

Transcript of the May 17, 2022 BOE Meeting

0:28

hey

1:02

uh

1:12

yes

3:10

hey i'd like to ask everybody to take their seats we're about to start

3:17

good evening miss hearn

3:40

uh

3:50

somebody find a light switch i think that would help i'll turn off the lights no all right

3:56

good evening the regular meeting of the moorestown township board of education is called to

4:01

order this meeting is called in conformance with the open public meetings act with adequate notices provided are provided as follows

4:08

notice filed with the courier post july 1 2021 and filed with burlingame county times july 1st 2021

4:15

um i'd like to ask now we could have a moment of silence and um maybe keep in mind the uh community of buffalo new

4:22

york that suffered a horrific tragedy over the weekend

4:38

thank you everyone please rise for the pledge of allegiance

4:44

i pledge allegiance

5:03

hey mr heiser could you please take the role dr alberti here mrs arcara burns

5:10

mrs fallows macaluso mrs mcopolis mrs morano

5:16

present mr romano mr villanueva here dr schneider

5:22

mr weeks president thank you thank you mr heiser

5:27

so we already um had and returned from executive session um so moving on to uh routine manners it

5:34

matters may i uh request i will request a motion for the approval of the minutes

5:40

from the april 26th uh executive session and regular meeting

5:48

okay any comments questions all in favor

5:53

aye the opposed extensions one ascension

5:59

okay thank you okay any communications i just wanted to highlight that may 26th

6:07

burlington county school board station is having a back to in person meeting for anyone

who

6:13

wants to register and attend would love to have you join that event

6:21

thank you miss romano anybody else okay then moving on to

6:29

president's remarks so good evening and thanks to everyone uh for attending to

observe this board

6:34

of education meeting with the change in the weather which we all hope will hold i'm sure

hopefully no

6:42

more cold snaps uh it's starting to feel as if we were in the home stretch for the school

year this past year has had its challenges

6:48

and though we still have a few more uh weeks to surmount uh i feel good about our

direction and the work being done to

6:55

get us there among the areas where work remains to be done is finalizing the mea

contract while we have made good and significant

7:02

progress we are not quite there yet however i know we are on the right track and that

the negotiating committee and

7:08

the full board are eager to do everything we can to get a fair settlement as i have said

during the last few meetings we are deeply committed to

7:14

doing everything we can to take care of those who've taken care of our learning

community while upholding our responsibilities to the larger community

7:21

speaking of the larger community though through through various forms of feedback it

has

7:27

been brought to our attention that recently as a district we did not do our best when it

comes to one community in particular

7:34

we have a significant muslim community in our town and many celebrate recently celebrated ayad al-fatah

7:42

the holiday celebrating the end of the month-long fasting of ramadan state testing was scheduled for that day

7:49

uh the first day for that holiday and many parents brought it to our attention that it seemed a significant challenge

7:55

for their students and their families as one parent put it quote each year we send emails to the

8:01

schools to educate them regarding our major holidays and yes we always throw in the comparison with christmas

8:07

it's bad enough that our kids don't have a day off right and then to deal with the stress of

8:13

missing classes or after school fatigue is unfair to these and others affected by this

8:19

oversight let me begin by apologizing mr volpe and i have begun conversations about how the district can better

8:25

address these concerns going forward thank you to those who have brought this to our attention and your offers to help

8:30

with the dialogue going forward as a district we strive to be inclusive and responsive to all members of our

8:36

community and we truly thank you for the opportunity to get better in this area

8:43

excuse me finally i would like to note that we are appreciative of all the financial support we get from the

8:48

community but i want to specifically note the morristown home and school association for their support of the keresaulus program

8:55

well the morristown home and school association does many things for our district as our students recover from the

9:00

stresses of the past couple years with the pandemic having the counseling connections

9:05

as a result of this program will provide much needed access to assistance as we accept this donation tonight

9:11

please know how much we appreciate it thanks and that concludes my remarks mr
volpe

9:19

thank you president weeks and first i want to say i reiterate uh and can only say due to
ignorance and i'm learning

9:25

myself and i hope we all continue to be lifelong learners i want to be sensitive to
everyone's major holidays and i'll

9:30

make a better job of that going forward i also want to apologize on the agenda that does
say something about a hib

9:36

self-assessment presentation if you were really looking forward to that i have to
apologize i'm six months early and

9:42

putting that on an agenda so if you come back in november we'll have that prepared for
you then but as far as my

9:48

regular comments by the time of our next board meeting only be a couple of days away
from graduation until that time

9:54

there is still much work to do and many special events to look forward to in each of our
schools our remaining days

9:59

this year are going to be filled with orientation programs festivals concerts and field days
it is my sincere hope

10:05

that you and your children are able to enjoy some of these events between now and the
end of the school year

10:11

as you know burlington county or as you may know burlington county has returned to
the orange activity level for covid

10:17

transmission we received this information on may 11th since that time i have been in
contact

10:22

with my administrative team correspondent with board members gotten information from
18 other burlington

10:27

county superintendents and continue to review our daily coven numbers which are
always available on our website for your

10:34

review based on all this information it has been decided that the morristown township
public schools will be

10:39

remaining mask optional even though the county overall has jumped back to orange as a region we are

10:44

not seeing a commensurate rise in testing positive following up with students and staff who have tested positive it does appear as

10:51

if the current strain of the virus repairs primarily as cold and flu-like symptoms

10:56

furthermore the board of health has not contacted us pertaining to any concerns in our schools

11:02

that being said we will be implementing some additional mitigation strategies during this time such as providing masks

11:08

on buses in schools and at school events to both students and parents if they wish if anybody in here right now wants

11:14

a mask we have them back here and i promise we'll have them every time we gather together if you want them

11:20

we will also take some reasonable precautions such as opening windows on all of our buses during the transport of students and continuing to clean them

11:26

after students are off principals have been encouraged to allow outdoor instruction as appropriate as

11:32

well as getting outside when possible for breaks and snacks we will also look to open windows and classrooms for optimal air circulation

11:39

buildings will increase announcements and reminders about proper hygiene practices social distancing when

11:45

possible and most importantly staying home when feeling ill no matter what special event is taking place at the

11:51

school and that is really the most important thing pertaining upcoming state testing

11:57

students in grades 10 and 12 will not be involved in the upcoming nj sla testing

12:03

given that the high school is testing at two grade levels we will need to utilize all staff to ensure the optimal testing

12:09

environment for students and optimal test security protocols for the district for students not testing this means that

12:15

the high school will be on a two-hour delay schedule during the week of the 23rd through the 27th in order to

12:21

accommodate for the njsla exams notification was already sent to high school families about the testing

12:26

schedule but if you have further questions please reach out to the high school administration

12:32

when it comes to curriculum you may remember my comments from last month where i stated that we would be bringing

12:38

a more detailed sample health and pe curriculum guide to the curriculum committee of the board later this week i

12:43

believe it's thursday morning once more specificity in our guides are provided and reviewed it is my intent

12:50

to have all such guides posted on our website before the start of the next school year after i announced that at our last board

12:56

meeting the new jersey senate education committee introduced s-2481

13:01

and the new jersey assembly education committee introduced a 3968 in short among a few other things the

13:08

new jersey legislature is looking to pass a law stating exactly what i already said we would do here in morristown

13:14

if and when these bills are reconciled and passed into law we'll make sure we're aligned with all requirements if

13:20

by some reason they are not we will still be following through on the steps i previously stated as we move forward

13:25

with these efforts i will communicate our progress out to the community

13:30

okay i wanted to make sure that was behind me finally as we move into next school year i want to be clear with the

13:36

community and all of our staff as to our efforts in using grants from federal funds related to coded over the past two

13:42

years and into next year i know that not everyone in the room tonight is an accountant

13:48

i'm pretty sure that i know not everyone wants to read a highly detailed small type spreadsheet

13:54

so tonight i'm sharing a color-coded graphic that tells a story so that even english majors like me can

14:00

make sense out of it and is it mr harry who's scrolling up and down jeff can you scroll up and down just so

14:06

they can kind of see okay you can just scroll up

14:11

yeah thanks this document is going to be posted on our website for all of us to see at any

14:18

time it's going to show our actual spending in 2021 once the school year concludes this year

14:24

our actual spending in 2122 and budgeted spending in 2223

14:30

to help tell this story each of the different grants will be color coded and the side column will have our

14:36

buckets of spending where it will be clearly delineated showing items purchased for facilities and operations

14:42

programming and professional development staffing and technology while i won't be going over all these

14:48

details tonight i really don't want to put everyone to sleep they will clearly be posted on our website no later than the end of this

14:55

week and will remain there as a reference that people can return to should anyone have any questions after

15:01

reviewing the document behind me either i or a member of my administrative team would be more than happy to respond to

15:07

further questions that the community has in this area i know it has been a concern about what are we spending with

15:12

federal grants and how are we doing it it will be laid out for you perfectly and i invite anyone to contact me at any

15:18

time if you have any further questions after reviewing that document other than that it continues to be my pleasure in

15:24

my first five months here to see all the efforts that are going on in the classrooms i look forward to a

15:30

great end of the school year and for any of you who are elementary teachers i will be coming to each and every elementary

15:36

school field day it is the highlight of my june every year no matter what district i am in thank you

15:47

thank you mr volpe okay moving on uh

15:52

like to hear from our student board representatives so i guess uh ms haring will take senior

15:58

privilege and go first get the full audience effects all right

16:05

hi everybody my name is claire herron and i am the senior class liaison now

16:10

that is not the first time i said that today um i was walking into school this morning clearly super on time even early

16:18

um but mr cybel sees me in the hallway as i'm making my round saying hi to officer clayton mr

16:24

har he goes claire you're going to do the morning announcements all right um so i hadn't checked my

16:30

pocket calendar and i start this morning at 7 35 and go good morning mhs my name is claire

16:37

herron i'm your senior class liaison and today is march 18th

16:43

i soon learned it wasn't mr miller my physics teacher shout out was one of 14 teachers who came up to me

16:50

in the hallway today and said hey no oh i'm glad i can make everybody laugh my

16:56

friend was recording me because she was also there and she was like i'm getting this on camera and she made the right decision

17:02

um so that is just the perfect way to it's kind of like an omen for the rest of my senior year i believe uh but that

17:09

is all right so i am going to hop back a little bit i was unfortunately under the weather for

17:14

our last meeting um so i didn't get to talk about senior trip um but i honestly had the best time

17:22

miss russo and mr lawless were bus one that was yeah that was me they were our um advisors for that and it was just a

17:28

great time and it was really like unifying um with the whole school

17:34

and there were some rocky parts i don't know if everybody heard or was a part of the more sound parents facebook page

17:41

um but yeah there were some rocky starts it was it was a lot um but mr saibo worked

17:47

relentlessly i uh personally wasn't too affected being on southwest airlines also with mr seibel which just like was

17:53

a coincidence that he got there on time all right

17:59

um no but if you saw him for the next three days he was on the phone with the

18:04

travel agents i'd never heard of he worked so hard the entire administration chaperones were

18:10

staying up till 3 a.m every night just trying to get all the kids and uh get a kids with a room keys and an order

18:16

and we were exhausted they were exhausted some harsh words were exchanged but um

18:21

by the end we were all singing kumbaya and really enjoying the trip and it was really nice to be in all the different

18:27

parks you can we had park hoppers you could go anywhere um but that really meant that you ran into different groups

18:32

at anywhere you went you'd go on a ride with five different people and then meet up with someone else for dinner and

18:38

i honestly found like this new like really tight group of friends and i had a really weird senior year so it was

18:43

really nice to like end it now going to college in two months and now i have my best friends um

18:48

that's okay but um it was really nice i met all these new people which just like led to the perfect end to senior year

18:53

and i think i like really came full circle with this high school experience and i definitely want to thank

18:58

administration for working super super hard and just giving us the best trip they could with

19:04

you know covet and just disney and spirit airlines um so like that was a lot to deal with um but it was really

19:10

great i'm really thankful that i had that opportunity um and now i'd like to talk about graduation which um not according to the

19:18

date that i delivered this morning it is in one month today it's not march 18th

19:23

um but i'm so excited as a madrigal we are performing at graduation so we have

19:29

to memorize the ever famous alma mater which we always like pull out it's just

19:34

like a little sheet of paper with like two lines of text and he was kind of singing at the end and the band is pretty loud mr schmidt hello he'll also

19:42

be conducting um yeah but i'm really excited and we sing the irish blessing um if you've ever

19:48

been to any like a big magical event we always finish with the irish blessing and we had to teach our newest members

19:54

the irish blessing the other week and just automatic tears and i adopted a little junior this year and just like we

19:59

started gushing tears and we're going to on friday festival in the parks we're going to six flags to sing so i think

20:06

we're gonna like sing at the top of the king dakota and then like fall down it's gonna be super fun um

20:12

yeah so we're seeing the irish blessing there and it's the first song we sing so now i'm gonna be completely choked up

20:17

and crying and i have to sing alleluia and gropin it'll be okay we'll uh we'll get through

20:23

it um yeah excited for graduation student council's working really hard to get everything together i know i

20:29

think the sophomores have to do like a pre-dinner i kind of like block that out because we don't really do as much

20:35

senior year we just get to do the walking but i'm super excited there's a lot to look forward to in these next couple

20:40

months thank you

20:50

uh follow that miss emmel claire is always hard to follow she's

20:56

such a good speaker hi i'm peyton emil i am the junior class liaison and i'm going to talk about prom so after a long

21:04

week of ap testing we gotta finally got a fun break on friday and we got to go to prom at the doubletree hotel in

21:11

cherry hill we had 565 students attend only three people

21:18

bought tickets and didn't go it was so much fun seeing everyone dressed up the food was great the venue was beautiful

21:25

um it was just an awesome way to sort of end the year that's all about prom

21:32

short and sweet [Applause]

21:42

all right good evening board teachers my name is jack britton and i'm here to update you a few things about the high schoolers so first we have another round

21:48

of standardized testing next week fresh will be testing from may 23rd to may 27th like they're taking language arts

21:54

first and they'll be doing mass standardized testing juniors will be testing from tuesday may 24th through may 27th again they'll be doing the

22:01

science portion of the nj isa or sla these tests are only professionals and

22:06

juniors and there will be a two-hour delay for non-test takers this obvious means we'll be following a modified schedule next week for class periods i

22:12

wish our freshman engineers best of luck taking these tests next week as i would be at home sleeping we also

22:19

we also have something exciting for our students on friday may 27th and this will be called the quaker games

22:25

this will be a pep rally type event like we do in spirit week where we hold fun activities for an hour and students will compete from different grades against

22:31

each other it'll be a fun end of the activity that we think the students will enjoy and it's the original idea the student council came up with this year

22:37

and we hope it's something fun everyone can participate in we try to come up with new events such as ones called

22:42

small bigfoot race happy hippo of balloons human bowling and water balloon toss which is self-explanatory and our

22:49

freshman class liaison will tell you about more of them later in his speech but we want to maintain the novelty of

22:55

it so it wouldn't be the exact same thing as pep rally and we hope it's a fun thing to end the year off that our students can enjoy thank you

23:09

hi everyone my name is yvette i'm your freshman class liaison nice to nice to see almost

23:15

almost every single seat taken except for front middle nobody wants to sit front middle

23:21

uh it's cool to see all my teachers here the ones who were here last month and i even see a couple who weren't here last

23:27

month uh i'm here to continue off on what jack said and talk about finals the rest of

23:34

the four events we have are hippity hop race on the bouncy balls musical chairs where we're hoping to get

23:41

some viral twitter clips cornhole and can jam frisbee smack

23:46

now on to finals we have two reading days as opposed to the four we had last

23:51

time but us freshmen are now seasoned veterans at these type of tests so we're not really nervous

23:58

last time the reading days were very helpful so it's a good thing we're getting those again thank you

24:11

thank you thank you students that was quite entertaining

24:17

you guys keep that up we're gonna have to institute a two-drink minimum here raise some money but uh as with

24:24

custom has evolved uh you're certainly welcome to stay uh but if you'd like to get back to planning your next stand-up

24:31

routine for next meeting whatever you'd like to do and also actually being the day before

24:37

the week of graduation if you don't make it to the next meeting you'll be here okay

24:43

all right we're gonna have a cover for the next meeting um anyway thank you very much

24:57

stop to comment it's it's always wonderful to hear from our students uh you know a few of them i've known since

25:03

they were little and it's just great to see them uh as you all have uh grow up and and become

25:09

you know what will soon be great graduates and representatives our community so thanks thanks again good job everybody

25:15

all right um moving on uh now it's time for board committee reports um

25:20

so who wants to go first alphabetical order wanna go communication

25:28

uh we did not meet that's right we didn't meet yeah we have a meeting coming up on the 26th now right okay so

25:33

that one's easy all right let's move on um i'll just move down the line mr villanueva

25:38

please thank you mr weeks uh so finance and

25:44

operations committee met uh a couple weeks ago um

25:51

the the details of our meeting are set forth in the minutes but i'll i'll cover some of the highlights

25:57

we discussed uh the custodial bid that was underway last month

26:04

and you'll see set forth in item seven under the superintendent's recommendations on

26:10

the agenda tonight is an approval for dave's custodial service which was the

26:18

um the lowest qualified bidder and so we we will be hopefully approving

26:26

dave's to come in as our custodian i believe on a one-year deal mr heiser

26:32

um uh for next year

26:38

we also discussed the transportation bid specifications and route reductions as i
26:43

had mentioned last month we were non-renewed at the time

26:48

uh for 11 of our 13 bus routes and

26:53

in the interim the remaining two non-renewed us so none of our bus routes were renewed by our vendors

27:00

but we went out to bid and thanks to the good work of mr heiser

27:06

and our transportation supervisor sandy shaffer they looked at the bus routes

27:11

determined that we could consolidate some bus routes and so we instead of

27:17

bidding 13 routes we bid 11 routes and

27:24

we have we've received the bids although they're not up for approval tonight but

27:30

i am pleased to report that it looks like we will be well within budget which was a big surprise at least for me

27:37

because i was very concerned that we were non-renewed and we were going to have a significant

27:46

financial burden associated with it but again thanks to the good work of mr heiser and ms schaefer we were able to

27:52

realize some some savings and we also discussed the uh

27:59

a potential project for the whams where there's going to be some

28:05

outdoor seating um prepared for could you point to exactly where that's

28:12

going to be is it going to be okay okay so right out front the media

28:17

center right next to the cafeteria there's going to be

28:23

a nice outdoor seating area for students to to utilize

28:29

for lunch uh thank you to i hope this isn't pretty mature but thank you to home school that

28:36

will be uh funding a significant portion of that project

28:42

also on the agenda tonight uh is approval of phoenix advisors which are financial

28:48

advisors for the district they basically provide uh help on our disclosures

28:55

that are required for you municipalities on a system called emma i'm not sure

29:01

what the acronym stands for but as i understand it's an sec related entity that phoenix advisors helps us with

29:11

we also discussed options as they pertain to a capital improvement grant

29:18

that must be um not spent this year but um we need to

29:25

identify what the the grant funds will be used for so we discussed a number of options a set

29:32

fourth of the minutes although we i don't believe have yet come to a landing precisely on what we're going to

29:37

use the funds for but have a very good idea so more more on that to come

29:44

we um although it wasn't an agenda item um one thing that i would like to make sure

29:50

continues to be on our agenda going forward are

29:55

i would like to monitor and keep keep apprised of the status of new housing

30:03

the the timing of when we believe the new housing units will be completed and the potential impact uh in terms of

30:10

student enrollment so that will be a recurring agenda item for finance and operations

30:15

to take a look at um and that's that's about it those are the highlights from our meeting so if

30:21

anybody has any questions i'm happy to answer hearing none all

30:28

hit mute okay thank you mr villanueva um we'll go to

30:33

my right now miss romano

30:39

okay um and then uh accaro did you

30:45

are you giving us the policy i am thank you uh on may 3rd the policy committee met

30:52

and it was myself mrs macaluso mrs morano dr snyder dr benton and mr volpe

31:01

we discussed the high school student handbook particularly the dress code language
31:06
the administration shared procedures for the dress code violations and the tiered
consequences
31:14
the administration felt that the language gives sufficient discretion to help and counsel
the students
31:21
they outline the procedures that are being followed the the violations are centrally
determined by
31:27
administration to increase reliability of violation of termination a confirmed violation will
be
31:34
communicated to parent guardian via genesis the administration also conveyed the
31:40
intent to counsel and work with students discreetly before the incident were to
31:45
escalate into um discipline for the student in case there was uh any
31:51
defiance and a change um and there are also a list of consequences first referral being
31:57
genesis warning second after school detention parent notification
32:03
third multiple after school detentions and parent notification
32:09
the potential of that these tiered consequences could be too strict was also discussed
and
32:16
those concerns will be continued to be addressed there were a handful of other
handbook
32:23
changes including explanation of the nj graduation pathways
32:29
um submitting service hours sports participation fees et cetera
32:35
we discussed uh policy zero one four three the board member election and um
32:42
appointment and we are in the middle of discussing how we can
32:48
better um formulate a policy surrounding appointing a new
32:55
boe member when one resigns also policy 7510 use of school
33:02
facilities there was discussion surrounding the need for additional
33:08

language in that policy something along the lines of

33:14

the board prohibiting the use of school grounds and school time for partisan political purposes

33:21

and we are continuing to discuss that as a committee and will with the board

33:26

um the policy that will be on uh or that's on this agenda for first reading

33:34

is policy 2417 student intervention and referral services

33:39

it's a mandated policy

33:44

and it will be on we hope for a second reading in june and that is really related to

33:52

the establishment of a coordinated system for planning and delivering intervention and referral

33:57

services for students who are experiencing learning behavioral or health difficulties and to assist staff

34:05

who are having difficulties addressing the needs of those particular students

34:11

and i think oh last thing is there were no changes to any of the policies that were on for

34:17

first reading that are now on for second reading okay thank you very much for that report

34:24

uh any questions about policy comments okay

34:31

hearing none we will move on thank you everybody who reported out so we are now to our first public

34:38

comment period this public comment period will be on agenda items so uh please come up to the mic

34:45

uh i'm sorry let's see yeah i'll give the rules first and then we'll we'll vote on

34:50

starting it uh so when when we start please go up to the mic and state your name and address or as much of it as

34:56

your comfortable giving uh you will have up to three minutes to speak as uh as this isn't a question and

35:02

answer period should you be seeking an answer or dialogue it's always best to follow up with one of the other methods we have noted for communicating with the

35:09

board and district administration please do not address board members individually and finally please be

35:14

respectful when making public comment and note which agenda item your comment relates to so i'll now entertain a

35:20

motion uh to answer a public comment for agenda items thank you

35:26

thank you thank you all in favor aye any opposed extensions

35:32

okay the first uh person up to the mic please

35:38

looks like you mr eagles

35:48

88 westbrook drive starting my clock for my three minutes okay i'm gonna teach at the high school

35:54

um and i am an internal optimist uh sometimes naively so when everyone else says there

36:02

is no chance i always believe you can never say never so i'll admit i was more than hopeful when i left our last

36:08

meeting i mean reasonable people can disagree but you made me believe that we could get through this together and i

36:15

left believing i soon found out that many of my colleagues felt the same way

36:20

in countless conversations they expressed hope that a deal might get done one said there's no way they want a

36:26

bruising contract negotiation now after two years of exhausting pandemic teaching another something good is going

36:32

to happen our difference can't be that great everyone else is settling a third okay no one needs this now

36:40

all of us believe that reasonable people could find a way to agree all of us look forward to our next negotiating meeting hopeful for the best

36:48

then the night of the meeting arrived and we were there on a beautiful monday afternoon nearly 400 mba members showed

36:55

up ready wanting to show you how seriously we are taking this how much it matters to each

37:00

of us we were there hoping and believing that a deal could get done

37:06

but you didn't show up not in person anyway it would be zoom

37:11

for your team so let me tell you you missed a site this mattered to our team they were

37:17

dressed to the nines where's my man scotty stilts i hope he's here right

37:24

no if you know scott scott would give this shirt off of his back but not that day that suit was too

37:31

nice right and and kyle higgins he sprinted to the administration building for our meeting from a sporting event he

37:38

wanted to be in the room okay so he could look you in the eyes okay and get a deal done

37:46

but of course you aren't even there later we heard that in the nearly six hours of negotiations we never saw your

37:53

faces at times you kept our team waiting hours on end for your responses our team

37:59

was staring at blank zoom screens don't you realize the message that this

38:04

sent to all of us you are killing our hope our belief that we are in this together that we matter

38:11

enough to you to get this done to all of us your absence that day spoke volumes

38:18

again i am an eternal optimist i like to assume the best in people and honestly i

38:23

don't really know any of you so i want you to believe that this matters to you i want to believe that it does because i

38:29

will tell you it matters to all of us we're frustrated we're tired we're angry

38:35

because of you they like me okay feel hope is slipping away

38:40

so please as you mentioned in your opening remarks okay we're in the home stretch the time to get this done is now

38:48

again my name is lorenzo eagles i'm a proud member of the mba and this is why this is so personal to me thank you

39:10

she's

39:18

thank you thank you mr eagles uh just one real quick one thing i left out before we started um

39:23

our board attorney mr lee is here uh he'll be taking care of keeping time just to help everybody he's going to

39:29

give you a notice when you have about 10 seconds left and um and then we'll we'll be able to get everybody in tonight so thank you

39:38

good evening colleagues board of ed and community members

39:44

my name is michael sullivan and i'm a special education teacher at the high school i'd like to address the topic of

39:50

the president's report tonight i'd like to take a minute to highlight a very important fact

39:57

that fact is that we the staff members of morristown school district do in fact

40:02

contribute to our health benefits not only do we contribute to those

40:08

health benefits we contribute at a much higher rate than the private sector

40:13

in other words our salaries are lower than the private sector while our out-of-pocket contributions

40:21

are greater

40:27

i'd like to dispel the myth that exists that our benefits are free they're not

40:33

trust me every two weeks when i get paid and i look at the deductions column on my paycheck

40:39

i'm reminded of my contributions to health benefits the fact is we all contribute to our

40:46

health benefits and there is currently no freeze on these contributions

40:52

but without a settlement there will be a freeze on our salaries

40:57

so if a settlement is not reached next year our health care contributions will

41:02

continue to go up as our salaries and real income

41:07

will continue to go down now for a personal fact to further illustrate my point

41:13

or more accurately to further illustrate my frustration my take-home pay has not increased since

41:21

2011 when the state decided to unilaterally deduct money from my paycheck and has

41:28

done so ever since let me repeat that my take-home pay has not increased since

41:35

2011. for more than a decade i personally have

41:41

helped you narrow the financial gap i personally have endured a year-long

41:47

pay freeze along the way i lost money that year that i'll never get back

41:53

every time we turn around we lose money in our paychecks we deserve better

42:00

now it's time for you to step up and give us what we deserve a fair contract this is why it is personal to me

42:08

i teach at the high school and i am the mba

42:28

good evening my name is beth glennon i reside at 350 bridgevoro road

42:34

i teach math at the high school i'd like to talk also about the president's remarks

42:40

i'm here to talk about numbers during negotiations the percent of a salary increase is a frequent measure of

42:47

a contract but like so many times numbers are used the percent of a salary

42:52

increase is only part of the story i would like to bring the punt to the public's attention

42:58

that when the board of education settles the three years contract with the with the mea

43:03

the board rarely if ever pays out that settlement this diff difference is because of

43:10

retirements unfilled positions and other adjustments that reduce the true amount of an

43:16

increase for example in 2019 the board of ed reached an

43:23

agreement for 10.91 over three years but only paid out

43:30

7.02 percent let me say that one more time in 2019 the board reached an agreement

43:37

over three years with the mea for 10.9 percent but only paid out

43:44

7.02 percent that's only 64 of the settlement

43:50

the mea met with the board and james heiser at the end of year one of the contract and pointed this out

43:57

that the settlement was 3.64 and they paid out just 1.8 percent

44:05

the numbers don't lie the board never pays out a full settlement and they certainly won't this

44:12

time the board has the money for a settlement this is not about the ability to pay

44:18

this is about the willingness

44:30

my salary is frozen my expenses are not this is personal

44:36

so i asked the board to consider this when we make requests for salary increases in a town that is anything but

44:42

average because we go above and beyond every day

44:48

know that much of the funds will never be used for our salaries i am beth glennon i teach math at the

44:55

high school and i'm a very proud member of the mea

45:15

good evening everyone my remarks were to the crowd and hopefully to the morristonians that are in the crowd

45:21

i'd like to comment also on the president's report i'd like to share the following information about the process

45:28

and another reason we probably don't have a settlement our board has chosen to pay an attorney to negotiate for them

45:35

this board has chosen to pay an outsider from north jersey who has no vested

45:41

interest in settling this contract

45:48

and he has to the tune of seven to eight thousand dollars a month since february put that

45:55

money in his pocket he stands to make that amount in may and again in june

46:01

and yes until this process unnecessarily drags on

46:06

he'll continue to make money he has no skin in the game not at all except for his paycheck and every time

46:13

that phone rings or that email or text bings this person gets paid

46:20

and all at the base of the morristown taxpayer he has no interest in a settlement

46:26

because of the cash cow that he is coming in his goal is to make as much money as possible and therefore why

46:34

would he want to settle with us he doesn't the board has the ability to sit down with our association they'd

46:42

rather pay an attorney from north jersey to the tune of 23 000

46:48

which is approximately 3 000 more than a power professional makes in

46:54

our district

47:20

in closing my name is george stroger i'm a fourth grade teacher at the ues and i

47:25

own the mea [Applause]

47:36

good evening my name is kimberly martin i teach seventh grade science last week the wham staff planned another

47:43

sel activity for the students at wams which we have been doing since the beginning of the year

47:49

last week during this social and emotional learning lesson at wams our dedicated staff

47:56

worked with our students to help them create a six-word story the goal of the six-word story is to

48:03

take a powerful look at your life as staff members we decided to do the same

48:10

to take a hard look at our current status as employees in morristown

48:16

here are several examples of six word stories created by the staff at wams

48:28

good evening my name is heather foster dedication deserves respect not expired contracts

48:35

i teach language arts at wams this is why this is personal i am a proud member of the mea

48:42

[Applause]

48:50

good evening my name is allison longmuir let's work together

48:55

for the kids i teach seventh grade math here at wams this is why it's personal i am a member

49:09

hi i'm kristen elliot i teach 8th grade math here at wims hard work equals fair

49:15

pay period [Applause] this is why it's personal i am also a

49:21

very proud member of the mba [Applause]

49:29

hi i'm diane brady i teach math here at william allen middle school love teaching love my family need a fair

49:36

contract i'm an eighth grade teacher at william allen middle school i'm a proud person of the mea thank you for your time

49:49

my name is matt emerson the kids come first settle now i'm an inclusion teacher here at the middle

49:55

school i'm a proud member of the mba and this is personal [Applause]

50:06

kimberly martin again 25 years always committed are you this is why

50:12

this is personal i teach 7th grade science and i am an extremely proud member of the mei

50:33

good evening i'm carol wiggins i live at 49 cove road and i'm a fourth grade

50:38

resource room teacher i've been working at the ues since it opened in september of 2001

50:46

and i have lived in morristown for 22 years the reason my husband and i moved to

50:51

moorestown was so that our three children would be able to attend morristown schools

50:57

all three of them graduated from morristown high school and have gone on to graduate from college and now have

51:04

professional careers thank you mtps [Applause]

51:13

the reputation of the district schools is known throughout the state and beyond

51:18

we have heard testimony right here at these meetings of countless people

51:23

who credit the schools as a reason to move to moore's town maybe it's even a reason that brought

51:29

you here however with all the reasons to be a supporter of the schools

51:35

not having a signed contract is disappointing anxiety producing embarrassing and poor business practice

51:44

i've been through several negotiations in my career in morristown and other districts

51:49

but i'm not sure i've ever been through a negotiation that feels like this one and there have been tough ones

51:56

let's not drag this on through the summer keeping teacher tensions high

52:02

and esteem low a fair and speedy contract will benefit

52:07

teachers and board members alike and give teachers purpose as we prepare

52:13

over the summer to meet our new students in the fall this spring

52:19

i am nervous this spring [Applause]

52:29

this spring i have been involved in interviews for open positions at the ues

52:34

and admitting that we do not have a contract in place for the 2022-23 school year has been quite

52:41

frankly embarrassing many outstanding candidates will go elsewhere and we will not be able to

52:47

select from the best we need a speedy resolution to the to be able to attract

52:53

the most qualified teachers at all the schools in my district

52:58

my friends who teach in surrounding districts are amazed that we do not have a contract in place for next year

53:04

since many of them do we are seen as a district with the reputation of having so many resources

53:12

and so much to offer students and families yet there's no agreement a speedy

53:18

resolution will put this embarrassment to rest my family members and friends who work

53:24

in private sector businesses cannot believe how the negotiations drag

53:30

on in the business world problems must be solved quickly again a

53:36

quick resolution will benefit everyone i'm sorry your time is up [Applause]

53:42

[Music] i am a proud member of the men

54:00

good evening my name is lori beckendorf and i have had the privilege and honor to be a teacher at south valley for the

54:07

past 17 years i also had the privilege to grow up here in morristown sorry this

54:13

speech means a lot to me and i actually asked to be able to do it um and i received a wonderful education

54:20

from the fabulous teachers and coaches we have in this district some of whom are in attendance here tonight

54:25

my parents moved to morristown because of the reputation of our schools many of my students parents over the years have

54:32

told me they chose morristown because of the schools i am so proud to now be a part of the staff who had a large part

54:39

in who i am today i am even more proud of how we banded together over these past few unprecedented years

54:46

we were in the trenches supporting the children in our care supporting the overwhelmed parents supporting our own

54:53

children and families supporting one another to keep the faith and get through what seemed impossible there was

55:00

no time for we can't or were working on it instead it was late nights prepping

55:05

assignments and recording lessons early morning extra zooms where my incredible paraprofessionals

55:11

would prep my students for their day or meet with them for a read aloud or writing conference

55:16

phone calls before and after school hours with my guidance counselor and fellow staff to brainstorm how we could

55:22

help those who were struggling extra zoom time so that my students who were missing friends could have some

55:28

time to catch up and chat counseling students parents and each other and of course teaching

55:34

it is so incredibly disheartening to have to attend these board meetings again and to endure yet another salary

55:41

freeze in my career we now have to deal with the rising cost of living and insurance increases all

55:47

while making less money show us that you value what we do show us the respect we deserve settle a

55:54

fair contract this is why it is personal i am i teach special education i am the

56:00

mea [Applause]

56:14

good evening my name is monica bell and i'm a school counselor at morristown high school

56:20

i am the mea i was the mea when my started my position as a school counselor at

56:27

morristown high school in september 2010 i wore my red shirt on my first day of

56:34

my professional career the mea and board of education had not yet reached a fair settlement

56:41

i was green and bright-eyed i was unaware of the lasting implications that

56:47

contract negotiations have on the morale of our staff as a whole

56:52

however every three years since then i again feel like the contributions that

56:57

my colleagues and i make to our school district on a daily basis are not valued

57:03

in 2010 there were eight school counselors and a full-time sac at morristown high school

57:10

budget cuts have resulted in the elimination of three certificated positions in the high school counseling

57:16

office since that time the demands of the position have increased since 2010.

57:23

let me repeat that the demands of the position have increased i think we all agree that mental health

57:30

is paramount with our students what is lacking in this thinking is

57:35

actionable recognition that our staff's mental health matters too

57:50

i am responsible for addressing the social emotional academic and career

57:55

development needs of hundreds of students it is not unusual for my colleagues and

58:00

me to spend hours outside of the contractual workday to respond to questions of students and parents and

58:07

guardians we dedicate time during the summer months to further develop professionally

58:13

as educators we are consistently tasked with doing more with less resources

58:20

i truly believe that in order for morristown to continue its excellence its history of academic excellence our

58:27

school district must hire and retain highly qualified staff educators must be respected and

58:35

compensated like the professionals that we are i am no longer green but i am still the

58:42

mea every educator in this room deserves for this board of education to work with our

58:48

association to reach a fair settlement this is why this is personal i am the me

59:08

good evening my name is perry geller clark and i have taught in this district for four decades

59:18

[Applause] it's really it's been my honor and privilege to do so but tonight i am not

59:25

reading my words i'm reading the words of my colleague john bishop who was out sick he has taught here for over 30

59:33

years and i am sharing this letter for him

59:38

he says my thanks to the morristown township board of education and everyone in attendance for the opportunity to

59:44

address you this evening i'm honored to stand with all my valued colleagues of

59:49

morristown township public schools albeit in spirit only in my view many of the insightful

59:56

comments offered this evening speak to something very important what is seen and what is unseen two recent examples

1:00:05

several asian american pacific islander students of morristown high school stood before a diverse group of district

1:00:12

teachers staff members and administrators during a pd session held in the mhs media center a few weeks ago

1:00:19

each sharing their unique honest insights on their experiences as aapi

1:00:25

students within our morristown schools their impact on the gathering was profound and the confidence and agency

1:00:32

each of these students displayed was remarkable during one of the time out of joint

1:00:37

program sessions held last week at the high school one of the program's formerly incarcerated teachers shared

1:00:43

his difficult experiences in the educational system as he was growing up and openly wept as he recalled the

1:00:50

trauma that he suffered and continues to suffer because of this we were all touched by his honesty and it was our

1:00:57

high school students participating in the program who were the first to console this man and to thank him for

1:01:04

his sharing and for his vulnerability this is powerful stuff and but two examples of similarly

1:01:12

powerful experiences happening in classrooms and instructional spaces throughout our public school district

1:01:19

every day no you likely won't hear about these experiences in a newsletter an email or

1:01:25

a social media post the students know these experiences are happening our staff members know these experiences are

1:01:32

happening and if you are engaged and inquiring you too will know seen and

1:01:38

unseen he ends as this will be the final time i have

1:01:45

the gracious opportunity and great honor to address this gathering please allow me to offer this demand challenge or

1:01:52

perhaps simply this humble plea that we all find a way to re-establish the partnership the allyship that is

1:01:59

necessary for the educational experiment of which we're all apart to succeed in

1:02:05

so doing let us all students staff members administrators board of education members and community members

1:02:12

aspire to that which must be the purpose and goal of every endeavor thank you

1:02:18

very much i'm a member [Applause]

1:02:35

hello my name is ethan betton and i've been a teacher here in morristown for 16 years

1:02:41

i appreciate you all for being here in person tonight and for giving us this opportunity to

1:02:48

address the board and the community at our last school board meeting we recognized that actions speak louder

1:02:55

than words tonight we hear how your actions are negatively impacting all of us

1:03:03

to that end i've been trying to figure out what the board of education is trying to accomplish with their current

1:03:08

actions in this negotiating process since march when the impasse was the

1:03:14

declared i have struggled to understand the board's end game are the board's actions simply

1:03:20

financially motivated but in a time when inflation has caused the price of everything to go up shouldn't that also

1:03:27

apply to morristown nobody likes costs to rise but it's our reality

1:03:33

in a time when teachers are fleeing the profession in droves does morristown want to continue to attract the best

1:03:40

teachers will that continue if in every contract negotiation they look to extract as much

1:03:46

as they can while offering very little does the board of education care if

1:03:52

morristown township public schools remains a desirable destination for teachers to dedicate their lives to

1:03:59

or is it simply about the bottom line please understand that your actions of

1:04:04

continuing this antagonistic approach to these contract negotiations

1:04:10

not only makes it personal for me but also has lasting negative consequences on this school community

1:04:17

the old adage that comes to my mind is you get what you pay for

1:04:27

are the board's actions politically motivated in a time of such polarization

1:04:32

and divisiveness does the board really think that now is the time to take actions that needlessly raised tension

1:04:39

between the stakeholders in this community wouldn't now be a better time to show up and demonstrate to our kids how to work

1:04:46

together to forge a collaborative effort that demonstrates the importance

1:04:52

of achieving around common goals rather than focus on individual wants

1:04:57

wouldn't reaching a fair settlement rather than fanning the flames of discord be the better course of action

1:05:03

to take if the actions are financially or politically motivated then one needs to

1:05:11

ask if the board's actions are really being taken for the benefit of the students of morristown

1:05:17

i know that when i show up to work and i'm sure it's the same for the hundreds of dedicated educators behind

1:05:23

me that this job is important and that's what makes it personal to all of us

1:05:29

teaching the children of this town to the best of our abilities has always been our primary goal and it always will

1:05:37

be unfortunately with the board's inaction to work with us to achieve a fair settlement

1:05:44

i'm not sure we share that same goal i'm ethan betten i'm part of the mba and

1:05:49

that's why it's personal [Applause] [Music]

1:06:11

hello my name is angie silvery from 414 parker i'm a parent

1:06:16

hello members of the board i want to thank you all for all the support for our children you are here

1:06:22

because you want what's best for them that's why i am here to support the very people who ensure our children's success

1:06:29

the teachers i feel so fortunate to have my son go to this wonderful school district

1:06:36

he has thrived ever since preschool at roberts and now second grade at baker

1:06:42

none of us could have known what the pandemic would be like for anyone

1:06:48

our teachers worked extremely hard to ensure the kids had what they needed

1:06:53

to succeed our teachers worked overtime did extra one-on-ones with our children and the

1:06:59

parents also now they are working to ensure that they are on track

1:07:05

i'm here asking you to come to a conclusion with a fair settlement before

1:07:10

their contract ends the teachers take care of our kids we need to make sure that they are taken

1:07:16

care of also thank you

1:07:39

hi good evening my name is jenny simek and i'm a parent i'm going to turn my back unfortunately

1:07:46

to the awesome teachers that are here tonight so that i can address um

1:07:51

the board jenny simek 317 bridge borough road it's

1:07:57

nice to see so many familiar faces up here and some new ones thank you all for allowing me to speak

1:08:03

this evening in support of our unbelievably talented and dedicated

1:08:09

teachers in an effort to move this board to action to settle their contract now

1:08:16

i'm gonna be brief and i'm gonna be to the point if this pandemic has taught us one thing it's that everyone in this

1:08:22

room is here tonight on borrowed time time that could be at home spent with their own family and their children i'm

1:08:28

sorry instead each of us all of us have made the decision to be here this evening to

1:08:34

do the thankless work that's required to ensure the children's future success
1:08:40
which brings me to my first point of two uh thank you it's as simple as that i'm
1:08:46
here to say thank you um we are very grateful for the time and the talent that all of you
as
1:08:54
administrators and volunteers give freely to help make our children's
1:08:59
education exceptional you're an invaluable asset to the school district and to our
community in front
1:09:06
of me i see a group of familiar faces uh talented accomplished individuals
1:09:11
doctors attorneys dedicated mothers and fathers your efforts are rarely acknowledged
you
1:09:17
come here voluntarily every month to tackle an agenda full of seemingly impossible
tasks while defending against
1:09:24
a barrage of complaints from all sides and internally um it can't be understated that
yours is
1:09:31
a thankless job not unlike the jobs of two other groups that are here tonight
1:09:38
two other groups of dedicated and passionate people here our fearless teachers and
our feisty parents
1:09:45
many of us here tonight belong to at least two of these groups potentially a lot of us
belong to three of the groups
1:09:52
despite our fatigue and our exhaustion without acknowledgement or praise not seeking
glory everyone comes every
1:09:58
administrator every teacher every parent every day with an effort to do their job to the
1:10:06
best of their ability and while maybe we're sitting on different sides of the room or
opposite sides of the dice
1:10:11
sometimes we find ourselves seated across a negotiation table we're all the same
1:10:16
we're all here tonight every one of us
1:10:22
for the continued benefit of our students [Music] the second thing i'd like to say is this
1:10:29
and this is going to sting it should not require a pandemic

1:10:36

for this body to recognize the value of our teachers i'm going to repeat that it should not

1:10:42

require a global health crisis for us to recognize the value our

1:10:47

teachers provide thanks please

1:11:11

hey do we have any more commenters

1:11:16

all right seeing no one approaching i'll entertain a motion to close the first public comment

1:11:23

second thank you all in favor aye

1:11:28

all opposed extensions okay thank you

1:11:33

we appreciate all of the uh comments okay moving on um

1:11:41

let's see up to number eight which would be um

1:11:46

the reports of the board so we've got uh let's see a business administrator board secretary reports

1:11:54

we have four let's see i'm sorry five items under that number one financial reports of the

1:12:00

board secretary number two treasurer's report number three cafeteria report

1:12:05

number four the approval of budget transfers and number five the approval of the bills so i'll entertain a motion for approval

1:12:12

of items one through five seconds thank you any questions or comments

1:12:19

okay all in favor aye any opposed extensions

1:12:26

okay thank you uh next we have the recommendations of the superintendent uh a policies and

1:12:31

procedures the ones we had mentioned before in the committee report for first and second reading

1:12:36

i'll entertain a motion for approval of items one and two

1:12:42

thank you any comments questions all in favor

1:12:47

aye any opposed extensions all right thanks moving on letter b uh

1:12:53

educational program um we have the burlington county alternative school placement for 2122 home instruction for

1:13:00

the same time period homeless placements uh those three items uh motion for

1:13:05

approval thank you

1:13:11

all in favor oh i'm sorry any questions or comments okay

1:13:16

hearing none all in favor aye any opposed extensions

1:13:23

all right moving on to letter c uh number one travel expenditures approval requests

1:13:30

number two approval of state contracting consortium vendor purchases number three donations number four the tax schedule

1:13:36

five uh the annual 21 22 nursing plan number six authorization for lease

1:13:41

purchase and seven the bid award for janitorial services sorry continuing uh eight joint

1:13:47

transportation agreement nine the phoenix advisors approval uh ten uh resolution for participation in

1:13:54

cooperative pricing system uh number eleven tuition rates uh twelve non-resident tuition students

1:14:00

13 biota contracted substitute nursing school nursing services for 22-23

1:14:07

uh number 14 overnight student trip so all of those items uh may uh have a motion to approve items

1:14:14

one through 14. thank you claudia

1:14:20

okay any questions or comments okay all in favor

1:14:25

aye any opposed extensions

1:14:37

all right thank you that motion carries all right up to d um

1:14:42

we have items 1 through 12 your appointments retirement resignation change in position hour start date location

1:14:48

22 23 a reappointment salary adjustment leaves of absence substitutes athletics

1:14:53

co-curricular clubs uh pd presenters summer testing proctors transportation dispatcher job

1:14:59

description and anti-bullying coordinator job description um is it number one that's amended

1:15:05

as uh we discussed in executive yeah okay and so number one there's that amendment

1:15:10

it moves up a start date i believe um so may i entertain a motion for

1:15:15

approval of items one through 12. any comments questions

1:15:22

on these mr heiser a roll call vote please dr alberti yes this is our cara burns

1:15:30

mrs fallows macaluso mr mclapolis miss morano yes

1:15:36

miss romano mr villanueva yes dr schneider

1:15:42

mr weeks yes thank you thank you everybody

1:15:47

okay uh the number letter 10 x suspensions

1:15:53

we've got the suspensions as in the exhibit and the superintendent's hib report which we discussed in executive

1:15:59

a motion to approve these two items

1:16:05

thank you any comments questions all in favor

1:16:11

aye any opposed extension one abstention

1:16:18

okay 11 is informational only uh we have our enrollment information and so forth um now we are back to a public comment

1:16:26

period now this is a open public comment period it's for items that may not necessarily be on the agenda

1:16:32

i think we missed the old new business i'm sorry i skipped both of those that's why i got

1:16:38

to do my check marks thank you mr villanueva all right old business

1:16:43

is there any old business you know i don't know if it's old or new business but we

1:16:49

talked about this in um in finance and operations and i i failed to to mention

1:16:54

this in our in my report but we did talk about public comment and the fact that we were we could use the the new and old

1:17:01

business section um for board members to address if they so wish
1:17:08
uh issues that were raised in public comment um
1:17:14
and so i wanted to do that um
1:17:19
you know the notion i think i don't speak for everybody up here um
1:17:26
but i think the notion that we don't care
1:17:34
is just wrong like i can tell the negotiation committee of
1:17:40
mr weeks dr snyder dr alberti and myself and and mr heiser who was a member of
1:17:46
the committee but has spent tireless time collectively we've spent hundreds of
1:17:51
hours trying to get this deal done and to suggest that we don't care and weren't there
1:17:58
last week we were there we participated in a mediation that ended after midnight so i
don't know
1:18:05
i can't leave a misstatement that we weren't there
1:18:12
it's simply wrong and so i i feel compelled to correct that for the record
1:18:17
um and it takes it takes two to make an agreement and we are we want
1:18:25
to do that we are here spending as much time as we can to get this done
1:18:32
it takes two parties i think it was miss glennon that said
1:18:37
numbers don't lie and i agree with you i completely agree with you
1:18:45
since the 2019 contract was signed there's at least 11 fewer certificated
1:18:51
positions right
1:18:57
due to budget and it's not for lack of increasing taxes we've increased taxes every year
1:19:03
that i've been on the board including this year above two percent so please
1:19:09
understand that we are trying our best to do what is best for the students here and we
need
1:19:16
teachers right we value you and everything that you do and we don't want to enter into
an

1:19:22

agreement that will require fewer of your faces to be here

1:19:27

i hope you understand that um and if you don't i can't convince you

1:19:34

but i i just feel compelled i i appreciate hearing all of your comments

1:19:39

um i think it was mr bishop in his letter said there's things that are seen and unseen there's a lot unseen

1:19:48

and we can't talk about it but i just wanted to i i felt compelled

1:19:54

to say something thanks

1:20:01

hey thank you mr villanueva i apologize again for for missing that section uh any other older or new business

1:20:09

any other comments

1:20:15

okay all right um again thank you for your comments mr

1:20:20

villanueva um let's move uh again same rules apply to public comment

1:20:26

um this is not on non-agenda items uh so

1:20:32

given those same uh let's have a motion to open public comment

1:20:39

all in favor aye any opposed extensions

1:20:45

okay

1:20:54

lisa trapani 350 bridgeable road

1:21:07

like you i feel compelled to speak and to respond to the fact that

1:21:13

i in this room have been doing this process for 25

1:21:19

years so unlike perry i haven't been teaching here for four decades but almost

1:21:24

so every single time except for the past two times when

1:21:32

members of both sides had the fortitude and the courage to sit down and say we

1:21:37

don't need outsiders to come and do this for us we can do it it started with pete

1:21:42

paul co we did it it ended last time with other board members who also had

1:21:47

the courage to do that so where there's a will there's a way we don't need an outsider to come in and

1:21:54

tell us how to take care of our children because i consider them to be my

1:22:00

children and i always have so for you to sit here and say

1:22:06

this is about both parties you're right it's about both parties and to look at the numbers the numbers are there

1:22:12

there's a lot of numbers there's a lot of things we can't say but it's all factual it's all factual

1:22:18

so so i have been told through five rounds of

1:22:23

negotiations that we can't get this done and

1:22:28

except for one time we have gotten it done before the end of the school year

1:22:34

and there were fair settlements there were settlements in which we didn't get everything that we wanted and you didn't

1:22:39

get everything that you wanted but they were fair and as someone else said we are well

1:22:46

above the average in this county as a matter of fact we are the flagship district not

1:22:53

only of this county of south jersey [Applause]

1:23:01

we have we have earned earned the respect

1:23:07

and we have earned a fair settlement

1:23:29

my name is eagles again um i feel compelled to say something as well um mr

1:23:34

villanueva i was the one excuse me mr eagles please do not address board members directly thank you um

1:23:42

the perception that we had as a staff was that there was no one there because we were i do not mean to say at all that

1:23:49

there was not a board presence at the negotiating meeting so for full clarification there's no doubt that

1:23:55

apparently on another site via zoom the board did negotiate with the mea on last

1:24:01

monday so i want to clarify that i don't mean to at all to state factual inaccuracies that's not what i'm about

1:24:07

okay but i do want you to know the perception that we all had of those negotiations is that it didn't feel like that the

1:24:15

effort was being made okay that we thought was pledged at the last meeting and that's the perception that a lot of

1:24:22

us carried through not that you weren't there physically not that you weren't there literally but that you weren't

1:24:27

there putting the same kind of effort in appreciate your comments but that's where we're coming from thank you

1:24:45

okay anyone else

1:24:51

all right seeing no one approach the mic we'll go ahead and entertain a motion to close

1:24:58

the second public comment

1:25:05

oh i'm sorry just under the wire

1:25:16

thank you um i think one more parent should speak my name is name and address

1:25:24

i live at 145 avon terrace and i've been a resident of morristown for 28 years

1:25:31

um i thank you on the board for your service i know it can be an extraordinarily thankless job

1:25:38

but i do want to say that my third child was born 18 years ago this week

1:25:43

with the genetic challenge of down syndrome and he's been in the district since he was three years old

1:25:51

and i haven't always agreed with the district but i've had a ton of respect for the administrators and the teachers

1:25:58

that have carried my daniel through the last 15 years from the time he was three until now

1:26:04

and it's not easy and the flagship district is often measured on the high sat scores

1:26:12

and the ivy leagues and the lacrosse championships but

1:26:17

in the trenches teachers over the last 15 years have made sure that my son

1:26:23

was able to stand on this stage and address his entire seventh grade class to explain what it is to have down

1:26:29

syndrome the baby born that i didn't think would even go to kindergarten

1:26:35

was in college prep classes in high school zooming in

1:26:40

to his uh teachers and uh i had the challenge and the

1:26:46

privilege to be next to him for those almost two years and to really see what

1:26:51

happens i'm not a member of the mea but i have immense respect for what

1:26:58

these folks do i don't know all the details of why we can't get a contract

1:27:04

but i think after what we've all been through this is not the time to ask people to make less

1:27:11

this is not the time in the face of extraordinary inflation for the first time in decades

1:27:17

to ask people to take home paychecks that don't buy as much

1:27:23

and i really believe that the unity in this town

1:27:28

can do great things and to fracture that at this time would be tragic so thank

1:27:33

you for your time i am a big supporter of the nba

1:28:00

okay i can't look back there because probably like half of the people back there in these red shorts taught

1:28:06

one of my four daughters at one time or another but my friend lisa o'donnell got up here

1:28:12

by the way my name's sandy brooks i live at 11 value terrace i apologize um and when lisa had the courage to come

1:28:19

up here i thought i hate speaking but i'm just i'm going to this might be the only chance i get

1:28:25

so my youngest daughter megan is graduating in four weeks

1:28:36

and i get really emotional because megan has a learning disability and she's going to college

1:28:44

and i didn't think this would ever happen for her and it's because of like 50 teachers or maybe 60 in this room

1:28:50

that have taught my oldest who's 28 and then my other daughter who just graduated last weekend from vanderbilt

1:28:58

i have to put that in i mean amazing schools that my girls have gone to and now my youngest daughter

1:29:04

who has a learning disability got accepted to many schools but is going to

1:29:09

college and it's it's like a dream for me and it's because of all these people in this room

1:29:16

in one way or another and that's why i wanted to work for this school district because

1:29:23

they they got my daughters to where they are and they're all successful young women who

1:29:28

i'm very proud of and every time one graduates i'm filled with pride but this june 17th when i'm

1:29:36

in the audience and i see my daughter megan get her diploma and i know she's going to college and be supported i will be

1:29:43

forever ever grateful for all people in this room and i'm so proud to be part of

1:29:48

the school district and part of the mba thank you

1:30:07

good evening my name is diane mason i live 546 virgin island drive in williamstown

1:30:13

i've been an employee here for 21 years i'm a paraprofessional

1:30:19

in 2019 i had cancer and all i want to say is that every day

1:30:24

i came to work through my treatments for the children

1:30:30

and that's all i have to say

1:30:38

so

1:30:58

just wait a little longer this time

1:31:03

anyone else

1:31:14

okay all right we'll move on then uh motion actually we have a motion and a

1:31:20

second uh so we'll just vote on closing public comment all in favor

1:31:25

aye any opposed extensions

1:31:32

okay so i think we're to the point uh we'll entertain a motion for adjournment

1:31:39

second all right all in favor aye all right thank you everybody have a

1:31:46

good night get home safely