh will be coming up so
47:41
starting with the first one i will entertain a motion uh to open public comment on agenda items only at this at
47:48
this point okay all in favor
47:56
any opposed extensions okay so i will say uh for this public
48:02
comment on agenda items please come to the mic state your name
48:08
and as much of your address as you're comfortable with giving you'll have three minutes to speak
48:13
and as we've discussed this is not necessarily a public not necessarily it isn't a question and answer period
48:19
so it's best to follow up with an email if there's a question in your comment and please be respectful in your
48:25
comments and do not address board members specifically thanks okay so
48:31
see we have somebody at the mic okay um
48:39
um
48:57
is
49:13
even members of the board students parents
49:18
as many of you as many of you know with the support of our union
49:24
32 bj we have been fighting for justice since we lost our jobs last june when hcsg
49:30
took over the district's janitorial contract today we are here
49:35
to tell you that justice is in sight over the weekend healthcare service group agreed to
49:42
settle the charges brought against them by the labor board the settlement is worth over four
49:47
hundred thousand dollars that includes back paid wages and reimbursement of medical expenses
49:52
workers incurred after we lost our jobs and our and our healthcare
49:58
the agreement also includes the requirement of respect to respect our rights and bargain with
50:03
our union most importantly we will be coming back to work with the district
50:10
we are so thankful to those of you that have supported us to fight
50:16
however we still need your help the district recently received bids from companies from a new two-year contract
50:23
to cleaning the schools among the bidders are two of responsible contractors that are committed to upholding the industry
50:30

standard wages and benefits including the quality affordable health care we previously
50:35
received we urge the district to award the contract to one of these responsible companies who will respect our rights
50:41
and provide fair wages and benefits thank you again for your time we look forward to being back at work
50:47
taking care of the schools where your children learn when we are back working with our wages and healthcare restored we will once
50:54
again be able to care for our families
51:13
that's as tall as it goes my name is donald smith uh no address
51:20
i am going to address the uh the board because i'm not here to address the teachers
51:27
the parents i solely moved to morristown for the schools
51:32
for these schools i've been here since uh my son was in kindergarten first no first grade
51:38
all right so my issue is regards to the public or the uh the health standards okay
51:46
i'm trying to figure out what happened to reading writing in a really particular what happened just teaching my child
51:52
what they need to know and alleviate the sense of stuff to the parents
51:58
okay i feel like stuff is getting shut down my child's throat that is unnecessary
52:05
i can teach my child properly for stuff that belongs in the home
52:10
okay i appreciate the comments um where you guys are standing i am addressing the poor because i feel
52:16
like to address in a forum just for two people is not addressing to the board you guys vote on
52:24
everything together and just like tonight it doesn't matter what anybody says
52:29
you guys already figured out what you guys are doing so at the beginning when you guys were talking about how
52:36
you're not going to allow for back and forth questions and answers
52:42
that's always been a burning issue for me because i feel like i'm just a mouthpiece here speaking to you guys
52:48
okay cool have a nice day bye you mean absolutely nothing i raised it before
52:55
on zoom during the pandemic i'm raising again today
53:01
you should be able to address concerns and with the
53:07
wealth of knowledge that you guys have you should be able to get a response
53:14
immediately because you guys are the best and the brightest here
53:20
so i just i implore that we don't i i understand i can pull
53:26
my my child away for any of these lessons but it's just the certain things i know
53:31
exactly where you guys are threatening the needle with respect to gender identity and whatnot
53:39
i know what you're saying but i know what you mean there's a distinct difference there
53:46
so thank you
53:56
i'm not as tall as he is um thank you mr volpe for your opening
54:01
remarks on the health standards i do have a couple of comments and questions um first of all sarah rivera sorry first
54:08
of all will you be posting your opening comments online and incorporating them into the posted curriculum so that it's
54:15
completely transparent as to what is and is not being taught here in morristown
54:22
that's an easy yes or no
54:28
i think we please finish your comment mrs rivera if you have questions just follow with an email i'm sure they'll be addressed
54:36
second i've gone through many of the curriculum files online and there are some housekeeping items that i think need dealt with there are
many files
54:43

that are missing author names there are many health files that are dated february 2020 but reference the
54:49
new state standard that wasn't released until june of 2020 and third i think i
54:54
speak for a lot of parents that are probably fairly relieved to hear your interpretation of the standards but are
55:00
also extremely skeptical of his true implementation it would be nice to hear you go on record that appropriate
55:05
disciplinary action will be taken if a staff member violates your interpretation of the curriculum as
55:11
stated today
55:20
good evening my name is susan powell i live at 446 shady lane
55:26
my husband and i moved to morristown because of the public schools our three children have since graduated
55:32
and they've realized success in college in their careers in addition to being a resident a
55:37
taxpayer and carrier i am also a third grade team teacher at roberts i am committed to the morristown school
55:43
system so two years ago when a pandemic hit like my colleagues in this room i rolled
55:48
up my sleeves and got to work tonight i'm speaking on behalf of elementary school teachers as i detail
55:55
what teaching was like during these unprecedented times to begin let's go back to 2012 2021
56:02
school year students returned to school in cohorts meeting on alternate days
56:07
since the students were not in school every day we had to capitalize on the time we had our students in session
56:13
this meant hours of planning and preparation because as teachers we knew we had many challenges
56:19
we to address the gaps in learning created by the pandemic and we had to address the social emotional needs of our students
56:26
we had to do all this while maintaining the academic rigor expected by our district
56:32
in addition to planning for in-class instruction we also need to plan meaningful remote lessons for me and my
56:37
colleagues this meant we need to plan lessons record videos make copies and materials post assignments on google
56:43
classroom create packets stuff folders and communicate with parents we did this during our lunch our prep
56:50
and the night we worked hard but we were optimistic things had to get better
56:55
jump ahead to our current school year we no longer had cohorts our entire class would be back in person
57:02
we were slowly getting back to normal i was piloting the new language arts program it was a fresh start and it was
57:08
going to be a better year was i wrong by the end of september i had students out with covid that was back to online
57:14
instruction it was difficult this is how it played out when i got word that students would be
57:20
quarantined i needed to collect materials make copies of assignments communicate with parents and they would
57:25
pick up their child's bin or i would drop that bin off then they would provide synchronous
57:30
instruction for the students in seat and at home finally when the quarantine students returned to school i needed to unpack
57:37
their bins review their work and individually catch them up on concepts and skills
57:43
for me the revolving door of quarantine students began in september and went to mid-january
57:49
i have been a teacher for 15 years and this has been by far my most difficult year
57:54
as teachers we have been flexible responsive and dedicated to the needs of our students
58:00
we are committed to our profession and to every child that walks in our classroom we don't expect accolades but we do
58:07
expect to be valued to be respected and to be treated fairly during this negotiation process
58:30
so thank you for the comment before we continue with public comment
58:35
as i stated before we'll have three public comment periods this first one is for agenda items so if we could have
58:42
people in addition to your name and your address let us know which agenda

58:48
item you're speaking to and if there's not an agenda item let's wait until the appropriate public comment period for
58:54
that please okay so
58:59
you have an agenda item speak to yes okay and but actually and also mr very you've had your you've
59:06
had a tournament i didn't take my whole three minutes so well it's gonna hang on what let's see is there somebody else
59:11
who wants to speak to an agenda item and then when we're finished with that we can certainly come back to you thank you
59:20
elizabeth collard 64 brooks road the first time i spoke at a board
59:26
meeting was six years ago i'm sorry dr dr pollard the agenda you have an agenda
59:32
okay thank you the first time i spoke at a board meeting was six years ago to support a
59:37
child from the lgbtq community a lot has happened since then morristown has become a more inclusive
59:43
and educated community people are more comfortable talking about issues of sexuality and gender identity
59:50
this can be attributed in part in new jersey to our public schools health curriculum fear knowledge of fear and lack of
59:56
knowledge often contributes to decreased acceptance of others it's never acceptable to make anyone especially
1:00:03
someone from marginalized group feel excluded why does gender neutral language upset
1:00:08
anyone rates of adolescent suicide are increasing two of my close relatives died by
1:00:14
suicide the more i talk with people the more i realize this is not an exclusive club
1:00:20
exclusion and ostracism of children for any reason affects mental health please keep an open mind and an open
1:00:26
heart especially where our children are concerned thank you [Applause]
1:00:41
so again i just want to be clear can the people doing public comment now
1:00:46
please note which agenda item you're commenting on during the agenda item public comment
1:00:53
period and if it's not an agenda item now we'll certainly have that open public
1:00:59
comment period at the end of the meeting yeah i don't know if i'm confused or not um but the opening comments about the
1:01:05
budget i guess would be the agenda item is that accurate okay perfect um so my name is
1:01:12
uh steven phillips i was fortunate enough to grow up in morristown i'm fortunate to have two parents i still live in morristown uh and you know
1:01:19
obviously most fortunate to have been teaching in morristown for 14 years and over that time
1:01:25
i've met some incredible people i've met some incredible students i've met some incredible board members
1:01:32
most of all you know over the past two or three years especially i've got to see kind of what everybody here is about
1:01:39
um we've had to change a whole lot about what we do and i know that's not um just
1:01:45
us and i know that's not just this town i know that it's been kind of nationwide
1:01:50
but i'm here just to talk a little bit about what we do and what we've done and and um i've seen our district i've seen our
1:01:57
school in particular kind of rally around uh the cry that's been put out to
1:02:02
adapt and achieve and keep implementing new uh um the standards that we're talking about uh new teaching dynamics
1:02:09
and everything else i've seen our department take what is typically a classroom that's interactive and and fun
1:02:16
and very inclusive and kind of loose and have to make it virtual and doing hit
1:02:22
workouts at 7 30 in the morning with groups on zoom and and kind of just changed everything about what we've done
1:02:27
for years just make it work and then we come back and you know we're painting lines outside on
1:02:33
a parking lot to play pickleball and badminton outside and just adapting adapting adapting
1:02:39
all with a smile on our faces all because we are really surrounded with very like intrinsically motivated people that just
1:02:46

want to do well for our students for the people around us constantly pushing and motivating
1:02:51
ourselves to be better and again just to adapt and over the course my 14 years i've
1:02:56
been very blessed to be put in very fortunate situations everywhere that i've gone um and the most confusing part
1:03:03
has always just been why we all have to gather here every couple years to do this um
1:03:08
it's frustrating and uh i just wish that it was different i think the entire environment would
1:03:14
just be a little bit better if we felt support at times uh and obviously we do feel supported and i think that some of
1:03:20
the opening comments about how you know that that we do want a fair settlement on both sides and everything
1:03:27
else i i don't think that anyone hears line or that's not what we want i just really feel like the entire vibe
1:03:33
the entire environment of everybody in this room would just be a little bit different if you know we actually kind of felt that i
1:03:40
don't think anyone's looking for a big christmas bonus or anything else i just really think that um
1:03:46
you have a really special group of people um you know they're sitting in front of you that
1:03:52
again aren't extrinsically motivated by anything just very intrinsically motivated people that want to do well
1:03:58
just for the sake of the kids and just for the sake of the faculty members um and so i hope this gets resolved very
1:04:04
quickly and uh i thank you all for your time
1:04:20
hi everyone i'd like to comment on budget and opening remarks hello i'm greg harr
1:04:25
social science teacher at the high school for over 20 years and i also serve as the business manager for our
1:04:30
extracurricular theater program besides all of the challenges of classroom instruction one of the largest disruptions over the past
1:04:37
two years has been in the area of live arts performances uh everything about the after school
1:04:42
activity in which i'm involved producing and directing theatrical performances has changed and i'm proud to say that
1:04:47
our high school theater students have performed all of their regularly scheduled fall plays in spring musicals this is in large part due to the
1:04:54
herculean effort of our staff partnering both with the high school and district administration and with the support of
1:04:59
the board to make this happen not only did our staff have to perform their regular artistic technical and administrative duties but we needed to
1:05:06
now consider state local school guidelines regarding distancing mass exposures contact tracing capacity
1:05:11
seating temperatures vaccination and for each show that we did the guidelines shifted requiring us to constantly alter
1:05:17
our plans but to do what needed to be done the work of the staff in every area was impacted show choice blocking and
1:05:22
staging vocal performance costumes hair makeup microphones but our staff was dedicated to making
1:05:28
the shows happen for the benefit of our students and for the entire community and we did it by going beyond our job
1:05:34
descriptions we offered streaming options for options for our performances including a free live stream to the
1:05:39
evergreens and brandywine senior homes just a few weeks ago in june of 2020 i delivered a virtual end of the year
1:05:45
banquet ceremony for our students from my living room and last year when many high schools
1:05:50
were canceling the spring musicals or pre-recording them with no audience ours was performed outdoors on the baker school playground to
provide our actors
1:05:57
and technicians the opportunity to perform a live show to an in-person crowd despite us incurring most of our
1:06:02
typical production costs our audiences for the shows paid no admission which was an important way for us to thank and
1:06:08
to build unity with the morristown community consistently through the years even more so through the pandemic more sound staff
1:06:14
members like those in the high school theater program have demonstrated that they value their students and their schools the most on board
of education
1:06:22
should show that they value their staff members let's work together let's get a contract done thank you so much
1:06:27
[Applause]

1:06:39
hi i'm beth phillips 139 west maple avenue
1:06:44
i'm addressing the budget agenda item i am the school nurse at baker
1:06:49
elementary school i'm speaking on behalf of all the morristown nurses who are also here somewhere with me tonight
1:06:57
um
1:07:07
i have been the school nurse at baker for over 16 years i love what i do
1:07:13
and i love caring for your children i think all of our nurses love caring for your children
1:07:19
these past two years nurses everywhere saw a dramatic shift in our profession
1:07:24
school nursing was no different we were called upon to become community health leaders and liaisons
1:07:32
our already busy days became even busier as we added screening for symptoms of
1:07:37
covid data collection contact tracing and quarantine protocols
1:07:44
these demands left little time for normal nursing duties but we somehow did it all
1:07:51
we added hours into the day by working from home at night
1:07:56
the nurses worked hand-in-hand with the burlington county health department to provide the county with the needed data
1:08:02
to monitor coveted transmission within the community the new jersey department of health
1:08:07
released updated covis as nurses we were responsible for implementing these guidelines
1:08:13
and communicating the changes to our family and our staff as they occurred
1:08:19
some were frustrated with our diligence as we check symptoms quarantined and isolated students and staff
1:08:26
and we understood this frustration we all have been affected by kovid
1:08:33
many families though relied on the nurses to provide them with a coveted protocol and to assist them as they
1:08:40
navigated through a very scary time we were available to our families and to
1:08:45
our staff day and night weekends and holidays to help assuage their concerns
1:08:51
give them guidance and answer their questions our goal through it all was to keep our
1:08:57
students and our staff safe and as healthy as possible
1:09:02
as school nurses this has always been our goal it may have been looked a little different during the pandemic but it's
1:09:09
still our goal the health and safety of our students and staff will always be our top
1:09:14
priority consistently through the years and even more so throughout the pandemic
1:09:20
morristown nurses and all staff members have demonstrated that they value the
1:09:25
students of morristown and the morristown schools please show that you value your staff
1:09:32
members as well thank you
1:09:48
um i'm not really good with microphones hopefully i do okay here uh my name is glenn furman and i teach fifth grade at
1:09:54
the ues i'll be talking about the budget uh i've been teaching for 24 years in
1:09:59
morristown uh the technology has really changed since i first started out i never
1:10:05
imagined i'll be using something like zoom and google me i have to make sure i know who is
1:10:11
supposed to be online and let them into my meeting on time i need to make sure my camera and microphone is on
1:10:17
and my students cameras are on and microphones are off uh i once heard a student yell to her
1:10:22
parents ah we're taking notes again i need to make sure i'm sharing my screen so the kids at home can see what
1:10:29
the kids at school are seeing i have to do all that while making sure my students at school are paying
1:10:34

attention and engaged that is all dependent on if wi-fi crop cooperates at school and in their houses
1:10:41
and then my lesson can begin it hasn't always been easy but i've gotten used to it when we were first asked to teach from
1:10:48
home i started out in my dining room it was an absolute mess with books papers and lists all over the place
1:10:55
i spent so much time at that table that there are dent marks still on my carpet
1:11:00
my wife actually made me put that in there uh if i had an assignment due at a certain
1:11:06
time i would sit there grading and returning them if students didn't turn them in i would constantly message them and sometimes
1:11:13
email their parents asking for their help most nights i didn't turn my computer off until eight or nine
1:11:19
my back started hurting from all the hours i sat at that chair and it still hurts when i learned how to teach my class
1:11:25
using google me i was so excited that i could see the faces of my students again i got kicked out of the dining room i
1:11:31
had to go to the room in the farthest corner of my house so my wife could teach her students and my two high school kids
1:11:37
could attend their remote classes i had to practice controlling the volume of my voice which is not easy to do
1:11:44
that might have been the hardest thing for me to do during this pandemic my family was very excited when i was allowed to go back into
school to teach
1:11:52
i was just one of three teachers who did that and i loved the peace and quiet and also i didn't have to control how loud i
1:11:58
was throughout these two plus years i tried to give my students the same memorable experiences that my former classes had
1:12:05
i spent hours modifying my project so my students could experience similar things as kids i taught in the past
1:12:11
i learned google classrooms so i could check their work in real time and give immediate feedback i drove house to
1:12:17
house to drop off books to the students in my class partly so they could have what they needed but mostly so they
1:12:22
could see me and i could see them and at least have a little bit of normalcy what i'm most proud of from that year is
1:12:28
my big newscast that i do at the end of every school year after reading charlie in the chocolate factory instead of
1:12:34
filming live in school like i always do i did dozens of different google meets with the help of the awesome media
1:12:40
specialist at the ues carol herb
1:12:46
we put it together so my students that year could have something they would remember for the rest of their lives i'm
1:12:51
not the only one who did these kinds of things every person in this room did so many selfless acts to make the
1:12:57
experiences of their students memorable in the end those are the things these kids will remember i saw two former
1:13:02
students this year the first is quentin law who was now a member of the town council i asked him what he remembered
1:13:08
from my class and he said the state report project that we did that is based on the ncaa basketball tournament i give
1:13:13
the kids teams to follow and they have to do a report on one of the states where the team is located sorry to start
1:13:19
intro just i have to ask you to please one more okay okay almost done sorry i i talk a lot sorry katie yeah
1:13:26
chief all right my wife is the second great teacher robert stewart quinn said he remembers the projects and still roots for the teams he had the
1:13:33
other former students my current teaching partner lex massa who's doing a phenomenal job by the way she told me
1:13:38
she remembers going to one of her softball games and she does that now because i did that for her i still love
1:13:44
going to see my students play i'll skip the last paragraph we aren't asking to break the bank we're asking for a fair
1:13:50
contract for from the morristown boe that shows that the staff members in morristown are valued for the work that
1:13:55
we do every day to help make our students the great people they are they are and eventually turn out to be
1:14:02
we deserve it for all that we have done in the past and all we continue to do no matter what the circumstances are thank
1:14:08
you
1:14:21
so i just want to remind everybody in addition to this being about
1:14:26

just agenda items um please keep it to three minutes if we have we want to give everybody a chance to speak
1:14:32
i'll be brief thank you good evening for those who don't know me my name is greg wilkinson i'm a class of
1:14:38
99 graduate i'm also a seventh grade math teacher at whams the last two years have been the most
1:14:45
difficult and exhausting basically years of my 20-year teaching career
1:14:51
the analogy building the airplane while flying it rings too true to every teacher in this room
1:14:56
despite the insanity of these last two years we made the district our priority we were fully committed to do whatever
1:15:02
it took to benefit the students in the midst of the pandemic we were your champions
1:15:09
now be our champions show us that you value us as staff members let's get this contract done
1:15:14
thank you
1:15:27
thank you board members colleagues audience members my name is amy mealy and i've been the librarian media
1:15:33
specialist at south valley elementary school for 19 years there's much i could say about those years as a librarian and
1:15:39
much i could say about my love for being a librarian at south valley but i would like to focus on last year and what it
1:15:44
was like teaching during the pandemic when we returned to school in september after leaving in march the specialist
1:15:50
really didn't know what to expect as to what our jobs would be much time and talk went into what the hybrid schedule
1:15:56
was going to look like and what the classroom schedule would look like but much not much was known about the special schedule but all of
us the
1:16:03
specialist returned eager to teach again eager to do what we loved and eager to be there for our students as it turned
1:16:09
out we were not going to be able to teach our students in person but instead we would teach our specialty to the
1:16:15
hybrid groups at home virtually over zoom or meet each day this we did with enthusiasm and pride in
1:16:20
our subject area we just wanted to be with our students and transmit to them our love for our subject area and for
1:16:26
them so we met with our zoom students each day and we did anything else we could possibly do to connect with our
1:16:32
students and to help our classroom teacher colleagues we posted extra lessons for kids on fridays we recorded
1:16:38
ourselves reading aloud and shared it with classroom teachers to use when they needed something different to do we
1:16:44
recorded ourselves singing dancing other things so that they could use those for brain break activities on fridays i
1:16:50
recorded book videos for the teachers to let them know what we had in the media center that was new
1:16:55
the zoom teaching didn't last too long and soon we found out we would no longer be teaching in person but instead
1:17:00
recording and posting lessons again as before we would we do we would do this with love and pride wanting to make a
1:17:06
difference for our students we all knew that it didn't feel exactly the same as being in person with our kiddos but it
1:17:12
was what was needed from us little did i know that when the new directive reached us that i would not be
1:17:17
reporting library lessons there was something different needed for me i was told when the hybrid groups broke up and
1:17:24
all of our students returned that i would be teaching the full remote third grade now bear in mind i've been a
1:17:29
librarian for 19 years and i worked in a public library before that it had been a little while since i taught math and i
1:17:35
used to joke with my students that i became a librarian so i never had to teach math again
1:17:40
but this is what the south valley students needed from me this is what the district needed for me so i took a deep breath and dug in i had
three days to
1:17:48
work with the current third grade teachers and be brought up to speed on the curriculum all of the websites and
1:17:53
apps i would need to access and use along with all of the passwords that i was going to have to remember to get
1:17:59
into those websites but it was what the district and the students needed so i took a deep breath and got to work i'm
1:18:05
not sure who was more nervous that first day myself were the third graders in my new remote class the good thing they

1:18:11
knew me from the library and i knew them so that first day together we all took a deep breath and we got to work i'm very
1:18:18
proud of how hard they worked and i'm very proud of them we had so much fun and we all all of us together learned a
1:18:24
great deal last year the year ended with our graduation and our clap out and my remote kiddos got to spend the day at
1:18:30
school with me in person we reflected on our year and they all agreed that the nervousness they felt in the beginning
1:18:36
turned into gladness that we were together and that i was their teacher i reflected with them and i shared that i
1:18:42
was glad i ended up as their third grade teacher and that the math was easier than i thought it was going to be
1:18:48
um consistently through the years and even more so throughout the pandemic morristown staff members including
1:18:54
the specialist groups that are here tonight have demonstrated that they value their students and their schools
1:19:00
the morristown board of ed needs to show that they value us thank you
1:19:10
thank you i'm actually before we go to the next comment i'm going to use my pattern
1:19:15
recognition skills and say if there are a lot of comments that pertain to the budget we're going to listen to those
1:19:22
during the public comment for the budget period so let me ask right now if you don't mind i'm going to ask is there anybody
1:19:28
else who has a comment on a agenda item other than the budget
1:19:34
okay just want to make sure before we go to the same person again okay so let's do
1:19:39
that and then the public the budget public comment is right after this one okay so let's just kind of keep things
1:19:45
compartmentalized and we'll come right back to the budget one when we finish regular public climate
1:19:51
please just use that seat right there okay um pandemic was totally easy for me by the
1:19:57
way so anyway um when i stood up here earlier with the sincere comment and requested that teachers on the rare occasion it
1:20:04
may be necessary are held accountable for the further actions your very own teachers over here on the right made
1:20:10
snide comments are you kidding me seriously so mister i'm going to interrupt you where is this on the
1:20:15
agenda no no where is this on the agenda about the standards and accountability no it sounds like it's about comments
1:20:21
you're hurting oh hang on hang on hang on hang on mr rivera hang on hang on no no stop stop stop and this is why we
1:20:27
please stop all levels can we cut the microphone please behind closed doors so listen
1:20:33
we're gonna we're gonna have some order here not my microphone her mic my child can be held accountable for us we're
1:20:39
gonna have some order here hang on hank please please hang on we're gonna have some
1:20:44
order here we have an order to things okay and i've said it consistently each meeting i'm going to continue that consistency all right so if
you'd like
1:20:51
to wait for a general public comment that's fine but this is on agenda items that's not on the agenda are there any
1:20:58
other agenda public comment items okay hearing and seeing nobody move
1:21:04
towards the mic can i ask for a motion to close public comment
1:21:12
okay thank you all in favor any opposed abstentions
1:21:19
okay so now moving on we have our budget section of the meeting which does
1:21:26
include a public comment on budget items so
1:21:31
i need a motion to go into um
1:21:36
the public hearing on the 2022-23 proposed budget so can i have a motion to open that budget discussion
1:21:44
second okay all in favor the opposed obsessions
1:21:53
okay so now the next item is public comment on the budget
1:21:59
please come to the microphone follow the same rules as before except these are comments about the budgeted um please

1:22:05
state your name address or affiliation with the district and uh then proceed

1:22:11
thank you my name is jess rasatti and i am a special ed teacher here at wams

1:22:18
um when the pandemic hit we had no idea how long it would last that being said my colleagues and i went

1:22:24
to many lengths to ensure that we stayed that the students stayed connected to their teachers their peers and their

1:22:31
community to best help my students work through their lessons i started by providing

1:22:36
each student with a daily checklist and a way to get in touch with both myself and their peers i wanted to reduce the

1:22:43
students feelings of isolation after creating an individual google hangout with every student i also

1:22:50
created a pull out support hangout every morning i would greet the students in the class hangout

1:22:56
it was in this group chat the students could have casual conversations ask me general questions or just

1:23:01
chit-chat with each other it provided us all with a much needed ongoing conversation

1:23:08
on an individual basis the students had access to me 24 7 through our individual

1:23:13
chats some students would work first thing in the morning while others late at night

1:23:19
through the entirety of the lockdown i responded to the students questions around the clock

1:23:24
i wanted to ensure that the students needs were being met despite the time that they chose to do their work

1:23:31
it was not uncommon that these conversations turned into phone calls or google meets so that i could better help these

1:23:37
students in addition to this i held daily google meets that were open to students so they

1:23:43
could log on at a predetermined time to meet with me during these meets i often answered

1:23:49
academic questions but more importantly i met the emotional needs of my students we talked about a lot of things and i

1:23:55
helped them get through this pandemic there were other students who i would

1:24:02
meet with twice a week for an hour each on google me we would work through these assignments

1:24:07
one-on-one together and i would get them ready for the week ahead during this time i was living an hour

1:24:13
away from morristown at times i would have students in need of supplies so that they could complete

1:24:19
their work while my first attempt was to find someone nearby who could help them it wasn't uncommon for me to drive an hour

1:24:26
each way to drop things off to each student i wanted to make sure that they were

1:24:31
successful all of what i have mentioned is in addition to the parent conversations the

1:24:37
daily modified assignments for four classes and the day-to-day operations of my position as an in-class support

1:24:43
teacher i am not alone in doing what needs to be done to help my students

1:24:48
through google classroom pages shared google docs google chats and group texts

1:24:54
my colleagues and i worked together and collaborated to ensure we were all meeting the needs of the students

1:25:01
consistently through the years and even more throughout the pandemic morristown staff members have demonstrated that

1:25:07
they value their students and their schools the morristown board of ed needs to show

1:25:13
that they value their staff members too thank you

1:25:27
how you doing um microphone uh marc andresino 512 middlesex drive

1:25:33
i'm also a computer teacher at baker and roberts um i had read once that for the apollo moon

1:25:41
uh mission for every hour the astronauts were on the moon we invested over 100 million

1:25:48
man hours here on earth to prepare and that's an amazing statistic and it's

1:25:53
also a great example of how we often forget about the details

1:25:58

when we think about the accomplishment i thought about this the other day when i noticed on my google drive that
1:26:06
in the first 15 months of the pandemic i had created over 500 videos
1:26:12
for students for my fellow teachers for parents at home
1:26:17
now to be clear i'm not comparing that to landing a man on the moon
1:26:22
but it did give me an opportunity to reflect on what we accomplished
1:26:29
and what it took to get there all of us what it took for us to get there
1:26:35
i saw a lot of things over the past two years that really made me proud to be a teacher here um too many to mention in
1:26:42
just two or three minutes um but i think a lot about my elementary
1:26:47
colleagues who prior to this pandemic used technology in the classroom a little bit an
1:26:53
appropriate amount but then we're suddenly told they could use nothing but technology
1:27:00
they were given this news on a monday and we're delivering instruction virtually on tuesday
1:27:06
um the entire manner in which they were expected to
1:27:11
execute their job completely changed in 24 hours
1:27:17
um i remember that monday very clearly everybody came in
1:27:23
put their head down rolled up their sleeves and got to work they received
1:27:28
very little training and had almost no time but they had this thing that they had to
1:27:34
figure out how to do and they had to continue to figure out how to do this
1:27:40
every day change after change for two years
1:27:45
they were building the plane while flying it every day
1:27:50
but that plane continued to fly now things are getting back to normal now and it's great the kids are back in
1:27:56
the building they're learning their fractions their adjectives their water cycle and it's great
1:28:02
and we have a tendency when things get back to normal to just put the past behind us and move on
1:28:09
but i think it's important that we think about that past we have some pride in what we did
1:28:17
um because i know i have pride in what we did um
1:28:23
i'm gonna close all of us actually and that's that's on the entire district we should take pride in what we did and
1:28:30
think about what it took to get there um i'm a bit of a space nerd in case you
1:28:35
didn't notice so i'm going to close with one last thought on the apollo 13 um
1:28:42
mission when three astronauts were stuck in space and they were struggling to get home
1:28:47
um somebody asked gene krantz who is the nasa flight director if he thought this was going to be
1:28:54
nasa's darkest moment and he knew the team he had around him
1:29:00
he knew what they were capable of doing he knew how much they prepared he knew how much they were dedicated to
1:29:07
this mission and he said no actually
1:29:13
i believe this will be our finest hour and it was thank you
1:29:32
good evening my name is tim hurley and i've been a math teacher at the high school for 10 years um i'm going to speak now about my
1:29:39
experience teaching during covid uh teaching remotely was far from ideal my wife is an elementary reading
1:29:44
specialist in medford so during the virtual days she would teach from the dining room i would teach in the basement any free time we had
we'd be
1:29:51
entertaining our five-year-old daughter and three-year-old son so it was far from ideal when i'm not teaching like to
1:29:56

focus my time on the clubs and activities of the high school i've been the high school math club advisor for
1:30:02
eight years and i'm one of four interact club advisors along with monica bell liz everett and donna tortu covid presented
1:30:09
unique challenges for clubs during during that time of high school
1:30:14
for math club we participate in the burlington county math league bcml where we meet with 10 other schools in berlin
1:30:21
accounting we meet five times a year in person we compete for individual and team awards when covet happened that was
1:30:27
wasn't possible so we immediately switched to a virtual format which was a lot of work a lot of time a lot of
1:30:33
commitment but it worked and it allowed our students to not only interact with their peers but give them experience outside the kobe
classroom
1:30:40
with interact all the in-town activities were kind of not happening at all so the four of us
1:30:46
made it you know made it a point to make something happen with the events that we do that we could do
1:30:51
we typically run three blood drives a year although we couldn't participate and send volunteers to them we allowed
1:30:57
our students to advertise for it and hopefully give blood if they could um our outside event for a 5k in the spring
1:31:04
couldn't happen uh could happen either so instead we shipped it to senior send off
1:31:09
candy grain messages for students and staff to purchase for the seniors all that money all that money raised there
1:31:14
went to the madison luber family in morristown acapella for autism is typically a live in-person interscholastic scene
1:31:21
competition which is awesome that went full virtual as well we instead had schools send in videos of their of their
1:31:27
teams performing the students of the high school edited that into a video um parents could purchase the video for
1:31:34
ten dollars and watch it all the money went to autism new jersey and finally super the soul an indoor event where it's ten dollars all you can
eat soup
1:31:41
and bread don't eat it for local restaurants also couldn't happen instead we shipped it and went to a community
1:31:46
cookbook we asked the community the community members in morristown as well as the staff members to submit their
1:31:51
favorite recipe and the students compiled into a book we sold that all the money with the still abundance
1:31:57
despite the numerous difficulties from covet and the extra work that it created the students were able to raise almost
1:32:02
nine thousand dollars for various charities during coven i want to be clear about why i'm here
1:32:09
and not here here but here as a teacher i had a wonderful high school experience
1:32:14
and it has been my goal as a teacher and why i became a teacher to provide that experience for other students and young
1:32:21
people today between my time in the classroom and the time i stand with the clubs i'm always
1:32:26
looking for ways to increase student involvement engagement and contribute to their social emotional well-being i just
1:32:32
want them to have fun with covet all that was taken away from us so it was really important for me to
1:32:39
try to make something happen so that the kids could look back and have memories in high school that
1:32:44
weren't about masking what about quarantines for the work i put in i don't ask for any special recognition we all do a lot
1:32:51
of stuff here i do it because i want to and i do it because i love it consistently throughout the years and
1:32:56
especially during covid morristown staff has shown that they value the students and value the schools
1:33:03
the board of education needs to show they value the staff thank you
1:33:18
good evening my name is norma townes gonzalez i
1:33:25
i've had the privilege of working with the children of this community and with the talented dedicated staff at
1:33:30
south valley for over 20 years i am proud to be a paraprofessional
1:33:36
who works with an amazing third grade team and we help to ensure the success of our
1:33:43
children here in morristown we have high standards for our students i do

1:33:48
you do and the parents do the parents of morristown move to this community because they value a high
1:33:55
quality individualized education for their children to continue to provide a high quality
1:34:01
education for the children in this district it's important to maintain all of the integrands that have kept the
1:34:07
morristown school district at the top of the rankings in education
1:34:12
it is essential to invest in experienced high quality paraprofessionals
1:34:18
your paris staff are highly trained professionals with college degrees certifications
1:34:24
and have years of professional development that were investments by this district
1:34:30
we provide a safe and secure learning environment for your children we have an integral knowledge of our
1:34:36
students our teachers and our schools from our years of experience
1:34:42
we work collaboratively with our staff our administration and with each other
1:34:48
we are responsible for the instructional support of the students in their academic
1:34:53
progress we guide them towards independence and proficiency in accordance with their
1:34:58
ieps we stand in for our teachers when they're required to attend
1:35:04
student related meetings and we also support the substitute teaching staff who aren't
1:35:09
familiar with the daily routines and the special needs of our students we're helping our students to develop
1:35:16
and cultivate their social skills because after all they haven't been around each other for almost two years
1:35:22
for two years we were always there for emails zooms google meets breakout rooms
1:35:28
tech support for students and parents crash courses in computer apps lesson prep
1:35:34
supporting parents who are juggling home school and work all at the same time
1:35:40
we do arrival dismissal traffic bus duty lunch recess specials
1:35:46
one-on-one support bathrooms modification charts sign language
1:35:51
lineups advising supervising mediating comforting
1:35:57
encouraging listening coaching bandaging and so much more and that's all in a
1:36:03
day's work by under investing in the people who support your children
1:36:08
you're removing hand holds that your students rely on today
1:36:14
you can make the choice to under invested to under invest in support staff but not without a price
1:36:20
if you want exceptional high quality education for your students then i urge you to continue to invest in
1:36:26
the passionate experienced paraprofessionals who work today in your district
1:36:32
we try a lot of things to improve achievement in our schools and this is the one one of the things
1:36:38
that works consistently through the years and even more so through the pandemic
1:36:44
morristown staff members have demonstrated that they value their students and their schools and the morristown board of education
1:36:52
needs to show that they value their staff members thank you very much
1:37:10
good evening my name is kelly gartland this is my 14th year teaching in morristown
1:37:15
and i teach ceramics and sculpture at the high school believe it or not this is my first time speaking at the board
1:37:21
of ed meetings so bear with my nerves and it is also a little cold in here so i feel a little bit shaky
1:37:27
um uh suffice it to say i also felt compelled to get up here to share with you how myself and my colleagues make
1:37:34
morristown and its students our priority every day and especially over the past two years
1:37:40

as teachers we understand the importance of hands-on learning experiences for our students when the pandemic hit those
1:37:47
experiences became even more necessary for our kids social social and emotional learning needs from my perspective we
1:37:54
had two options for teaching ceramics we could find a way to give an authentic ceramics building experience and provide
1:38:01
essential hands-on skills or we could teach it more as an art history class using digital components we want the
1:38:08
option of giving our students a much needed hands-on class necessitating that we flip the ceramics classroom to
1:38:15
accommodate our challenging and changing hybrid schedules last year students created one hundred
1:38:21
percent of their pottery at home giving them time in person to glaze and get the one-on-one help with problem solving
1:38:27
their projects to do this we ceramics teachers spent tens of hours outside of school cutting
1:38:33
down materials to assemble over 300 clay kits 100 sculpture kits and then hand
1:38:39
delivering them to students who had no means of transportation to pick up their supplies we personally drew portioned
1:38:45
bricks of clay to students on weekends and after school hours to make sure that they had the necessary materials to keep
1:38:52
up with their classes we spent hours upon hours after school recording and editing step-by-step instructional
1:38:58
videos so that during our shortened class periods we can meet virtually with students and troubleshoot any unforeseen
1:39:04
digital issues which there were many of we assembled individual glaze kits for at-home students to have a chance to see
1:39:11
their projects usable and completed on an average day you would find us art teachers in the front vestibule of the
1:39:17
high school putting out supplies for students to pick up and collecting projects that were dropped off just as
1:39:22
much as you could see us in our classrooms and all of this is just what we did for ceramics and sculpture from the
1:39:29
elementary up through the high school arts and technology teachers created thousands of customized supply kits for
1:39:35
students hundreds of hours are spent driving supplies to students houses making instructional videos from scratch
1:39:42
and uploading student work to digital spaces like instagram and artsonia so that our students work could still have
1:39:48
a presence in a digital learning environment we did and still continue to do much of this because morristown and
1:39:54
its students are a priority to us my story here at the high school doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of how
1:40:01
teachers across the district spent countless hours to maintain the quality of hands-on learning experiences over
1:40:07
the past two years and how we continue to do this on a daily basis consistently throughout the years and even more so
1:40:14
throughout the pandemic morristown staff has demonstrated that we value our students and our schools and all i ask
1:40:20
is that the morristown board of ed shows that they value us staff members in return thank you very much
1:40:36
good evening i'm dr tracy panetti um ap biology and honors biology teacher at the high
1:40:42
school the past two years have been very challenging for me as a teacher my craft
1:40:49
is to interact with students and provide stimulating lessons activities and science labs
1:40:54
during the past two years of covert restrictions with hybrid learning and social distancing the most meaningful
1:41:00
activities have been very limited and i am very happy that we're almost back to normal
1:41:05
the struggle of the past two years have been very real for both myself and my students
1:41:11
knowing that students are getting it is what truly fuels me on the bad days and provides the motivation to keep working
1:41:18
harder the appreciation of my efforts as a teacher from community members and my supervisor
1:41:25
has kept me going and most recently our staff at morristown received a letter from mr
1:41:32
volpe on march 17th and i would like to read that for you now
1:41:37
two years ago today i started my first day of quote virtual work a situation
1:41:42
that was only supposed to last two weeks two years ago today you did the same

1:41:48
thing two years ago today quote learning loss started for some of our students
1:41:56
two years ago today teaching didn't feel like teaching anymore it has only started feeling like what a profession
1:42:02
used to be in small glimpses here and there two years ago today you started working
1:42:09
harder than you ever have had before and that continues to this day let me repeat
1:42:14
that two years ago you started working harder than you ever had before and that
1:42:20
continues to this day two years ago today your world and the world of our students changed in ways we
1:42:28
couldn't imagine two years later we are picking up the pieces together
1:42:34
i may not know you personally yet but i know what you've been through i also know what students have been
1:42:40
through and there is only one reason they are coming out on the other side of these times with any small degree of normalcy
1:42:48
you you have made that difference you have extended yourself you have put students
1:42:53
needs before your own and if that isn't the most noble of things that a person could have done
1:42:59
over the past two years i don't know what is thank you for all you do each and every
1:43:05
day mr michael volpe superintendent the next day after i received this email
1:43:12
i was greeted at the high school with a gift from home in school it included green bees for st patrick's
1:43:18
day a gift card and a note that said we're so lucky to have teachers and
1:43:23
staff like you thank you and that really made my day i actually sent a picture home to my husband
1:43:30
and then the same day i also received a note and it was from the mea that an impasse in negotiations had been
1:43:38
reached and both parties were filing jointly for mediation i was in disbelief after all of our hard
1:43:45
work that had just been recognized by our new superintendent i'm asking the board of education to
1:43:51
please show us the appreciation that we deserve and settle a fair contract
1:43:56
i appeal to each of you to take into consideration the extra efforts the
1:44:01
teachers have made so that we can settle the contract we would really like to get back to the business and focus on
1:44:08
putting the pieces back together for our children [Applause]
1:44:22
hi um my name is lorenzo eagles i live at 88 westbrook drive and i'm a history teacher at the high school and i want to
1:44:28
start tonight first by thanking you guys for your commitment to this community um i know that we're talking to volunteers
1:44:34
i know talking to board members in the past has been a very difficult time for you guys as well working through that we
1:44:39
recognize the commitment you've made and even though we don't always agree on everything there is a mutual respect that i've seen over
the last two years
1:44:45
that i hope can carry us through to a quick conclusion with our current difference of opinion i also want to
1:44:51
thank you for listening uh to all the stories tonight i know that not everyone wants to listen
1:44:56
to these stories but i think it's tremendously important that you hear from your staff i'm not dumb i've lived in morristown
1:45:03
for almost 20 years now a lot of time on soccer fields baseball fields lacrosse fields all kinds of places where i see
1:45:09
lots of people i know the power of a negative anecdote i know that when you
1:45:14
live long enough this district and you spend time on social media you hear the stories about what we do not do mr
1:45:20
eagles doesn't do this mr beagles can't do that mr eagles wasn't here for that i hope today you realize that these
1:45:27
stories show the exact opposite today you heard 12 13 people from the staff
1:45:33
share positive anecdotes stories that show our passion as a teaching staff as
1:45:38
a teaching learning community they show our commitment they show our value and if you really want to make a long

1:45:45
meeting we probably could have every single person in this room stand up to share their stories too because they all
1:45:52
did the same things we may not be perfect who over the last two years was
1:45:57
but we did our best if you ask me these stories were amazing they put smiles on my faces they remind me of why i love
1:46:04
working in this district okay it was laudable and no doubt eminently valuable
1:46:10
crazy thing is i think you all know that after all most of you have been right there with us along the way
1:46:17
for this you were here that summer two summers ago when we worked through the summer trying to figure out how the heck
1:46:22
we're gonna have virtual school okay in the middle of a pandemic you were with us all the way up through to this year
1:46:28
when we came back bug-eyed in cafeterias full of kids with mass off and in classrooms with masks on trying to
1:46:35
navigate the craziness of the entire situation each time we shifted plans we changed
1:46:40
things i felt confident and comfortable knowing that we were working hand-in-hand with the board of education to solve what i thought well i
know was
1:46:47
the greatest crisis that i've experienced in my teaching career and i think our community has gone through in a good long time as well of
course you
1:46:54
praised us all the time for that i thank you for sharing uh dr volpe's wonderful email which did inspire all of
1:47:01
us but i got personal videos from half of you okay praising us too for all that
1:47:06
we did each and every one of you showed us that you're appreciating your thanks as you went through everything that
1:47:12
happened here even last year in the crazy mayhem of the spring when parents got up and talked they were generally
1:47:18
thankful for the effort that we as staff put in okay to our jobs i think it's
1:47:23
really important that you as a board understand okay why and how that's affected us um tracy did a great job
1:47:29
summing it up i probably could sit down but but i will admit as well that i was surprised when i first heard that we
1:47:36
reached the impasse as well okay i'll admit that when i started talking people in the hallways and we've all had these
1:47:41
conversations we collectively they were taken aback by the fact that we couldn't fix this in conversation after
1:47:48
conversation people expressed to me their shock their sadness that negotiations have come to this point
1:47:53
they said things like don't they know what we've done don't they know the teachers are tired burned out that
1:47:59
people are leaving this profession more than coming into this profession don't they know that all around even in places
1:48:04
like medford okay they're coming to amicable and positive solutions to contract negotiations okay don't they
1:48:12
know that what we want more than anything to do is help pick up the pieces okay and move forward our student
1:48:17
to do a bigger and better year and president weeks i appreciate your opening comments but you know the
1:48:24
actions speak so much louder than words if you really [Applause]
1:48:36
if you really want to continue what we started two years ago get a settlement as soon as possible
1:48:42
please understand that this is not over and by this i mean it's pandemic okay
1:48:47
sure masks are going right you know the pandemic seems to be slipping away but i argue that our hardest work is yet to
1:48:54
come ask anyone who's been around kids and that's all of us okay and we love their grit we love the resilience we
1:49:00
love their effort we love their energy they have inspired us their effort has been praiseworthy but if you've been
1:49:06
with kids you know okay that the pandemic has negatively impacted learning you know that now more than
1:49:12
ever we need to make sure that our spring and our summer and next fall is all hands on deck fully committed like
1:49:19
we were two summers ago to make this place this coming year the best year they can possibly be and i hate to say
1:49:26
it as much as i love this shirt okay this kills that box this makes every
1:49:32

single one every minute i spent in this shirt is a minute that i am not preparing and planning to make myself
1:49:38
the best teacher i can be for those kids next fall and so while we [Applause]
1:49:50
we're at about five and a half minutes thank you very much thank you mr eagles [Applause]
1:50:04
okay we are still in the public comment session for the budget any other
1:50:11
public comment on budget items
1:50:16
okay seeing and hearing none i will recommend that the public hearing on the 2022-23
1:50:23
proposed budget be closed uh may i have a motion for that
1:50:30
in a second okay any comments
1:50:36
discussions before we take a vote okay um can we have a vote then all in favor
1:50:44
uh this one it doesn't say roll call but you're right yeah this isn't the approval this is the public comment yeah
1:50:51
okay so closing public comment uh all in favor
1:50:56
any opposed extensions i voted for it
1:51:01
okay uh public comment on the budget portion is closed so now we'll move on to the adoption of the final budget for
1:51:08
2022-23 so um
1:51:13
it's it's all stated here um may have a motion uh
1:51:18
to uh approve the budget as as noted here in the agenda um oh i'll take that
1:51:25
motion now second okay all uh in favor and
1:51:32
uh yes okay let's do a roll call vote please dr alberti
1:51:39
mrs arcara burns yes mrs fallows macaluso mrs micaopoulos yes mrs moreno i'll be
1:51:48
abstaining since i was sworn in yesterday and didn't have the opportunity to participate
1:51:53
fair enough mrs romano yes mr villanueva yes dr snyder yes mr weeks yes thank you
1:52:02
thank you everybody that budget is approved okay so now we'll move on to reports to
1:52:09
the board um letter a business administrator board secretary there are three reports there um
1:52:18
the approval of budget transfers uh the approval of bills uh so may have
1:52:23
a motion for approval of items one through five
1:52:29
any um conversation or questions about this
1:52:36
okay so all in favor aye any opposed
1:52:41
abstentions all right that one carries uh letter 11
1:52:47
or number 11 recommendations of the superintendent letter a the policies and procedures uh we have these policies for
1:52:55
first reading policy 3233 policy 4233 policy 9181
1:53:01
um and then also for second reading policy 5541 policy 8465 regulation 8465 and policy 9180
1:53:12
so i'll entertain motion for the approval of items one and two so
1:53:19
hey any comments questions all in favor aye aye opposed extensions extension
1:53:28
pattern again yeah all right thank you moving on letter b educational program
1:53:34
so this is uh includes number one burlington county alternative school placement for 21 22
1:53:40
special education out of district placement special education in district placements so i'll uh may have a motion
1:53:46
for the approval of items one through three
1:53:53
comments questions all in favor aye

1:53:59
abstention please okay any opposed okay
1:54:04
motion carries all right uh letter c finance and
1:54:09
business uh number one travel expenditure approval request number two uh donations uh number three cancelling
1:54:16
about a cancellation of outstanding checks number four joint transportation agreement number five the vision care
1:54:22
plan and six uh 2021 coronavirus response
1:54:27
and supplemental appropriations act elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund amendment number
1:54:32
one application and number seven the 2022 american rescue plan homeless children and youth uh to grant
1:54:39
application mr president yes uh this should include the addendum as attached to
1:54:46
right and then also right that's the codicil correct for the maa correct um okay and
1:54:51
so also including that so approval of items one through eight they have a motion
1:54:58
okay all in favor aye i'm sorry were any questions or comments about that
1:55:04
okay all in favor we got that we have the abstentions yes please okay and any of those all
1:55:11
abstain to c2 please
1:55:19
all right moving on we have uh letter d employee relations the appointments uh
1:55:24
number one resignations number two changes position hours start date uh leaves of absence
1:55:31
of contract substitutes athletics co-curricular clubs certificated non-tenure staff
1:55:36
reappointments and certificated staff reappointments and number nine there that's as amended and executive
1:55:44
so i'll entertain a motion for items one through nine soon
1:55:50
thank you any comments questions all right all in favor oh i'm sorry
1:55:56
we'll call vote for that one thank you mr president dr alberti mrs sarcara burns yes mrs fallows
1:56:04
macaluso mrs mcopolis yes this is morano abstention please
1:56:11
mr romano yes mr villanueva yes dr snyder yes mr weeks yes thank you
1:56:19
thank you everyone so um 12 suspensions
1:56:25
letter a suspensions b superintendent's hib report uh as discussed in last
1:56:31
month's executive uh so i have a motion for these items
1:56:37
please so moved any questions comments
1:56:43
all in favor aye any opposed and one abstention
1:56:49
i got you sorry no worries all right um number 13 is informational
1:56:55
only uh with the enrollment information is there any old business
1:57:04
okay hearing none moving on any new business
1:57:10
all right now we are back to our third and final open public comment
1:57:16
um i have a motion to enter public comment
1:57:23
all in favor aye aye the opposed abstentions
1:57:29
all right so please again come to the mic this is for non-agenda items um
1:57:36
please come to the mic name address
1:57:42
okay all right going once twice all right let me entertain a motion to
1:57:49
close public comments all right all in favor aye any opposed
1:57:55

extensions all right public comment is closed uh i'll entertain a motion for adjournment

1:58:04

not all at once second okay all right all in favor all right hi

1:58:10

thank you everybody get home safely please

1:58:32

you