

0:54

i'd like to ask everybody to take their seats please

1:05

didn't even have to dim the lights wow well-behaved group

1:21

[Music] hey

1:26

regular meeting of the morristown township board of education is called to order this meeting is called in conformance with the open public

1:32

meetings act with adequate notice provided as follows uh notice filed with the courier post on july 1 2021 and filed with the

1:40

burlington county times on july 1 2021 i'd like to ask everyone if we can

1:46

think about all of the recent victims of of gun violence that

1:53

have been occurring in our country while we have this moment of silence please

2:10

please stand for the pledge of allegiance

2:34

thanks everyone mr heiser could you please proceed with the roll call dr alberti here

2:40

mr sarcara burns mrs fallows macaluso mr mcopolis

2:47

mrs morano miss romano mr villanueva

2:52

dr schneider here mr weeks president thank you thank you

2:58

first uh mrs zacharo burns asked me to make it clear to the public she

3:04

apologizes for not being able to be here um as an indication that uh

3:09

the pandemic isn't necessarily over she recently tested positive for covid and is isolating due to that so she regrets

3:16

that she was not able to be here tonight okay the board did already meet an executive session

3:25

so we will move past that item okay

3:30

so moving on uh we'll start with the approval of the minutes from the previous

3:35

message no thanks siri um approval of the minutes from may 17

3:41

and may 31st both executive sessions and the regular meetings

3:48

right okay so then just approval of the minutes for may 31st

3:57

okay all in any comments or questions amendments

4:03

okay all in favor aye any opposed extensions

4:10

okay it's noted all right that carries thank you any uh

4:15

communications uh from the board anybody wants to share [Music]

4:22

um so for more arts i just wanted to i'm the liaison to more arts and i just wanted

4:29

to share that they recently awarded six scholarships to graduating seniors who've been active

4:35

in the arts during their high school years um so congratulations more arts hosted an ice cream social on june 7th to

4:42

recognize 36 underclassmen who are actively involved in the fine and performing arts

4:47

these students have been selected by their teachers for their talent hard work and dedication to receive these non-monetary awards so congratulations

4:55

for that more arts was honored to sponsor the district art show and the vocal

5:00

performances at the morristown community house on june 4th this is the first time they moved to the

5:05

community house and got a lot of great feedback for it and they did a combined show with the

5:12

madrigals the wams choir and the mhs theater so this was all a collaboration with the

5:18

mea who staffed the art show the buildings and grounds department who collected and delivered the student

5:23

artwork and the art teachers throughout the district who curated the events so they wanted to share a big thank you to

5:29

everybody for their help i also just want to acknowledge the morristown high school theater

5:35

program did win an award the 2022 paper mill playhouse rising

5:42

star theater award for their access and inclusion for the

5:47

spring musical honk so congratulations the paper mill playhouse is a pretty well-known

5:53

theater up in north jersey and so congratulations to all of you

6:05

thank you for sharing that uh any other communications okay

6:11

hearing none we'll move on the president's remarks

6:16

yeah it is the highlight of this right thank you for saying that um so

6:21

good evening and thanks to everybody for attending i i suspect many of you are here to get

6:27

a better understanding of how things are going in our negotiations with the more sun education association i will speak

6:33

to that in a moment but wanted to start with something else first so as i mentioned uh with the

6:41

moment of silence we're all shocked and saddened and angered by the violence that unfolded in uvalde

6:48

texas a few weeks ago and the other incidents

6:53

around the country and even close to home in philadelphia i can't imagine a person who's not been

6:58

dismayed disgusted and angered at the repeated occurrence of these types of horrific events

7:05

i feel reassured though that in our district we have undertaken prevention efforts including the physical security upgrades

7:11

put in place over the last several years the efforts made with the i love you guys foundation

7:17

uh the social emotional learning curricula and programs uh the school safety certifications for key staff

7:23

and providing access to mental health resources via care solace and other programs in short our schools continue to be safe

7:31

places for students teachers staff and our larger educational community and we

7:36

are always looking open to looking at other options to improve

7:44

thanks at the same time we also continue to prioritize making

7:51

our educational spaces welcoming and conducive to learning so mr volpe will speak a bit more about this and the

7:58

timeline for further discussion in his remarks so

8:03

moving on though to the negotiation conversation we appreciate those of you who have shared your thoughts and

8:08

concerns and those who may plan to share them tonight i suspect there might be a few people

8:16

but the sharing their concerns about the ongoing negotiations with the more sun education association over a new

8:21

contract many of you have sought to remind us of how well our education staff has

8:26

performed and served our students and community before during and as we hopefully exit this pandemic

8:33

we appreciate hearing those comments as it is an affirmation of all that is going right in our district and for that

8:40

we are very pleased thankfully these negotiations are frankly not about concern over

8:45

performance or lack of respect for what our educators do every day in fact what we as a negotiating

8:52

committee and as a board are focused on is fairness we began this process with that intent

8:57

in mind because fairness is a notion at least that we believe that that can be appreciated by all

9:03

involved the teachers the students and the community of course fairness can and needs to be

9:09

discussed as to how it pertains to each that is the point of the negotiations but it is it is a focus that we felt was

9:16

important to guide us through this process our district is a model of excellence

9:22

because of the cooperation and efforts of all of these groups and it will take attention to fairness for all of these

9:27

groups to maintain that excellence in the future as i've previously said and continue to

9:33

say i and the members of this board have the utmost respect and admiration for our teachers they're the ones that care for our

9:39

students and have gone above and beyond during during the challenges of the past two years

9:44

last thursday afternoon i happened to be on main street taking my son to his karate class i came across the mba

9:51

sharing their message there i usually sit inside the karate studio and watch the class

9:57

however this time i stayed out on the street so i could have some conversations i took the opportunity to express my

10:03

thanks for their efforts convey my understanding of their frustration and to answer questions

10:09

about the intent of the board in these negotiations for some perhaps you didn't know me it was just a passing hello but for many

10:15

whom i already knew or those that i had the great opportunity to meet that afternoon we had longer conversations

10:21

my interest in talking was genuine and i hope those with whom i spoke felt that my approach to these negotiations along

10:28

with that of my colleagues has been the same let's engage each other with respect recognize our

10:34

agreements and disagreements and work to overcome them we are also aware of some sobering

10:40

information which i feel is important for everyone to be aware of and that we keep in the front of our minds

10:45

i read the philadelphia inquirer a few weeks ago that nationally the number of students completing teacher education

10:51

programs has dropped 25 percent in the last 10 years

10:56

and while that is concerning even more concerning is that the percentage is double in new jersey and

11:02

pennsylvania over 50 percent recruiting new teachers currently is and

11:08

is going to be a growing issue going forward at the same time the national education association reports that 55 of its

11:15

members are 55 percent of members surveyed i hope not 55 of its members but 55

11:21

percent of members were considering leaving the profession up from 37 percent just under a year ago

11:27

that means that in order to attract and retain the best teachers we are going to need to be mindful of both our recruitment and retention structures in

11:34

this and subsequent labor agreements and that is something we want to be fair to everyone about

11:40

for example the board entered into this process with an expectation of an increase in line with local and state

11:45

averages and have upheld that expectation throughout the negotiations we want to make it attractive to come

11:50

here and to stay here and we have not wavered from that commitment

11:55

let's talk about fairness when it comes to our students our students specifically our seniors

12:01

for whom these are the last days of their educational journey with us deserve to have all the experiences of

12:06

their teachers over these last days of school the teachers are the ones who went above and beyond through these challenging

12:12

times they know we know they care and will continue to put the students first above all else and will

12:19

find ways to work to advocate for themselves that do not involve giving students less i attended the senior awards ceremony

12:26

last week on my wife's birthday mind you not the best decision

12:31

sorry if you're watching but two-thirds of the graduating class

12:36

is graduating with honors the list of scholarships and awards for service and other academic performance

12:42

is quite long the stage in the eisenberg gym was not big enough to hold all of the students

12:48

that takes takes a significant level of investment by our teachers parents and especially students

12:54

we owe it to students to honor their achievements and set aside our differences out of respect for them

12:59

it's only fair as far as they are concerned and for the community

13:04

we as stewards of this district need to be fair by providing stability and consistency

13:10

i've repeatedly said that we need to achieve a fiscally and operationally sustainable contract

13:16

the expectation is that this district will continue to provide a world-class educational experience

13:22

with the goal of our students becoming world-class learners and world-class citizens

13:27

many of you have said that you moved here because of the educational offerings i and several of my colleagues grew up

13:34

here and we graduated from these schools we chose to stay here because we wanted the same or better for our children

13:41

it's only fair that we take into consideration what our community demands and deserves when making decisions in these

13:47

negotiations we cannot decide things now that diminish or inhibit our ability to continue to provide the unparalleled

13:54

educational opportunities we have here that is what is meant by fiscally and operationally sustainable and that is

14:00

what is fair for the community so in summary the goal is to be fair to all and to

14:06

find the balances that are needed to do so we as a negotiating committee and as the whole of the board are committed to

14:12

doing that duty which we were elected to do there have been many rounds of negotiations and some progress has been

14:18

made parts of this have been settled and signed off on to keep things moving along we agreed to

14:25

engage in the state provided third party mediation process there are further steps in that process

14:30

including the next one called fact finding we are willing and eager to engage in that process or direct talks or anything

14:38

that helps move this forward preferably before the expiration of the current contract on june 30th

14:44

i will say again we really did not expect to be working on this at this point however since we are my hope and

14:50

expectation is that the board and the mea can focus all of their energies on direct talks with each other or full

14:56

engagement in the mediated processes available we owe it to the educators the community and especially the students to find the

15:03

ability to continue to be the exceptional district we know we can be and that is one where everyone works

15:10

towards understanding and achieving fairness for all thank you mr volpe

15:17

thank you thank you president weeks before my formal remarks i'd like to introduce our director of human resources uh miss butler who is going to

15:26

celebrate the careers of a few of your members who are retiring this year and i think we have some of them here in the

15:32

audience tonight

15:42

good evening everyone i'm going to ask if you are here tonight to please come down i just prepared a

15:49

little bit to speak about your honor here in working with us our first retiree tonight is john bishop

15:56

he is retiring after being with us for the past 32 years as a media specialist at our high school

16:01

john has helped the district in so many ways aiding the building with many any tech issues serving as a tech coordinator and on the district tech

16:07

committee for several years he helped operate the auditorium when in need of tech help

16:13

he's led several student-based clubs he lends his knowledge and expertise to the voice which is the student newspaper

16:19

he's worked with his peers to support the sel committee at the high school he has been working over several years to

16:25

compile a complete history of morristown we wish john all the best in his next venture

16:44

charlotte char heenan are you here

17:04

char is retiring after 26 years as a health and physical estimation teacher at lambs she began her career here as a

17:10

long-term substitute and because she did such an excellent job we decided to keep her

17:16

she's acted as a wham's athletic faculty manager for many years she has served on several building-based committees

17:22

offering her points of view she coached 8th grade field i was waiting for that

17:29

she coached 8th grade field hockey and the golf club before it became a recognized sport

17:34

she's an ncaa and njsia field hockey referee we wish her all the best in her

17:39

next chapter of life

17:51

no i don't need a microphone how to do staff members that are here that i taught

17:57

raise your hand come on now i know some of you are trying to wipe it from your memory

18:03

okay but i'm very proud of all of you that i taught that came back here to teach here

18:09

because you wanted to give back to your community and i hope that



18:14

the way things go with our our but with the budget process and the

18:20

negotiations that you can continue to do that keep up the good fights

18:36

lawrence larry johnson

18:53

up stay right here larry don't go anywhere larry's retiring after 30 years starting

18:58

out for us as a business teacher and ending his career as a school uh counselor hold on

19:05

at the high school larry was a freshman football coach for many years he led students in a few

19:11

clubs the stock market and web page editor in the counseling department he was the acting liaison at the rowan college of

19:17

burlington county as the spring ahead coordinator for our high school seniors he's also the liaison for the girls

19:24

career institute which provides a mini college experience for girls by providing an opportunity to live in a

19:29

dorm attend lectures and workshops at the douglas residential college on the rutgers campus

19:35

besides sampling college life students learn more about their career choices and how to network oftentimes creating friendships with

19:41

other girls from across the state we wish larry all the best in this next phase of life

19:54

i also don't need a microphone um i also have people in here their staff

19:59

members that were my students too so hey great to have you and i always enjoyed all my kids uh your families so thank

20:07

you for uh 30 awesome viewers [Applause]

20:17

barbie kelleher is retiring with us after 18 years as a spanish reading and math support teacher

20:23

over her career with us she has supported students in five of our six schools the high school being the one

20:28

that she missed she was well known for her singing and dancing passing along her passion for the spanish language and the culture to

20:35

her students barbie has already moved from new jersey starting her retirement life in north carolina we wish her well

20:49

miss marjorie lipinski is she here

20:55

news to some people i see

21:00

hold on to your hats everybody she is retiring after 48 years of teaching here in morristown

21:17

she started her career at the middle school teaching language arts and finished her career teaching english at the high school she's led a few student

21:24

clubs during her years at the high school margie was a mentor teacher helped write curriculum she has a passion for

21:31

gardening which i heard paige turner she's got grand grand plans

21:36

to become a master gardener with her sister we will miss her dry sense of humor and her highly organizational

21:41

skills for the english book room we wish her all the best [Applause]

21:55

judy judith judy mirror yuri murray is she here

22:00

judy judy judy any judy all right judy is not here

22:05

judy murray is retiring from us after 19 years and eight of teaching and eight years of being a paraprofessional

22:11

she provided educational and emotional support to our neediest students she became certified to teach the orton

22:17

gillingham and wilson reading programs she tutored our students throughout the school year and summer

22:23

judy has supported the multi-disabled classroom through teaching life skills to our students on how to read recipes

22:28

and then how to cook following those recipes judy is very talented in painting and cooking

22:34

she makes an awesome pasta bajau if you have not had it got to get it we wish her all the best

22:39

following her career here in moorestown [Applause]

22:49

all right she's here she's ready so she says

22:55

margaret pegballora

23:05

she's retiring after 25 years at the william allen middle school over her career she has taught our most highly

23:10

achieving students as well as struggling students working hard to close that gap she taught summer school and helped to

23:16

organize wham's summer tutoring program peg has been highly involved in the west jersey reading council holding a

23:22

leadership role for many years she served on several committees at williams pegas was happy to use her knowledge of

23:29

teaching acting as a mentor for several new teachers she annually organizes fundraisers to

23:34

support a variety of organizations through casual for a cause we wish her all the best

23:39

spending especially that time with her grandchildren [Applause]

23:51

25 years it's fast um to everybody out there in red

23:56

i truly believe that this is a calling so do it do it honorably as you always have as mr weeks just uh attested

24:05

as i see before us the proof is what we do it has been fabulous

24:11

thank you all

24:26

that is my report for tonight thank you

24:43

again if i can ask for just one more round of applause for all of our retirees

24:56

mike i just have to say i was like many i was surprised to see um

25:01

marjorie lipinski's uh name on this list um but it was really an honor to be one

25:07

of her former students and and to be the one that signed signed that for her so i'm sorry she wasn't here but i hope to

25:12

get to see her again thank her in person for all that she did my uh i used a word

25:18

in in uh our meeting tonight that uh i said concatenate or something i think

25:23

i learned it in her class just she was such a great english teacher so anyway i just wanted to mention that so i'll

25:30

hopefully get to tell her thank you so much as this is our last board meeting for

25:36

the year i'd like to take this time to thank the students the staff and the community of

25:41

morristown for making me feel welcome and a part of this incredible community i also want to thank everyone here for

25:48

successfully navigating yet another challenging year in a wake of a pandemic along with the typical challenges of any

25:54

school year and a transition in leadership from my point of view it has indeed been

26:00

a fantastic but hectic six months since i've been here and i look forward to the journey we will continue on into the

26:05

next school year part of what i have tried to accomplish in the first six months that i have been

26:11

here is to establish trust with students the staff and the community and it'll be

26:16

important for me to continue to do so there are a few ways in which i hopefully accomplish this so far to date

26:22

upon my arrival i had stated that we would do everything in our power to keep schools open for in-person instruction

26:28

and not pivot to remote instruction due to covid with the help of all the staff in front of me we were able to do so

26:34

i stated that we would employ reasonable health measures in order to be a mass optional district and not implement a

26:39

local mandate stating that everybody needs to wear a mask at all times we followed through on that

26:45

as improved efforts and communications were a high priority for the district this was a focus of mine as well

26:50

based on anecdotal feedback from some of you sitting in the audience we have improved in this area and we will

26:55

continue to do so when there is a community crisis two weekends ago where people were worried

27:01

about the safety and security of our schools i had stated that when schools opened on monday we would take some extra

27:07

precautions but assured the community and staff that we would have a safe and typical day of school

27:13

we did so finally on multiple occasions and in a variety of formats i have promised and

27:19

still promise that people can meet individually with me if they feel that their questions to any issues have not been answered i feel

27:26

i've delivered upon that as well i set the stage of building trust not to give myself any kind of pat on the back

27:33

just because i'm going to ask you to take a leap of faith with me leap of faith as i look to build upon that trust while

27:39

engaging in my next level of work heading into the next school year very broadly

27:44

some of my goals that i have for next year include the following first up i want to develop and showcase

27:51

a spirit of inclusiveness this is one area in which i feel that i and our school district have room for

27:56

growth i've heard from some people about ways in which they do not feel heard seen or known in morristown

28:03

i want to change that if you are someone who feels this way i want to be very clear

28:09

you don't have to look at anyone else on this dais the buck stops with me

28:15

personally i feel that maybe i could have done a little bit more in this area this year regardless of circumstances it

28:20

will be a priority of mine as we move forward i want every member of this community to know that they are valued for who they

28:27

are and the contributions that they bring forward and i look forward to partnering with you in order to showcase

28:32

that second broad uh general priority is i want to improve our safety and security

28:38

measures and president weeks touched upon this but since the beginning of my career in administration a top priority of mine

28:44

has been to create and provide a safe and comfortable environment in which high quality learning can take place

28:50

it still is to this day since my arrival i've been looking at the ways in which we do this in morristown and where our gaps might be

28:57

my administrative team and i are already working on addressing any safety and security procedures or items needing attention

29:04

and it is my intent to provide the community with a common baseline understanding as to where we are in this area at the august board meeting before

29:10

the start of the school year so we all know where we are a final goal broad goal that i'm looking

29:16

at next year is continuing to find gaps in our student achievement and addressing them this is the best school district i have

29:22

ever worked in and i had a count today six school districts by far the best

29:28

and it shows in our student performance results we set a high bar for achievement and most of our children

29:33

leap over that bar however not everyone always does and i want to assure that every student

29:40

is receiving an outstanding education this may involve us looking differently or reflectively and critically at

29:45

student achievement data as well as ourselves if a student can't reach that bar it isn't simply enough for me to say keep

29:52

trying where most students can get there why can't you it involves us meeting the students where they are

29:58

providing faculty and staff any needed resources and professional development to help any such student and then

30:03

analyzing the effectiveness of our efforts if we engage in that type of feedback loop we can make sure that

30:08

every student is seen known heard and receives an outstanding education

30:15

now before i get too far ahead about next year we still have three days of school left which will be filled with some fun and

30:21

celebratory activities our elementary schools have a variety of activities that students are looking forward to at the middle school we have

30:27

our eighth grade dance i believe that's actually happening tonight right now yes which is taking

30:33

place right now and at our high school graduation is in sight but before then we have some class-wide

30:39

activities for our seniors before we celebrate their commencement this friday afternoon so still many other things to

30:45

look forward to and i have to say again retirees congratulations someone said

30:50

that this is a i believe at the at the microphone this is a calling or this is a vocation this truly is and i

30:56

appreciate the efforts that you gave over the course of your career and best of luck in your retirement and uh that

31:01

ends my report for today

31:10

thanks mr volp thank you mr wolvey okay so moving on uh now we'd like to hear

31:15

from our students that are here and i am elated to see that with three days left in school we have the senior class

31:21

representative here that's commitment miss heron hello my name is claire herren i am your

31:28

senior class liaison for the very last night so exciting [Applause]

31:37

i haven't done nearly as much as all of you sitting out here but thank you very much for that little applause um

31:44

tonight i like had a lot going on and i didn't get a full chance to speak through my speech so we'll see how it

31:49

goes but um yeah i'm your senior class liaison for the last night um and there was no

31:57

i don't see a lot of pressure to uh perform super well but i heard a lot about my last

32:03

month's speech in the following weeks which was super nice it was really really endearing that

32:09

anybody was listening uh you guys are my best audience second to my mom um i didn't realize how much seinfeld i

32:16

had been watching until i accidentally gave a stand-up routine uh when i was supposed to give like a two minute hey

32:21

i'm on student council um yeah and you know it's good uh public speaking is great but i decided that i

32:27

needed to step up my game for tonight uh for my parents the first board meeting and maybe their last but they're in the

32:33

backs just staring me down so if i'm a little nervous that's why um but tonight as your senior liaison i

32:39

will be talking about our senior week as i've been calling it the culmination of her fourth year of high school

32:45

um it officially started so it's like a week and a half on a tuesday uh it was the biggest showing of

32:52

board members that i'd seen all year it was uh mr weeks and mr villanueva were sitting at the front table and uh

32:58

that was it um and then at the biggest event of the year they were knocking down doors to get in and then it was

33:04

two-thirds of the senior class and we were celebrated for our accomplishments i have my cord and uh i got a medal for

33:10

being on student council i uh took all the olympic pictures we were like biting the gold to see if it's real it was it

33:15

was um so that started and it was really nice uh just like celebrate all the seniors the departmental awards and just

33:21

like acknowledge those who work super hard in their four years to get where they are and the colleges that they'll

33:26

be attending and then uh senior week really started for me on thursday because i was

33:32

interrupted by ms russo one of our senior class advisors in fourth period

33:37

but it's only fair because i interrupt her class all the time with these random questions like hey

33:43

is this happening and it's super vague and she also doesn't really know um because based off and

33:48

then we like bounce back ideas and then we eventually have a consensus and it's finally move on with the rest of our day

33:54

but you knocked on mr orax door in my computer science class and was like you're in charge of the senior prank now

34:00

okay um so that took place on monday and also a little bit on friday so it was me and a couple other seniors grayson was

34:06

in charge of it he's a standing in the front here um and a couple other seniors worked super hard all thursday um

34:13

and we did that early morning on monday we got there at 5 30 the only day

34:19

seniors are willing to wake up early is to bubble wrap the entire school um we had a couple of classic pranks

34:25

going on we had some balloons business cards uh cellophane and as a huge fan of the office i was

34:31

like yes yes i've watched so many intros of jim totally annihilating dwight with all

34:37

these pranks and i was like i can finally put these into practice uh but i didn't realize that the office isn't as

34:43

timeless as i thought it was um because i wanted to take mr sible's phone and fill it with quarters over a month i

34:49

wanted to add one more every single day until on monday he would pick up the phone to make his angry phone calls and



34:55

he would hit him right in the face because all the weight was gone uh but then i realized that cell phones exist and if you try and jam and nickel into

35:02

your iphone it's not really going to work that much anymore so we couldn't do that but uh the seniors really enjoyed our senior prank

35:09

on monday and they also did anything but a backpack which is like a thing on tick tock where um you don't bring a backpack

35:16

so we had guitar cases and laundry baskets and coolers and massive wheelbarrows filled with textbooks to

35:23

return on the last day of school um which wasn't the most efficient but it was really fun um

35:28

you could like pick out all the seniors in the hallways um not that we're not like super intimidating and like huge

35:34

all the other days um you know they had like funny things carrying around the hallways that was nice to kind of like unify our class once one more time on

35:41

the last day of classes and today was our senior picnic the first of our official administration

35:48

events um we had some cornhole we had some washers little like fun lawn games that

35:54

took place in the mac and outside we had mr softy catered by mr cybel grilling in front um it was really fun we're just

36:01

like hanging out spending some final time together i signed my wrist was really sore from signing so many yearbooks i just everyone sent my

36:08

yearbook liaison we need you um yeah it was it was really nice um

36:14

and i did learn um there's like the saying you learned something new every day and i was like oh no more high school that's done no no

36:21

more learning every day until um today i learned not to challenge people to lawn games until you

36:26

know you can play them i'm terrible at washers terrible so that's what i learned today

36:32

is to practice before you challenge people to games um and tomorrow we will have our first grad

36:39

rehearsal it's gonna be inside the map we're gonna be reading the names just getting the kind of like how to we're gonna probably walk on the stage

36:46

file back down a couple times so it's a muscle memory and then we'll have one more on thursday after our senior

36:51

breakfast i heard uh mr williams makes a mean omelette so i'm looking forward to that

36:57

um y'all have your senior breakfast and then we'll have an outdoor rehearsal at 11 45 on thursday which will take us to

37:04

our graduation on friday oh my goodness 6 30. i expect everybody to be here um

37:10

the turf it will fit everyone don't you worry um there will be the magicals and the

37:16

band will be at the performance not the performance at the commencement ceremony and you'll hear speeches from your

37:22

senior officers valedictorian salutatorian um yeah you know classic graduation been to

37:29

one you've been to the mall but um i like remember that i'm graduating

37:34

like once a week it's like oh yeah it's finally here everyone asks are you ready i'm so ready i'm so ready oh my goodness

37:40

but honestly just hearing the retirees this is the first year that i've actually known all the retirees that are announced at the end of the year they

37:47

got me all choked up like oh like you know coming from the elementary schools all the way up and just like this is

37:52

like my family this is my community and it's it's sad that you're gonna you know you're gonna miss them and uh with that i would like to give my

37:59

final thank you as a liaison i would like to thank the teachers specifically um i don't know if anybody was here last

38:06

june but uh there was a different turnout last june a similar amount of people in the audience but they had

38:11

different signs and a different message and it wasn't as pretty um pretty terrifying not gonna lie

38:18

um yeah we have one up front uh not anyway as violent but uh it was a really it was really stressful time as a

38:25

liaison i was like do i leave do i stay the board took a took a pause and then they came back and that was comforting

38:31

was all right at least there's 25 adults in the front to protect the three teenagers sitting with mr panty right

38:36

there but uh with tonight i know there's a little tension in the room  
38:42

um with everything that's going on but it's really nice to see that  
everybody here just wants to provide the best  
38:47

experience for the students possible um we all appreciate it you'll hear  
from us individually but um we're all working  
38:54

towards a common goal of having a very successful and very educational  
year and  
38:59

um i really appreciate everybody here students or teachers just community  
members  
39:04

trying to get the best out of tonight and out of the next few school  
years i'd like to thank the board for having me  
39:10

back even after my long rambling speeches um i started my sophomore year  
and it's definitely been a wild ride i  
39:16

remember my first meeting i was late and they happened to take a picture  
and i wasn't in it um that's okay i remember  
39:23

calling character tricky who is the liaison for the great above me and i  
was like freaking out and she was about to speak but i run in and give  
this hey i'm  
39:30

a sophomore thanks for having me and then i sit back down um it's a  
little bit different than tonight um but it was  
39:36

really great and i found a family i like to uh think that i'm you know  
hurting these little cats around and  
39:42

saying don't don't say that or no go for it come on you're funny do it  
you got it um but you know i found my little family  
39:48

i like to see them in the hallway and the board has done a lot over these  
past couple years they had a lot of initiatives over covet i was a part  
of  
39:54

their race relations committee um with academic achievements and i  
honestly didn't understand how much work was done  
40:00

behind the scenes until he was a part of it and i really appreciated the  
opportunity to be involved and i'm not a person of color  
40:06

but um it was like that they invited everybody to just say like how do  
you how do you succeed in high school and  
40:12

throughout elementary school and you know they got different opinions and  
together we worked to form a solution and i really appreciate them asking  
40:18

members of the community and students as well i'd like to congratulate  
the retirees a very a strong lineup tonight

40:25

i was really impressed by everybody but um it was really nice to uh you know hear how long you've been at

40:30

the district and how long you supported the students and the families and thank you everybody for having me have a great night

40:45

good evening everyone i'm lucas mcgill your junior class quarterback liaison before sending students off from

40:50

memorial day weekend we debuted a brand new event called the quaker games similar to pep rally the grades competed

40:56

in various events including musical chairs human bowling and a fan favorite bigfoot walkers

41:02

we had students wearing leis and hawaiian shirts to build excitement for the afternoon events and we had a full school lunch in the mac with burgers hot

41:09

dogs and other traditional barbecue food from everything i've heard students seem to love it and overall it was a great

41:15

way for everyone to relax and have fun before a long weekend junior year has been a blast from start

41:20

to finish there were fantastic school-wide events like spirit week pep rally and even our first prom

41:25

i personally have had a productive year of working on student council playing on the school volleyball team performing with the theater program and singing

41:32

with the morristown high school magicals i'm really excited to be a part of these activities one last time for our senior

41:37

year many thanks to our advisors administration all of our teachers for a fantastic school year we really do

41:43

appreciate everything you do for us on a daily basis i look forward to continuing as the class of 2023 board of liaison

41:48

next year thank you and have a great summer [Applause]

41:59

good evening i'm peyton emil and i'm also a junior class liaison and since

42:04

it's the last meeting lucas let me make a small speech too um i agree with lucas this has been a fantastic year and i am

42:11

grateful to have the opportunity to present to the board every other month this year i've been involved in the

42:17

theater department the dance squad and obviously student council and i cannot wait to do these activities

42:23

one last time for my senior year next year i'll be the senior class historian so i will be running the instagram again

42:29

and i'll be in charge of taking pictures for our class thank you to the board and administration for a smooth transition

42:36

to a normal year and thank you to all the teachers for the endless support these students appreciate everything

42:42

that you do for us to ensure that we get the most out of our school year and our high school careers thank you so

42:48

much [Applause]

42:57

good evening board and teacher my name is jack britton and i'm your sophomore class liaison and i have two brief

43:02

things to update us on tonight so first our student council went on a bowling trip so on thursday june 2nd the

43:08

morrison high school student council went to laurel lanes for our bowling trip this uh that's something fun to

43:13

celebrate because we did successful years of student council we've done so much for our uh community and people in

43:18

the school we had pizza drinks and we bowled for about an hour and a half it was fun i personally bowled at 157 that night

43:24

which was the best i ever did so that was good um

43:30

yes that was a fun time um the second thing i have to update which is pretty obscure maybe people know about it but

43:35

it's finals which are going on this week we had two days of studying which was on friday and monday and then today was our

43:41

first set of finals which is language arts and world language tomorrow will be math and then history and then on

43:46

thursday will be science and then with those out of the way it will conclude our 2021-2022 school year so i want to

43:53

wish the board and the teachers a happy summer i will be grateful to be back here again next year speaking at these meetings every month

44:07

hi everyone i'm a avette with all your freshman class liaison

44:12

uh as a freshman this week we have been having finals and as if i haven't talked about finals

44:19

enough they've they've been going great we've had our our two reading days were

44:24

very helpful and uh so far we took two of them the uh la and

44:29

world history uh sorry uh world language spanish and those those weren't great so

44:36

uh now i'm just going to tell you about some of the things i enjoyed this year so

44:42

these guys are just laughing over here uh one one of the things i enjoyed was pep rally pep rally this year was super

44:50

it was amazing i'd never done anything like it to see like all four grades line up compete so

44:56

fiercely and aggressively against each other and everyone's like riled up and making noise it's truly uh truly a

45:03

unique experience and another thing that i one of the better things about high school was

45:10

all the clubs and activities that i was able to get involved with one of which being tennis shout out to

45:16

coach dickerson made a lot of friends in tennis and it was truly truly amazing

45:21

uh for next year i'm looking forward to not being the youngest in the high school

45:28

someone smaller to you know be nice to and then

45:33

uh i'm i'm nervous for my classes next year but but i i feel very prepared my teachers this year did a great job of

45:39

getting me ready and i feel like i'll uh i'll uh i'll do great next year uh thank you to

45:46

my teachers and the board for uh letting me come every month and uh one last

45:52

thing i'm looking forward to is a sad but happy one not not only will

45:58

claire b will this be claire's last meeting but at least for the next year this will be my last meeting too because

46:04

i was elected to be the sophomore class president so this is thank you

46:14

so this is my last meeting for the foreseeable future at least so thank you all [Applause]

46:26

well thanks to all the students um you know we'd be remiss if we didn't take the opportunity to thank you

46:33

um it's really great to have you all come and share your perspective

46:39

um i have to say selfishly it's an added treat because some of you i've known since you were a

46:44

lot younger um for anybody who thinks uh miss hearn's stand-up routines are something new i i've been seeing that

46:50

since what was the sixth grade when i started coaching you yeah it was hard to get through soccer practice because claire

46:57

was uh commanding the audience by the goal um so but then miss emil and mr britton my

47:03

neighbors on the street so it's really great to see what we're able to do in this community

47:10

with our school system and have you students uh come and and share your experiences with

47:16

us and help frankly educate us as to um what's going on and and to have a better

47:22

understanding there so we really appreciate everything you you've provided for these meetings and we look forward to those of

47:29

you who are returning uh those who are not you have an open invitation uh come back anytime especially you know

47:35

miss heron we may need you for comic relief at some points so come on back but again thanks and we have another

47:41

round of applause for our student liaisons

47:49

all right now in the past we've said you know if you have schoolwork or homework to do we know you don't have any

47:57

oh finals you've already studied for those you're also studious okay but but please uh you're welcome to stay um or

48:06

or you know you can you can go and study some more for those finals okay thanks again

48:21

all right um so that that's a tough act to follow but we will have our committee chairs uh go ahead and

48:27

share their reports uh open to anybody who wants to go first

48:34

all right lauren with curriculum please

48:39

all righty curriculum had uh two meetings this month uh we met uh or

48:46

since our last session uh may 17th we met um mike volpe karen benton mark  
48:53

schneider sandra alberti sharon kopolis myself kat d'ambra gavin quinn  
and dave tate and jeff airy were in attendance um

49:00

first on the agenda was discussing the ets science performance task pilot  
49:06

mr quinn presented information regarding the pilot with the heat island  
classroom assessment task

49:14

this would be an educational testing service and mtps collaboration  
during

49:19

the 2021-2022 school year teachers participate in the development

49:25

of the heat island class assessment task in collaboration with ets they  
participated in work via zoom meetings

49:31

outside of their contracted hours and they were compensated for this work  
uh mets would like to use morrison as a

49:38

testing school for the collection of data to be used in validating the  
effectiveness of their work

49:44

morristown would benefit from this relationship through the incorporation  
of this project into the seventh grade science curriculum for the 22 2023

49:52

school year and beyond and all materials for this collaboration will be  
accessible for the seventh grade science

49:57

team the committee was in support of this program moving forward and  
applauded the teachers efforts that brought this program forward

50:04

uh gavin quinn then presented the grade six through eight science  
curriculum development update

50:10

it was already in the budget and he kind of went through what was  
anticipated for grades six seven and eight um with the

50:17

different uh curriculum inquest inner orbit and

50:24

uh i know there was a third but i'm not saying it um in the notes but

50:30

um different curriculum there would be pd sessions for all the products  
and how they were incorporated

50:36

uh grade eight would pilot the ck-12 science curriculum they this would  
be written over the 2022

50:44

summer that is on the agenda for approval with the summer curriculum  
writing

50:50



and the curriculum for grades six through eight will be rewritten to reflect the new products that will be incorporated in the six through eight

50:56

science curriculum um and there will be the pd sessions following for the new incorporation um we talked about the

51:05

kind of overall general how we were going to be piloting and rolling out new crick as well

51:10

and then we also looked at the 2022-2023 department we'll look at chemistry and biology curriculum rewrite

51:18

then dr benton reviewed with us the grades one through six summer 2022

51:23

programming which would include esy supplemental esi for reading and math um

51:29

we were going to use a combined essa and esser funding for summer steam program for

51:35

rising first through third graders and then essa at the ues and wams

51:42

program we also reviewed alternative placement process

51:48

i know that comes up a lot on our agenda to approve and so dave tate and kat d'amber kind of walked the committee

51:54

through that process of how students are placed at the school we reviewed the cost of providing a similar program

52:01

in-house and that did not seem at this point to be where we would find any savings but we'll continue to look for

52:06

ways to meet the needs of all of our students moving forward

52:12

then we had an update on the comprehensive health and physical education standards

52:17

there was a follow-up on the outcomes of conversations regarding the health curriculum over uh the recent weeks the

52:23

district will likely be required to post curriculum online so we're waiting to do that until there's directions set forth

52:30

from the state so there's not double work with that we did review a sample provided for

52:36

health and pe curriculum guides as a district we're looking for ways to share with parents what they need to make

52:42

informed decisions and have the information to ask the right questions and know what to ask and who to ask in

52:47

the clearest way possible so we're looking to improve the communication with that in the way we're

52:53

transparent with that information we're looking to share the big ideas and objectives for each of our curriculum

53:00

units with a pacing guide for um that will be displayed on the website

53:05

and the committee is in favor of this as well as the plan was set forth by karen and mike but we're open

53:11

to community feedback once given the opportunity for the community to use the tools

53:17

then we looked at an ell update was provided we kind of looked at

53:22

the overview of the program requirements and looked at the proposed schedule for the 22-20

53:28

school year we looked at the instructional plan for roberts the ues wams and the high

53:35

school as far as how the ell programming would be provided

53:41

and then and took a look at the morristown uh students scheduling for the esl

53:48

courses at the high school um the ell three-year plan and monitoring recommendations were

53:53

discussed and we were also looking at how to best meet the needs of our current students the summer curriculum writing summaries

53:59

were provided and the writers were presented curriculum writers are on the student agenda for approval and then we

54:05

also reviewed the k-3 enrollment as it currently stands to look at what the needs were and where

54:12

the class size is and and the population of the elementary school level

54:17

then we had our june 9th meeting um that in attendance mike volpe karen

54:24

benton uh mr snyder sandra alberti cheryl mcopolis and myself mike provided

54:30

at that point an overview of the safety and security updates as it related to the recent wams event and explained that

54:36

more details would follow and a more critical look would take place over the summer of how to improve the

54:43

safety overall we also reviewed the wham summer reading character education theme in at wams for

54:50

this coming school year was adversity so the three selections of the books related to that theme books were chosen

54:56

by a teacher committee and vary in lexile level students can choose what book they want to read but they'll kind

55:02

of be guided by their teacher um and also supported with that summer reading

55:07

and then we reviewed the ues summer reading which is one book karen will look at expanding choices and

55:14

options for students moving forward at the ues level especially due to the varying reading levels at the ues this

55:19

summer's reading is omar rising we had a general discussion then that

55:24

followed with the summer reading selections about ways to re-examine ways that we improve the enrichment the

55:31

learning opportunities and expectations of summer work as well as how we can engage

55:37

help with the engagement strategies of students in the future during the summer months as well and again the k-3

55:43

enrollment data was reviewed and that was shared in the minutes as well so

55:49

any questions okay

55:55

okay thank you miss romano okay might as well just keep coming down this this way sure dr snyder for policy

56:02

yep absolutely uh so the policy committee met on june 9th

56:08

um the first thing we we continued our discussion of policy 143 which is

56:14

dealing with the board member election and appointment on the heels of the most recent

56:19

appointment i sought out all the board members who aren't on the committee to kind of get their thoughts

56:26

again we're trying to make sense of what the best course of action is in terms of transparency to

56:32

future boards as well as the community in the context of what the actual application and then

56:39

interview process looks like where the interviews take place where the deliberation takes place and and the

56:45

voting obviously will take place in public um things like you know what  
would applicants names be made public at  
56:51  
what point would they be made public um there's been a lot of like i said  
56:57  
um different ways it's this process has taken place in the past so our  
intent is  
57:02  
to make it clear for the public as well as like i said future boards that  
this is  
57:08  
the standard and this is what people can expect um so i thought we had a  
pretty good robust discussion on sort of like  
57:14  
where we we want generally to go so we're going to as a committee draft  
something to bring to  
57:20  
the full board in august um for discussion and possibly first reading at  
that point  
57:27  
we also discussed the policy 5512 which is a harassment intimidation and  
bullying  
57:32  
which is a mandated policy uh the administration sort of walked through  
how  
57:37  
the the meat of the policy doesn't change the procedures that currently  
exist and it's likely um  
57:45  
we our policies and procedures currently exceed mandated policy and then  
this is  
57:50  
still likely to be the case so the administration is going to take the  
summer to review that uh again also  
57:55  
probably for first reading in august for any sort of uh changes to the  
policy but it's likely to to in fact it is very  
58:03  
likely not to cause any real changes to how hiv is handled or reported in  
morristown  
58:10  
and the last one we discussed is the 241601 postnatal accommodation for  
students  
58:15  
this deals with the district's compliance with uh  
58:21  
um resources and areas for postnatal needs um and it was brought to our  
58:26  
attention that policies uh 2416 and then 34 21 and 44 21 dealing  
58:33  
with support staff and teaching staff were also overlooked so the intent  
is to pass them all at the same time again in  
58:40

august for first reading so that um and again all these exist already but it looked like this was a

58:46

lapse in those policies having been passed the policies on for first reading tonight um they are all mandated there's

58:53

a mandated policy and procedure dealing with maintenance and repair that deals with updated language and and um

59:01

the business administrator can speak to that but it's it doesn't it look to be more than that um the policy 8420

59:08

emergency crisis situation again policy refers to how safety drills have to be maintained

59:13

the developmental appropriateness what can and cannot be used in these safety drills um how often

59:23

kinds of things that is mandated and in conjunction with that policy and regulation 93 20 which

59:29

deals with the cooperation with law enforcement is also mandated but it does not uh and again deals with specific

59:35

reporting and protocols but likely wouldn't change much uh that currently exists

59:40

and the last policy that's on for first reading is 7510 the use of school facilities um in in the review of policies 3233 and

59:49

4233 that deal with support staff and teaching staff it came to our attention that um

59:55

language that deals that says however the board prohibits the use of school grounds and school time for partisan

1:00:00

political purposes was in those policies and referred to 7510 which is where that

1:00:05

language should be dealing with school facilities um so again in a measure to

1:00:11

clean up what is a is a confusing thing we're trying to

1:00:16

have that language be in the correct policy so now the that same line which already exists in

1:00:21

those other two policies will also exist in policy 7510 which is the use of school facilities

1:00:27

this doesn't change the meaning of partisan political purposes

1:00:32

as that is an inherently subjective idea and the procedure for how the district

1:00:39

will handle that is unchanged in the context of the responsibility with administration and superintendent um

1:00:46

but that this is a this is a again a hope and clarity and the intent to making making that policy have the

1:00:53

language it should have had in to begin with and the only policy on for second reading deals with um student

1:00:59

intervention and referral services and the language is unchanged from first reading

1:01:04

and that's it any questions i'll answer questions for dr snyder

1:01:11

about policy okay hearing none thank you dr snyder we'll move

1:01:18

down the table dr alberti you're on i will give a brief update about a brief meeting that we had on may 26th of the

1:01:26

communications committee meeting president was mick jill melissa and myself as well as

1:01:32

mr volpe and we just really had three bullets one is that we engage in a conversation

1:01:38

about our communications plan update uh the decision was made that we are going to delay focus group until next year um

1:01:46

as we had some challenges in setting up those focus groups and

1:01:51

still feel very important to engage in faculty and staff input as well as community input but just felt that that

1:01:58

would we would better serve the purpose of those conversations if we uh delayed and

1:02:04

although we have collected survey data we don't want the release of that survey data to interfere with focus group

1:02:10

conversations and so all of that will be presented we're working on it we um

1:02:16

want to make sure that this continues to become a priority area but we've just kind of shifted our timing on that a bit

1:02:22

we also spent some time as a committee debriefing uh the april town hall event um thinking about you know the

1:02:29

challenges of the event what opportunities there were and um really thinking about

1:02:35

as mr volpe even said in his uh remarks this evening how to make him more accessible and how best to fit that and

1:02:43

i know that he's thinking of some some other ideas of additional structures such as coffee with the superintendent i

1:02:49

don't want to speak for him or his time but we talked about ways that serve the purpose of getting to know the

1:02:54

superintendent better at making that a more accessible option for folks uh and then lastly we

1:03:00

spent some time uh additionally talking about some um news media coverage that

1:03:05

we've received in the last month that we as a board and as a communications committee have felt that wasn't always

1:03:13

accurate or fair and how we can best uh engage in kind of proactive reaching out

1:03:18

to members of the media so that we can make sure that we are all fairly and accurately represented uh and that was

1:03:25

the extent of our conversation thank you dr alberti any questions or

1:03:32

comments around communications okay seeing hearing none

1:03:38

move on to mr villanueva thank you dr alberti mr villanueva finance and operations please

1:03:44

thank you finance and operations met yesterday morning for about an hour and a half

1:03:51

the details are in the minutes but i'll give the highlights we talked about the

1:03:59

transportation bid that's on the agenda for approval tonight i mentioned it i believe

1:04:04

in our last meeting as well where uh given some discovered efficiencies with respect to

1:04:12

condensing some roots we have kept the the cost within budget

1:04:20

in these challenging times as it pertains to transportation so

1:04:25

thanks again to mr heiser and our transportation supervisor for those efforts

1:04:30

we also talked about the janitorial bid that's on the agenda this evening um

1:04:36

some may recall that at our last meeting we had approved a janitorial vendor

1:04:44

that following that approval informed us that they no longer intended  
1:04:51  
to become our vendor so we had to have a  
1:04:59  
another meeting in between another public board meeting between our last  
meeting and this one to reject all of the bids that we had  
1:05:05  
received and reopened the bid process on a very short time frame and we  
were fortunate enough  
1:05:12  
to get new bidders and the the lowest bidder acb i believe is the acronym  
of this  
1:05:18  
company will be is on the agenda this evening for approval  
1:05:26  
we discussed the potential implications on enrollment for the  
1:05:33  
new housing that is going to be coming into morristown and in particular  
the housing  
1:05:39  
developments at the morristown mall as well as across the street from the  
ues  
1:05:44  
some of this is detailed in um online  
1:05:50  
if you go to the uh the town hall discussion there mr weeks and mr volpe  
1:05:56  
uh provided some written comments that pertain to the potential impact of  
of  
1:06:03  
these new new homes on on our enrollment and i believe through  
discussions with  
1:06:09  
the township the current estimate is that potentially 320 additional  
students  
1:06:16  
may come to the district as a result of of these new homes we had a  
robust discussion  
1:06:23  
about the uh tax implications of this  
1:06:28  
the both projects as we understand it are under the  
1:06:33  
a pilot program which is a it provides for the developers to to  
1:06:39  
make payments in lieu of taxes rather than taxes on an annual basis and  
1:06:49  
this is is not uh optimal from for the district  
1:06:55  
to the extent that payments in lieu of taxes don't include payments that  
flow to the  
1:07:01  
district so while our current property taxes if you look at if you're a  
morristown resident



1:07:06

and take a look at your property tax bill about 60 to 65 percent of that goes to

1:07:12

the school district the under this payment in lieu of taxes

1:07:17

program we believe there will be no payments that come to the district notwithstanding the fact that additional

1:07:23

students will be coming to the schools so this is something that we need to um

1:07:28

manage and figure out how to deal with because this will have potentially a significant impact on our budget

1:07:35

potentially as soon as next year and so it is at least in my view a very

1:07:40

serious concern for our budget that we need to address just by way of example if we need to

1:07:46

have two more bus routes that's a healthy six-figure

1:07:52

add-on that we'll have to address and that's that's not accounting for additional staff that

1:07:58

might be required

1:08:04

similar to discussions in other committees we talked about the about security issues i won't reiterate what's

1:08:11

already been said but i think um the plan mr volpe correct me if i'm

1:08:17

wrong is that there may be a more sort of comprehensive update publicly in the fall in august

1:08:22

at our august board meeting on the agenda tonight is also

1:08:28

a resolution to approve a capital reserve transfer up to 500 000 this is a

1:08:34

routine resolution we do every year which gives mr heiser the discretion to transfer 500

1:08:41

000 to our capital reserve account um at the appropriate time if necessary

1:08:48

this in my view is a good thing our capital reserve has been traditionally very low i think it was down to two thousand dollars when uh i came

1:08:56

not when i came onto the board but as a result of a project about a year into the board and it's now up to about 725

1:09:01

000 which which in my view should continue to grow to deal with rainy day

1:09:07  
events we discussed

1:09:14  
the covid grants that mr volpe touched on a couple meetings ago that are now posted

1:09:19  
to the website and we also talked about a potential grant opportunity uh that is issued

1:09:25  
through the federal environmental protection agency for fuel-efficient buses

1:09:32  
and and we intend to apply for that although i'm not certain how likely it is we'll be approved uh certainly worth

1:09:40  
taking a shot for finally we talked about the uh an

1:09:45  
emerging capital needs grant that i mentioned either last meeting in the meeting before and we were evaluating

1:09:51  
where administration was evaluating how to use funds received from that grant and

1:09:59  
administration is going to do some window replacement at the ues

1:10:06  
uh with those funds which the the committee is in support of

1:10:11  
and so that is it if there are any comments or questions

1:10:18  
hearing none thank you nope okay thank you mr villanueva

1:10:23  
all right um any off board committees i've already heard about more arts

1:10:30  
anything else okay

1:10:36  
hearing none thank you everybody on the board oh the committee chairs for your reports

1:10:41  
uh we can now move into our public comment uh portion of the evening so

1:10:47  
this as we traditionally do the first public comment section is on items that

1:10:52  
are on the agenda so please come to the mic state your name and address or as much of it as

1:10:58  
you're comfortable with sharing you'll have up to three minutes to speak um mr comezno our our counselor

1:11:06  
will take care of keeping time he will make you aware of when you have 10 minutes remaining

1:11:11  
10 i'm sorry 10 seconds you have three minutes to speak 10 seconds remaining excuse me

1:11:16

um please also be reminded that this is not it's public comment it's not a question

1:11:23

and answer session if you do want an answer to whatever it is your comment or question is

1:11:30

it's best to follow up with an email and we ask that you please do not interest board members

1:11:35

individually and please be respectful when making your public comments

1:11:43

um good evening yeah uh hang on one second um

1:11:48

mr arry would you mind positioning the mic um mr magno noted that the mic should be facing the board because

1:11:55

public comment to the board thank you

1:12:03

oh we need a motion before we start a second

1:12:09

okay all in favor aye any opposed extensions

1:12:15

okay all right okay please proceed is this okay um good evening members of the

1:12:21

board my name is laura dugan and i'm speaking to you tonight as a concerned resident and community member who values

1:12:29

our teachers and the energy that they pour into our students i'm also married to a morristown graduate who recently

1:12:36

celebrated his 20-year high school reunion with close friends it was evident at that reunion how successful

1:12:42

and accomplished so many of his classmates are and i know that can be attributed to the excellent education

1:12:47

they receive from devoted teachers but most importantly i speak to you tonight as a mom of two young children who will

1:12:54

be future morristown students soon and since we plan to never move from this amazing town my children will spend 13

1:13:01

years each being welcomed into a classroom in september and being hugged by by their teachers in june teachers

1:13:09

who will directly impact and nurture my children as i picked up my daughter claire from daycare today i passed under

1:13:16

the banner reminding our town to gather and clap out our graduates i absolutely

1:13:21

love this tradition of celebration pride and support for our seniors and behind so many of these graduates

1:13:27

are of course opportunities parents involvement friends and internships

1:13:33

but do you know what else is behind these graduates teachers dedicated intelligent qualified

1:13:40

compassionate teachers it's time to clap on our teachers and give them a fair

1:13:45

contract actually they deserve a standing ovation after last few years they've had thank you

1:14:02

good evening members my name is tara lampman i have a rising kindergartner that will attend baker elementary school

1:14:08

this fall i stand before you here tonight to share with you how your faculty and staff feel about teaching in

1:14:15

this decade within three words working while sick complicated consuming

1:14:21

underappreciated neglecting mental health fear of uncertainty everyone is watching nobody

1:14:27

is helping a balancing act overwhelming surreal busy others before yourself fatiguing

1:14:33

thankless crucial emails emails emails trying our best no self-care barely

1:14:39

keeping afloat figure it out soul sucking unrewarding beyond exhausting

1:14:44

unappreciated undervalued overwhelmed no family time challenging exhausting

1:14:50

disheartening overwhelming challenging exhausting challenging daunting

1:14:55

rewarding obstacle after obstacle hard incredible inspiring draining

1:15:01

emotionally and financially crisis after crisis precarious balancing act challenging exhausting thankless

1:15:08

defeated and beat down depleting and frustrating exhausting as hell challenging unpredictable rewarding

1:15:15

demanding uncertain necessary never good enough unlike any other stressful

1:15:20

thankless fulfilling challenging ever changing rigorous unpredictable stressful and frustrating underpaid

1:15:26

overworked misunderstood challenging dreaming overwhelming the

1:15:31

only other individuals that could possibly truly relate to these words  
are other teachers i stand before you here  
1:15:38  
tonight not only as a stakeholder in this community but also as a fellow  
educator i teach in neighboring head and  
1:15:45  
field a community that strives for the very same level of excellence that  
we do here in morristown teaching and learning  
1:15:52  
are not the same and in post-pandemic they will never be the same two  
years ago our teachers were indispensable  
1:15:59  
it's almost as if we have amnesia have you forgotten our value already i  
plead  
1:16:05  
with you to work with the mea to reach an agreement on a contract that  
demonstrates that value the lives of our  
1:16:11  
teachers matter and your actions will tell us how much they matter to you  
[Applause]  
1:16:26  
my name is nadine mack i have um a 10 year old she'll graduate in 2030.  
1:16:31  
i had a daughter graduate in 2020 and 2019 and  
1:16:37  
what happened during the pandemic was this community  
1:16:42  
in red shirts showed up big and supported our students  
1:16:48  
meanwhile they had somebody graduating in 2020  
1:16:53  
everything was taken and we have an opportunity to be generous and kind  
1:16:59  
and support somebody who did what they had to do to create order out of  
chaos  
1:17:06  
and i'm so grateful for all you did and you're doing still and i really  
believe we need to  
1:17:13  
negotiate at that table and clearly talk to one another  
1:17:19  
because they deserve to be paid thank you  
1:17:32  
hi my name is sarah mayer and i'm here on behalf of the student body  
first i'd like to be incredibly clear that the  
1:17:38  
effort to collect students to come to this meeting was an effort of  
students alone now my family along with i imagine the  
1:17:44  
majority of morristown moved here for one reason this school district i  
have two older sisters who both went  
1:17:49  
to morristown and before i entered my freshman year of high school i was  
anxious and so i asked them about the

1:17:55

school they never mentioned the seven tvs out front or the newly waxed gym floor they talked only of their teachers

1:18:01

the ones who made them laugh the ones whose tests would definitely push me to my limit and the ones whose classes were hard but in the end worth it that is the

1:18:08

lasting memory of this school district its teachers when it was time for me to apply to college i was stressed to ask

1:18:14

my teachers for letters of recommendation but when i did the response was of course no problem at all

1:18:20

and why are you even asking already planned on writing you one i mean personally you couldn't pay me a thousand dollars to sit down and write a

1:18:26

letter about someone and they do this every year for student after student and don't get paid a thing

1:18:32

when i talk to some people who didn't believe teachers deserve any more than what they currently make the sentiment was similar all they do is teach from a

1:18:39

lesson plan these teachers so many of you believe have easy jobs do not simply teach a grade and go home if they taught

1:18:46

a lesson plan and went home we would not have a class of 2022 with 175 of us graduating with honors and we would not

1:18:52

have this many students going to ivs because let's be honest we aren't all natural born geniuses it was our

1:18:57

teachers rooting for us during our best times motivating us through our worst being there for us during covid when

1:19:03

they themselves had families and their health to worry about that is what pushed us through it all we knew we had to make them our parents and above all

1:19:09

ourselves proud i mean if you need an example of how amazing they are at their jobs i actually enjoyed calculus this

1:19:15

year and if any of you know me you know how crazy it is for me to say that we're teenagers none of us go into high

1:19:21

school super excited to learn about atp integration or jane eyre but then we go to our classes engaged and excited and

1:19:27

that's because of them i graduate in three days and like many of my peers i echo the same sentiment of i can't wait

1:19:33

to graduate but now that it's closer i can understand why people say graduating is sad not because i'm not excited for

1:19:38

the next chapter of my life but because i know i'm losing something invaluable i'm losing a building full of teachers

1:19:43

who come to their job every morning devoted to their students i'm truly going to miss that because i know no one

1:19:48

can match the energy they've put in for me over the past four years children yet obviously but if i do in

1:19:54

the future i want the school to pay its teachers enough so that every teacher now and in the future comes to their job not

1:20:00

worried about if they'll have enough money for gas this month but rather worried about the quality of education their students receive devoted to being

1:20:07

there for them and passionate about making their school their years at moorestown as memorable as my teachers have done for me every step of the way

1:20:14

thank you

1:20:30

good evening my name is amanda mccomas i'm a resident at 10 east harris avenue

1:20:35

a former student to many of you and now a mother of two current students a third grader at roberts and fifth

1:20:42

grader at the ues both of whom have grown exponentially directly as a

1:20:48

result of the expert instruction they have received from their incredible teachers

1:20:53

i could go on and on about just how amazing our educators are but as stated

1:20:59

earlier you already know that so i'll keep my comments brief you've shared how much you value our

1:21:05

educators it's time to show them you've mentioned tonight how much you admire their expertise and dedication

1:21:12

it's time to show them you mention this evening how much you respect them it's time to show them

1:21:18

these educators are not asking for the world although that is what we ask of them each and every day

1:21:25

all they're asking for is a fair contract and since you brought up fairness

1:21:31

and speaking as a taxpayer it's time to do the right and fair thing

1:21:36

by putting our money where our mouths are and settle their contract now  
thank you all teachers for your time  
1:21:42  
your dedication your expertise and so much more and thank you members of  
the board of  
1:21:47  
education for settling their contract now  
1:22:04  
good evening members of the board teachers parents students and members  
of the community  
1:22:11  
my name is angelina carrione sherwood and my son is a student at roberts  
1:22:17  
he went there for two years of preschool and he's finishing kindergarten  
this week  
1:22:23  
um for the last three years i haven't been able to be as involved as i  
would have  
1:22:28  
been in his school activities if we hadn't been in a pandemic but during  
that time my husband and i  
1:22:34  
were still so happy to see how our son was learning and progressing how  
the teachers were finding ways to  
1:22:42  
stay connected with us how the teachers were pivoting from in-person to  
online learning and then  
1:22:48  
back to in-person learning and most of all we were happy to see how happy  
our  
1:22:53  
son was going to robert's school but last week i was able to go to an  
1:22:59  
in-person event i attended field day at roberts and  
1:23:04  
as each class and each teacher passed through my station i got to speak  
with them i got to see  
1:23:11  
how they interacted with each other and what really struck me was how the  
teachers went above and  
1:23:17  
beyond for their students they showed compassion  
1:23:22  
caring they were able to handle any discipline issues and  
1:23:27  
did all of that while still having fun with their students i went home  
that night and i really  
1:23:33  
thought a lot about that and i've never seen in any other profession or  
any other field the dedication and  
1:23:40  
passion that i saw from teachers that day  
1:23:47



no one asked me to come up here and speak tonight no one asked me to um  
address this audience but  
1:23:54  
i felt so moved to do that because of what i had seen at field day  
1:23:59  
and it dawned on me then that this is not just a job  
1:24:04  
to teachers this is their passion and so when i drop my son off at school  
1:24:11  
every morning now that i've seen what i've seen it's it's not just  
1:24:17  
as as you had alluded to mr weeks as you had said actually not only is he  
there getting a  
1:24:22  
world-class education as you said now i know he's not there just getting  
a world-class education he's protected  
1:24:29  
he's cared for and he's loved and if that's not a reason for the board to  
settle a fair contract with the teachers  
1:24:36  
then i don't know what it is thank you  
1:24:49  
hi i'm pamelalowe at 200 paul drive in morristown i'm a parent of two  
more sound students  
1:24:57  
morgan at the ues oh gosh every every year every uh  
1:25:03  
parent-teacher conference i'm crying i'm the crying parent morgan at the  
eu he asked with mrs  
1:25:09  
resnick and mrs lantonis and ryan at roberts with mrs cicalli and mrs  
yarrow  
1:25:15  
we moved to morristown six years ago primarily for the morristown schools  
what we didn't realize at the time was  
1:25:21  
that we moved to morristown to have these teachers in our lives there  
will be never there will never be  
1:25:27  
enough time for me to recap all that you've done for my children  
1:25:32  
and my family as a whole instead i stand here publicly to express  
1:25:38  
to you that from the bottom of my heart you are seen you are  
1:25:43  
appreciated you are celebrated and you are loved  
1:25:48  
we see that you don't put your own children on the bus for their first  
day of school we see you miss your child's midday  
1:25:55  
school concert and you aren't a room parent for school parties there's no  
work from home flexibility  
1:26:02

where you can throw a load of laundry and produce some online bill pay  
between zoom meetings  
1:26:07  
instead during the school day you the smiling face our children see when  
they arrive at school on the first  
1:26:14  
day you have tears of joy during their midday concert and you smile from  
ear to  
1:26:19  
ear when you see the creative halloween costumes your students come up  
with  
1:26:24  
you celebrate our children's accomplishments when they finally grasp a  
lesson they struggle to understand  
1:26:29  
they draw their first self-portrait or score their first goal you are  
showing up every day to build  
1:26:36  
create and implement experiences that will impact the rest of our  
children's lives  
1:26:42  
to our board members many of you are parents educators and professionals  
1:26:47  
as a public servant in an elected position i'm grateful for your time and  
efforts putting you put into our  
1:26:53  
children and putting them at the top of your agenda like these teachers  
you understand  
1:26:59  
firsthand what it means to commit to unpaid hours for extra work the late  
night emails the off hours conversations  
1:27:05  
with parents and the mental space you commit to ensuring you're doing  
what's right and best for our children for that  
1:27:12  
i am grateful for to you with the understanding that budgets are not  
endless and compromises are  
1:27:18  
necessary i ask that in prioritizing our students we prioritize those who  
have  
1:27:23  
chosen a career to develop love and educate our children please  
prioritize  
1:27:29  
our teachers and staff thank you  
1:27:40  
hello my name is brooke blizzard and just like a lot of other people here  
i  
1:27:46  
also moved to morristown for the education um i've actually had a  
learning disability for like a long time  
1:27:52  
which a lot of the teachers probably know i was like the worst student  
1:27:57

but i would not be where i am today graduating in three days if it weren't for any of the teachers

1:28:03

um uh like i said i'm not a great student i'm not graduating with honors but if it weren't for the teachers because the

1:28:10

administration told me i wasn't going to graduate and i should probably just go to um i should go to

1:28:17

a different school or i should go to some other thing i don't know trade school

1:28:22

um i wouldn't be here and so it baffles me that morristown is one of

1:28:29

the most privileged and fortunate school districts in the area and we're actually struggling to at least be open to the

1:28:35

idea of raising the teachers pay um morristown schools are literally nothing

1:28:40

without its teachers the past three years these teachers had to risk the lives of their families and themselves

1:28:46

to come and teach your children i know this is probably mentioned before but inflation rates are still rising

1:28:53

after hitting a 40-year high and this means that whatever you were paying them before you need to at least raise at

1:28:58

least eight percent per year according to the world economic forum and

1:29:05

[Applause] um um

1:29:11

that's just another reason why you should raise their pay it's not just because of inflation it's because these teachers will put everything out there

1:29:18

for your children um and it would be sad to see more sound to turn into a place that

1:29:23

cares more about greed than paying their teachers the minimum um

1:29:29

and you talked about fairness and um i believe that if there's fairness then

1:29:34

they should be paid the same as administrations superintendents which they're making more than one thousand uh

1:29:40

150 000 a year which is also baffling because that's not a lot of districts too so

1:29:47

and as a senior i i don't know if i speak on behalf of all the senior class but

1:29:53

um it's not that i don't want you guys at the graduation i love all of  
you but um i'd rather have you guys getting  
1:29:59  
equal pay than at the graduation so um i wouldn't put that on them that's  
1:30:04  
not the teacher's fault at all that's because they're not getting paid  
enough so thank you  
1:30:26  
good evening wonderful teachers and respected board members my name is  
jane rawlinson brandt i live  
1:30:33  
at 500 chester avenue and am i  
1:30:38  
somewhat willing taxpayer to this community i have i have two wonderful  
grandsons in  
1:30:46  
the high school and in the middle school and i have been dazzled with the  
education that they've gotten  
1:30:53  
due to these teachers i also have an exceptional daughter-in-law not  
because she's my  
1:30:59  
daughter-in-law but because she is teaching speech and special ed and i  
1:31:05  
have seen her work more hours than i have ever seen anybody work  
1:31:11  
so all i am here to say my promise to you is if you could settle soon  
1:31:18  
i'll end under three minutes okay thank you very much  
1:31:33  
hi elizabeth pollard 64 brooks road but you probably know that by now  
1:31:38  
okay this is going to be hard i look out here and i see so many teachers  
that mean so much to me um my son matthew's  
1:31:44  
graduating this year and he had a bit of a rough beginning and we've  
lived here for 10 years since  
1:31:50  
they were in first and third grade thank you so much to everyone this is  
semper fulter you were his first teacher  
1:31:59  
at south valley at the ues at wams and at the high school our kids have  
the privilege of being  
1:32:05  
educated cared for guided by compassionate thoughtful knowledgeable  
1:32:10  
and innovative teachers nurses front office staff guidance counselors  
1:32:20  
speech therapists principles i've already said that i'm sorry officers  
coaches case managers cafeteria  
1:32:27  
janitorial janitorial staff hundreds of people literally have touched my  
kids lives  
1:32:33

you've helped them become amazing young men there's no way to place a value on the gifts you've given them

1:32:39

teachers do not go into teaching for financial reason reasons but rather for their passion for educating our kids

1:32:46

our teachers need and deserve salaries that allow them to buy pencils and paper and backpacks and food and other

1:32:51

supplies their students don't always have salaries that compensate them for spending hours after the school day is

1:32:58

over grading tests answering emails making phone calls and meeting with families

1:33:03

salaries that compensate them for attending numerous non-contractual events including graduation and project

1:33:08

graduation especially impactful for my family this year salaries that compensate

1:33:15

compensate them not only for maintaining but exceeding their teaching excellence during the global pandemic salaries that allow them

1:33:22

to afford co-pays and medical care that health insurance does not fully cover salaries that allow them to buy

1:33:28

groceries and gas salaries that allow them to enjoy their lives with their families

1:33:35

i don't know the details of your negotiations how far apart you are i hope you're close and that will err on

1:33:40

the side of our teachers our teachers prove themselves as holy committed to our kids every single day

1:33:46

let's prove that we are wholly committed to them thank you [Applause]

1:33:58

good evening my name is mark deshong 605 beacon street morristown where i live with my

1:34:04

wife laura and daughter eleanor laura attended the april board meeting and said that some comments were made by

1:34:10

mr eagles recording regarding the medford school district

1:34:15

as someone who has been teaching in medford for 28 years i felt it was my duty to come here and defend my school

1:34:20

district you see this has been a topic of discussion for many years in my household as my wife is

1:34:26

a teacher in morristown my district this past year superintendent school board worked

1:34:32

diligently with my association to help settle our own contract we got a raise

1:34:38

and we only needed four months of negotiation to get there it was such a relief and then my board in partnership with a

1:34:45

local company sent ice cream trucks to all the schools and gave each teacher an ice cream cone i got a decent contract

1:34:53

and an ice cream cone too pretty cool huh

1:34:58

the morristown education association members have been working every bit as hard as my association members

1:35:04

no they've actually been working harder because their work day is longer and they have more of them

1:35:10

and more after school meetings too my wife did the math and calculated that she works over 38 hours more than i do

1:35:17

and that is before the after-school meetings are added in morristown teachers have worked tirelessly during the pandemic our

1:35:23

daughter graduated mhs last year and we saw firsthand how hard all the teachers worked to ensure that the students were

1:35:30

ready for college and post-high school graduate careers um she's going to a great college too by the way with a 3.89

1:35:36

gpa she's sailing through her classes because she was so well prepared

1:35:42

by this morristown staff but i digress morristown schools are ranked number one

1:35:47

in burlington county and number 10 in the state when you agree that the teachers work diligently to make this achievement

1:35:53

happen why not honor that with a fair contract times are changing in the field of education as you said and it's getting

1:36:00

harder to find exceptional teachers it was very hard even before the pandemic and it's getting worse with each coming

1:36:06

year we know if someone was offered a job here in morristown but chose to go to another school district because the

1:36:11

pay was better and the work day was shorter she's even happier there and with the

1:36:16

choices that she made i wonder if anyone else here knows of someone who else who chose to teach at a

1:36:22

neighboring school district instead for those same reasons is this a scenario that will be

1:36:27

happening with greater frequency in the future i ask you board is this what you want to have happen offering a substandard

1:36:34

contract to the mea may seem pennywise but it's pound foolish everyone has a consequence

1:36:40

everything has a consequence just for now but also for the future morristown is a great school district

1:36:47

one of the best in the state don't you want to keep it that way i implore you to move forward in negotiations with morristown education

1:36:53

association towards a fair contract thank you [Applause]

1:37:06

my name is gary morris i live in seven baldwin hill place my wife's a moore estonian and also alumni of uh warstown high school so i

1:37:13

grew up in radnor i lost to battles you know for those husbands some things you just give up right anyway i'm here i

1:37:20

want to thank the board i know the teachers as well because the last two and a half years we've seen all the craziness going around the country with

1:37:26

kids going back to school and basically riding and we're the board teachers are all adults about

1:37:32

getting our kids making our kids priority okay so tonight i wanted i want to expand this conversation beyond just

1:37:40

the excellent teachers my kids benefit i had four kids in the school district um

1:37:45

nursing staff new jersey has one of the most severe nursing storages in the country nurses can shop for the most

1:37:51

competitive and secure packages compensation for part-time nurses must be more competitive

1:37:56

and fear the proposed pay restriction will decrease the current compensation package part-time nurses are not

1:38:02

guaranteed job security year-to-year like traditional school nurses part-time nurses are not guaranteed the same

1:38:07

full-time benefits such as pension amounts and traditional school nurses we must maintain the same competitive

1:38:12

compensation package that allows several grades of advancement where we risk losing valuable part-time nurses that

1:38:19

know the students and community uh limited hours of advancement opportunities and low pay will not make

1:38:24

these part-time nurses slides competitive part-time nurses absence put all students at risk these positions are

1:38:31

often difficult to staff last year my daughter missed school because there was not a suitable candidate to cover long-term coverage gap in sick days this

1:38:38

is not within the spirit of letter of the law ensuring my daughter's access to education in the least restrictive environment

1:38:44

fairness as we mentioned that i keep hearing that word tonight in fairness it doesn't impact my childhood yesterday

1:38:51

my daughter's part-time nurse was out the contractor provider who was supposed to provide substitute nurses was unable

1:38:56

to fill that slide which is ongoing issue therefore this the office had to close the sv nurse

1:39:04

office to fill the part-time nurse slot this is a serious concern for all parents because should another student

1:39:09

have an emergency to food or accident playground not one or a nurse in another building would have to fulfill this

1:39:15

slack the part-time style would not be allowed to respond because her responsibilities or his responsibilities would be that

1:39:20

particular student um so fairness can't be a the expense of

1:39:26

our children safety competitive pay for part-time part-time nurses is a safety issue not just a compensation issue so

1:39:33

we're all adults covered for the last two and a half years we can be adults to get the teachers what their salaries

1:39:39

should be it is the best school district here in new jersey in my opinion i'm here now to drink the water in

1:39:44

morristown so whatever you put in the water is very strong so thank you for your time the board members and teachers i love you all and

1:39:50

thank you

1:40:01

a lot of tough acts to follow good evening my name is meredith butts i live at 208 locust street i have three

1:40:09

children in the district my husband and i intentionally chose morristown nine years ago no small part due to the

1:40:15



excellence of the district we recognize that to continue to expect  
excellence we must also be willing to

1:40:22

pay for it so i am here in support of the professionals who staff our  
schools they're in a contract negotiations and

1:40:28

we'll tell you some of the reasons why first as mr week spoke about there  
is significant shortage of not just

1:40:35

teachers but all educational professionals nurses everyone else

1:40:41

veterans are retiring some are leaving early for better paying private  
jobs and too few people are entering the

1:40:47

profession our district needs to remain competitive in order to attract  
and retain from an increasingly small pool

1:40:55

we cannot demand excellence without there being a cost second educational  
professionals must

1:41:01

continually prove themselves month after month year after year they  
undergo multiple observations and assessments

1:41:06

annually manage high-stakes standardized tests complete and submit  
regulatory documents like sgos write and revise

1:41:13

curriculum to meet ever changing demanding state and national standards  
complete continual professional

1:41:18

development and more all of this just to stay proficient in teaching  
their

1:41:23

contact subjects content subjects and multiple grade levels but teachers  
and other workers are not

1:41:29

just expected to teach they coach mentor and provide enrichment to  
complement and round out academics

1:41:36

they complete yearly medical safety trainings like how to correctly  
identify types of seizures they train to

1:41:43

recognize signs of abuse bullying self-harm including suicidal ideation

1:41:49

they help our children who have trouble making friends make friends

1:41:56

they learn different drills for various emergency scenarios and must be  
ready to address and manage any medical emergency

1:42:02

that can occur at any time they work to shift decades of teaching on a  
dime

1:42:08

through and still going through a pandemic they work to support the  
academic

1:42:14

development of our children and to protect our children's whole selves  
mentally emotionally and

1:42:21

physically they deflect against vitriolic miss and disinformation  
campaigns and quite

1:42:27

literally train and prepare to shield our children from bullets

1:42:33

i know what that's like i work at a school we have to shield children's  
bullets

1:42:41

we have to prepare that that could happen at any time

1:42:50

our educational professionals deserve a quick and fair resolution to  
contract negotiations they do so so much in a

1:42:57

single day never mind everything they have gone through in the past two  
plus years

1:43:02

please do not make these negotiations one more thing that they have to

1:43:08

battle we cannot expect excellence without there being a cost

1:43:14

like the who's us to have a positive and productive relationship with our

1:43:20

educators they take care of our children

1:43:25

we should take care of them thank you

1:43:45

hello i'm dave conley in 415 dawson street orange house

1:43:50

the um thanks to our board of education for the opportunity to speak um  
thanks for all that you do i know

1:43:56

it's a it's a job that um uh requires a lot of time and uh i'm

1:44:02

sure there are very few perks if any um thanks especially to all of the

1:44:08

morristown staff school staff who are here tonight and who have taught

1:44:14

my boys at baker school ues here at wams and now at the high school

1:44:20

as well um a lot of you are my neighbors too there's a lot of morristown  
staff who

1:44:26

are also morristown residents um so especially thanks for the last couple  
years all that added stress and

1:44:33

all that added work um board members um and school staff thank you for

1:44:39

everything you've done for in those last couple years um being a parent  
of two teenagers during

1:44:45

the pandemic that hasn't been a cakewalk either so um so

1:44:50

like uh others have mentioned i'm a lifelong resident morristown um it's a recurring theme

1:44:56

chosen to raise our family here i looked at this table before me i see

1:45:02

at least four of you who went to high school with me um

1:45:07

and um you made the same decision here um and we all know why

1:45:14

people want to be here in morristown it's all the uh options of nail salons and orthodontists

1:45:20

and uh title agencies and pizza

1:45:25

it could be something else um oh yeah it's the schools right so

1:45:31

morristown township public schools uh have long been held up as burlington county's gold standard of education uh

1:45:37

one of the best in the state i'm eternally grateful to the many teachers who had such a positive impact on me so

1:45:44

i'll shout out frank potious algebra one mike sutcliffe boys soccer coach and

1:45:50

the late great barbara mark spanish three four and five top notch academics athletics visual and

1:45:58

performing arts are the hallmark here i want to voice my support for the mea and their desire for a new fair contract

1:46:05

i know everyone has their own opinions of what is fair it's been a word that's

1:46:10

been discussed a lot rightfully so tonight i also know that contract negotiations are private and everyone

1:46:16

does want what's best for the students i honestly believe that here's my two cents i have never heard a contract in

1:46:22

which public school employees somehow ended up over compensated for the essential work that they do

1:46:28

what would be fair in in my opinion is uh considering that morristown is the county's gold standard

1:46:35

uh would be a contract that is resolved quickly and at the very least is equal to the contracts that have recently been

1:46:40

settled and settled in other local districts uh medford with or without the ice cream

1:46:46

cone del rand and others um and i encourage anybody else who's here tonight who agrees with everything

1:46:53

you've heard in the public comment section to come up if you don't have anything to add you can come up and just say yeah i agree with what they said so

1:47:00

thank you for your time

1:47:11

good evening my name is colette lamidi and i have a rising uh ues fourth grader

1:47:16

uh i prefer not to give my address i don't feel comfortable with that um what i wanted to say honestly has

1:47:23

been well said uh meredith i was crying wherever you are in the room

1:47:28

the compassion and the deep felt regard for our teachers and what they deserve

1:47:38

i couldn't say it better you all have heard me speak many times up here

1:47:43

what i do want to say though is what i heard said tonight from the board is that you actually supported your own

1:47:49

reasons as to why actions speak louder than words and reasons in which you need to support giving our teachers what is

1:47:57

truly a fair contract and that it would not be taking this long as a licensed

1:48:02

mental health clinician i know what the impact is of burnout

1:48:08

and low morale and what that does to individuals our teachers are not teflon they are

1:48:13

individuals they are people they are human what what happens when we linger and we

1:48:19

hold out and we're talking fairness and if you're in marriage you know that it's never 50 50. what's

1:48:26

the song like 20 30 73 what hello i i do have an education 70 30.

1:48:32

okay there has to be give because the impact of what when you

1:48:38

don't feel valued does to an individual

1:48:44

has very lasting effects our teachers give

1:48:49

a great deal of care all of you know it because you've been through the schools you have children's in the school

1:48:55

the gentleman before he said it well as far as what it means when we show

1:49:02  
that we actually value what our teachers provide to our students here and  
that we are the  
1:49:08  
stellar districts that is the model in this part of the state  
1:49:14  
you said it yourselves in terms of what you see already happening around  
the country  
1:49:21  
meredith and the young woman who spoke about the almost nine percent  
inflation  
1:49:26  
those things are not lies they're facts if we want to bring people here  
who are going to make a good impact continue the  
1:49:34  
legacy that morristown has created your your actions must speak louder  
than  
1:49:40  
your words because your words have done nothing so far our teachers  
deserve  
1:49:45  
better thank you  
1:50:00  
my name is charlene polikowski i am a class of 2004 alumni  
1:50:05  
my parents moved to morristown for the education they still live in  
morristown for the education  
1:50:11  
for their grandchildren for my nieces and nephews i had  
1:50:17  
two siblings along with me go through the township morristown education  
is a standard of  
1:50:25  
excellence they are above average and they deserve to be paid above  
1:50:31  
average for the teaching of the periods between bells  
1:50:37  
the standing in the hallways the coaching the coming to sporting events  
1:50:44  
that they're not coaching just to support the kids we all live in this  
town  
1:50:50  
because it is more sam and it is a town of excellence and we want to say  
that we live here  
1:50:58  
because of it so we need to pay our teachers and all the staff that this  
affects the  
1:51:04  
nurses the groundskeepers everybody deserves it  
1:51:10  
to be fair because they are above average so they should be paid for  
their excellent work  
1:51:18  
[Applause]

1:51:27

hi my name is christina smith and i'm a resident and graduate of the class of 2004

1:51:32

and i'm a parent i have a fifth grader at the ues i moved back to new jersey morristown to be exact because i wanted

1:51:39

my daughter to get the education i got i also have a four-year-old who goes to baker pre-k i want her to also receive

1:51:46

that same education i would not have gotten that education if it wasn't for some of my teachers that are actually

1:51:51

sitting out here um they've helped me so much and they've also helped my daughter my daughter was failing during covet

1:51:58

she's now an a student all four marking periods this year because of these

1:52:04

teachers they deserved this pay they need this phrase these students need these teachers

1:52:11

just as much as i did thank you

1:52:23

hi everyone my name is katie and i live at 348 east 2nd street i'm a morristown graduate of 2018 and i

1:52:29

just recently graduated from college i wanted to speak tonight in support of the teachers and support staff at

1:52:35

morristown because i'm so grateful for all that they've done for the current and former students

1:52:41

over the past four years in college there were so many instances where it became clear how valuable this education

1:52:46

was whether it was in extracurriculars getting through my most challenging classes learning in a pandemic and even the job

1:52:53

application and interview process as i look around the auditorium i see faces from my 13 years in the district

1:53:00

people who taught me coached me advised my clubs assisted me in the college process

1:53:05

this group supported me in many ways over the years and i feel lucky to have had such an incredible experience

1:53:11

i would like to thank them for providing students like me with the foundation we needed to do well in the real world

1:53:17

board of ed i respectfully ask you to give this group of people i respectfully ask you to consider how

1:53:23

many lives have been improved by the people in this room i think it's really apparent and all the people who spoke tonight this impact  
1:53:30

that this the group of people in this group the group of people in this room have had i asked you to give the people in this  
1:53:36

room a contract that they deserve so that others may have the same experience that i had in this district thank you  
1:53:42

[Applause]  
1:53:50

good evening my name is sarah culp i have three daughters in this school district um i want to thank you for  
1:53:56

letting me speak um i wanted to speak about two two points um first we i  
1:54:02

haven't spent my whole life in morristown we moved here about seven years ago before that we were in san diego in a  
1:54:08

very wealthy community that did not invest in their education and i can tell you that my student my daughters came  
1:54:13

here unprepared for the level of education that was provided at morristown and thankfully to  
1:54:19

the teachers they brought the girls up and they've done very well but i have experienced what it's like  
1:54:26

when a community abandons their educators and it is it doesn't matter how much money there is in the community  
1:54:31

the students will will suffer and so i have that experience the other thing i want to say is that um my daughter had  
1:54:38

uh medical issues recently and i've had to ask a lot of the teachers in this  
1:54:44

district a lot above and beyond what they've asked to do under their contract and they've always said yes and they've  
1:54:50

always supported us and i've never even had to question it so thank you for that and thank you  
1:55:06

hi board members hi teachers so funny being on the side um hi everybody  
1:55:13

um my name is anne marie leota 24 valley view terrace i'm extremely nervous coming up here  
1:55:19

just because i speak for a living but when it comes to something so personal it's so hard you know um  
1:55:24

i know this is a negotiation and i don't know who's on the committee but i ask for the people who are not on  
1:55:30

the committee who are board members to speak up speak loud we voted for you and we voted for you to be our voice

1:55:41

you need to look at the entire picture and what these teachers have gone through the past two years but i can speak personally over my own kids

1:55:49

i have two boys um and these teachers have gone above and beyond for them

1:55:55

if it wasn't for these teachers i don't think sean would have ever experienced kindness

1:56:01

and if it wasn't for them i don't think he'd be here

1:56:08

so and i'm not easy i'm not an easy parent they already don't make enough money and they had to deal

1:56:14

with me and they always took my calls all of my calls

1:56:19

dr tate and everybody else out here um but i'm a fierce advocate for

1:56:25

children of special needs superintendent you haven't met me yet but my son my son already graduated i still have a junior

1:56:31

um and he would have never accomplished all that he has in his years as a junior without the

1:56:37

teachers um from mrs potts in first grade to mrs pepperone in ap art every single teacher

1:56:45

has shown ryan unconditional support and advocacy so

1:56:50

these teachers have recently circled around ryan uh during this crazy time that we're going

1:56:56

through and they take the extra time and never bat an eye

1:57:01

so as you're negotiating i want you to think of the whole picture not just you and the kids you have but all of these

1:57:07

people who are speaking up and the kids they have and why i mean to have me speak up i

1:57:13

again hate going in public unless it's about life insurance so really

1:57:19

meet them in the middle and more so please i beg of you to put the kids priorities

1:57:25

first and therefore have the teachers be priority thank you [Applause]

1:57:36

hi everyone i'm caitlin i'm graduating in three days i'm a bit nervous because

1:57:42

my debate teacher is in this room hi mr mooney um but i just wanted to come up and address



1:57:47

the fact that you guys said that the teachers should do what is fair for the students i think that they are doing

1:57:53

what is fair for the students for the students of the future in morrison high school and they need teachers who are being

1:57:59

paid enough to do what they do every day what they've done for me over the past four years

1:58:04

and let alone the teachers i've annoyed the crap out of every day they should get paid more simply off of that especially

1:58:11

miss murphy because i complained about being taught in june but um there are so many people in this room

1:58:17

that have done so much for me and they're the only reason that i know what i want to do with my life how i want to

1:58:22

help people the people who have advised the clubs i've ran and everything like that i wouldn't be the person i am today

1:58:28

without them so i'm begging you please teach the team please pay them enough

1:58:34

they deserve it more than anyone that i could think of thank you

[Applause]

1:58:46

hello good evening i'm bishop kotru i am also a senior graduating in three years i didn't plan on speaking tonight but

1:58:53

three days hopefully three days as i said i didn't plan on speaking tonight but i told senora gerpani that

1:59:00

if i was inspired standing here that i would get up and speak and after listening to fellow students as well as

1:59:05

community members i felt that it was my duty to not only commemorate the teachers that have worked tirelessly to

1:59:10

teach me over the past four years but also sort of thank them for dealing with me for the past four years

1:59:15

um as many of the board members mentioned our grade is graduating with 175

1:59:20

students having achieved honors which means that they performed really well over the past four years and while it's

1:59:26

easy to talk about these stats it's also very easy to look over why we are able to boast about these stats which is

1:59:31

because the teachers have worked so tirelessly over the past four years um i myself know personally because i lived

1:59:38

in a different school district before i moved here from nevada and i still talked to some of my friends there and it's very easy to understand how

1:59:45

incredible the quality of education in morristown is when you've lived somewhere else i talk to my fellow my

1:59:50

friends from nevada and i see the places the colleges they're attending and the things that their schools have achieved

1:59:55

and it's easy to see that there is a clear difference and we have the teachers to thank for that at morristown we're able to brag about having students

2:00:02

win the international science fair going to top school uh music schools in the country winning debate championships

2:00:09

sports state championships and many other accolades along the way um and while i know it's easy to say

2:00:15

that we should increase the pay of the teachers without addressing all the other things that go into it but what i

2:00:21

can say is that when it comes to negotiating i hope that the board considers why we're able to boast about

2:00:26

all these accolades when it comes to coming down to a compromise over the teacher's pay thank you

2:00:41

hello and good evening my name is maya bhutani and i'm the class of 2022 valedictorian but i absolutely

2:00:46

[Applause]

2:00:53

but i absolutely would not be here and be able to say that without the teachers i've had over the last 12 years

2:00:59

i was moved to speak today because looking into the crowd i saw teachers that have taught me science math english

2:01:04

and history but beyond that these are the teachers that have caught taught me confidence self acceptance and work

2:01:09

ethic they have molded me into the person that i am today and my accomplishments in school and outside of

2:01:15

school these are the teachers who have motivated me in my worst times pick me up when i've cried too many times to

2:01:21

count and have congratulated me in my best in my best moments i'm so thankful for

2:01:27

everything that they have done and not only fostering our academic excellence but also our personal excellence

2:01:33

in morristown we talk a lot about the academic excellence and rigor of our school and that's absolutely important but it shouldn't be overlooked how much

2:01:39

these teachers do for us as people as well they have grown us into the people we are today and i'm so thankful for

2:01:45

everything that they do please pay our teachers what they deserve thank you

2:01:59

hello and good evening my name is jazlyn kohlse i am a senior at morristown high school and tonight i only have six words

2:02:04

that i want to say pay our teachers what they deserve

2:02:15

good evening my name is joel de silva and i'm also a senior at morristown high school pay our teachers what they deserve

2:02:22

[Applause]

2:02:28

good evening i'm sarah mayer i'm a senior pay our teachers what they deserve oh i was just going to say usually we

2:02:35

let everybody go before somebody goes again but okay but you're done so you know for next time

2:02:43

good evening my name is evani geary i'm also a senior pay our teachers what they deserve

2:02:53

good evening i'm sydney carey hard i'm also a senior at morristown high school pay our teachers what they deserve

2:03:04

hi everybody so i couldn't condense what i felt in six words so i'll read my paragraph so my name is hijab zadie i

2:03:11

graduate in three days as well and as a student here who moved from new york and freshman year i immediately saw how much

2:03:17

effort love and care our teachers put in into teaching us and helping us with their well-being not only did they teach

2:03:23

the curriculum so well that i actually started enjoying school they went out of their way to help students who struggled through the pandemic mentally as i did

2:03:31

mrs long who made me enjoy math when i really did not like it mrs uh lucas who

2:03:36

made me love spanish mr engel who showed me constant support when i clearly disliked physics mr faubel right there

2:03:43

who was my who listened to my endless rants and always gave me the best  
life advice which i'll carry for the rest of  
2:03:49  
my life and mrs poole who always reassured me that everything will be  
okay in life and finally mrs rubin who  
2:03:55  
made was the son in my day and always made me smile early in the morning  
when i was very tired mrs d'ambro who bent  
2:04:01  
over backwards to help every single student in the guidance department  
and help us along the way in our college  
2:04:07  
recruitment way but they also went out their way to help me when they  
were never obligated to which is very important when they had families to  
take  
2:04:13  
care of people papers to grade and other responsibilities our morristown  
teachers go out of their way to help students and  
2:04:20  
after tonight i hope we take into consideration the root of the issue and  
be transparent with facts data and  
2:04:26  
numbers to parents and teachers to find a solution for our teachers  
instead of shaming students on morristown parents  
2:04:32  
that are trying to help our teachers we should stand with them and  
support them and get them what they deserve  
2:04:38  
[Applause]  
2:04:47  
i'll squat good evening my name is grayson bunting and i'm a senior at  
morrison high school  
2:04:53  
graduating in just three days i just wrote this a lot a speech in line  
because i was inspired by my peers and i  
2:04:58  
felt that this is the least i can do for their work over the last decade  
of my life i am not exactly a naturally gifted  
2:05:04  
student however my success and acceptance into my university is entirely  
credited to the wonderful  
2:05:10  
students and sorry teachers in this room who have gone above and beyond  
and ensuring their students success  
2:05:16  
my family moved to this district due to the incredible legacy that this  
school district has imprinted on this town  
2:05:21  
through a global pandemic these teachers have stepped up and given me an  
education which i will set which will  
2:05:26  
set me up for success i cannot think of a better use of the budget than  
on the raise they undeniably need  
2:05:32

to all the teachers in this room i thank you for pushing me to become the man i am today i will never be able to put

2:05:38

into the words how much you all mean to me for that reason i will say one last sentiment pay our teachers what they

2:05:45

deserve

2:05:55

well the morristown education association may not have policy making power they do have one thing numbers

2:06:02

there are over 500 members of the mea people who are advocating for what they deserve

2:06:07

if this operated as a fair and justice then teachers with these numbers would have a raise in a matter of months as

2:06:13

the teacher from medford stated if other districts can achieve these raises in the turmoil of current inflation then

2:06:19

morristown can do it as well tonight you are giving educators the power of words as many people have gone

2:06:25

up here and spoken but will that stand against your power of the pen how many more protests will it take until the

2:06:32

board of ed realizes that there is a reason why practically every teacher at mhs is in the union and that they will

2:06:38

work endlessly to receive the fair contract that they deserve if the union was given the power that it should have

2:06:43

action would have been taken and in the plethora of expenses maintaining our education system teachers salaries would

2:06:49

be a number one priority and with that the livelihood of those who serve as the backbone of our education

2:06:56

and no fair process could a union with such power such strength resilience and support from the people receive such

2:07:02

little in return as i said the union should be a force to be reckoned with and they deserve a seat

2:07:08

at the table pay our teachers what they deserve so we met miss miss miss

2:07:15

we we appreciate your comment but we'd like to know who you are oh my name is layla romanoma senior at

2:07:21

mhs i know i just wanted to make sure they knew

2:07:30

i feel like i'm like breaking up something here because i'm karen vidal and i'm not a senior at morristown high

2:07:35

school um although i'm shorter than i think all of them um all right so i am here

2:07:42

tonight i am actually since this is still the first reading and i was going to actually address some policy and

2:07:47

procedures um specifically i'm happy to see that mr volpe is addressing student

2:07:52

safety i'd like to talk briefly i think that morristown has some make great strides

2:07:58

since i wore this shirt three years ago and unfortunately we've fallen flat since i wore this shirt three years ago

2:08:05

and spoke in may of god before the pandemic does that not seem like so long ago

2:08:10

so again i'm happy to see we're addressing some things um but some things that parents are still confused

2:08:15

about people are still not clear with our language and i'm happy that it's no longer the sun will always sunshine over

2:08:21

south valley but it will be locked down shelter in place we need the clear language as far as the drills i um hope

2:08:28

we never again ever ever again do a realistic drill of chasing dr tate

2:08:34

through the hallway because i now have the data that shows how harmful that is for our students so while the state

2:08:40

mandates that we have to have drills it doesn't mandate that we have to have realistic drills in which people are

2:08:46

chased and banging through the hallways um i'm happy to see a lot that's in terms

2:08:52

of like response but what are we doing in terms of prevention so i spoke about

2:08:57

a sandy hook free promise that would start with hello i'm fine that you guys didn't adopt it because i actually think

2:09:02

one of the best things about morristown is that you pick and choose some of the best programs out there i still believe

2:09:08

in sandy hook promise know the signs and i think we've seen how evident it is that we had some wonderful students who

2:09:14

knew the signs and reported it i think where we fall short is what happened after that i don't think the messaging

2:09:21

was very clear from administration and i think i know as a health care professional in a school district i know

2:09:27

that you're doing the things to keep that student safe because not only do i not then want to hurt others i don't

2:09:32

want them to hurt themselves make that clear to parents you can do this while protecting patient privacy

2:09:39

student privacy that you um can keep their in mind the other thing is we just

2:09:45

need to know the student isn't coming the next day after that one day a flat

2:09:50

policy after that absolutely peace student safety and student um

2:09:57

you know what i'm trying to say no not knowing who the student is comes first of course i understand that and there

2:10:02

are student-specific situations i want to make sure that the police are called for every incident because they're not

2:10:08

called for every incident around the country and parents would be shocked to know how many times that people are stopped for those reasons

2:10:14

so please just communicate that a little better with the language um i still like i said i'd like to say with sandy hill

2:10:20

promise with know the signs i would love to see us implement stop its solutions and help me there can be funding for

2:10:26

this i might have a resource to get in touch with our vp i'd be happy with work with mr volpe on this one was that my 20

2:10:33

seconds all right my last 20 seconds i promise will be quick no other profession in the world is asked to not

2:10:40

save themselves but save students first and i can tell you that my south valley

2:10:45

teachers taught me what soft targets are and they taught me how to lock my doors and they said don't try and reach that

2:10:51

thing up top because you're never going to reach it and so instead what are you doing to barricade and what are you

2:10:56

doing to get them and i can tell you right now i have had a fire a real fire in my school i've had to evacuate and

2:11:03

i've had to figure other things out but let me tell you that no one else does anything like they do in terms of safety

2:11:09

so please support our teacher thank you [Applause]

2:11:20

hi my name is leslie ackerman i'm 917 no court i was not going to speak tonight but

2:11:26

then the gentleman said if you're a parent and you care about our educators and appreciate them that you should come

2:11:31

up and just say i agree so i agree um what i also wanted to say is the past

2:11:37

few years i've listened in on zoom board meetings and the board and our community and all of

2:11:42

our teachers have faced so many challenges to put it likely um and all a lot of the times there were

2:11:48

things that were completely out of our control and i feel like reaching a fair contract with our teachers is like the one thing we can

2:11:55

control so that's what i'm asking today so can we please maybe start next year will be my daughter's

2:12:01

first time in three years starting a normal school year if we can reach a contract and give the teachers what they deserve [Applause]

2:12:15

hi can you guys hear me you can i wrote nothing um but i wanted to start by

2:12:21

talking about our paris please please start with your name oh i'll start there first my name is timmy smith

2:12:27

um and most of you already know where i live so there you go but i would like to start

2:12:33

talking about our paris um i've heard a lot of people talk about you know test scores and achieving

2:12:39

excellence and all those wonderful things but some of us have kids that won't necessarily achieve all of the

2:12:46

things that you guys are talking about my sammy is non-verbal he will never go to college

2:12:51

he's never going to do a lot of the things that you guys talked about but his parents teach him

2:12:57

how to wipe a table my son may be one of those people that you see at wegmans packing bags or wiping the tables in a

2:13:04

cafe and the paris truly care about my kid when my son had a seizure his parent was

2:13:11

crying because she cares about my kid the teacher when he elopes a thousand



2:13:18

times a month they run after him because they care about my kid

2:13:24

they go above and beyond our teachers our parents they truly understand their assignment

2:13:30

as an advocate i'm an educational advocate i do that for a living i've been to tons of schools in burlington

2:13:36

county and not all teachers are created equal not all parents are created equal some of them do not know the assignment

2:13:43

they didn't get it okay our teachers and our parents do know that and i respect you guys i

2:13:49

respect what you do and and i hope that you get what you deserve i really do um

2:13:55

i don't feel like i can say much more than was already said but um that's really it

2:14:12

i am raghav akula i'm a junior in high school and i have a vested interest in how these negotiations work out because

2:14:18

i would like an education next year so i've done debate for three years

2:14:24

nurtured by my debate debate ex advisors at school so i'm quite an experienced debater and yet i've been shaking for

2:14:32

about the past half an hour i'm still shaking and that only really happens these kind

2:14:37

of stage strike reactions only really come back when i know what i'm talking about is important not just me but to other people when it's very personal

2:14:44

when i know it has higher stakes when i know it means more than the words that are coming out of my mouth whatever they

2:14:49

may be in the next 90 seconds or so i don't think the board is taking into

2:14:55

full account what they're paying our teachers for they're not just paying them for mundane instructions they're

2:15:00

not paying them to stand in the front of the class and lecture for 40 minutes because if that was the case no high

2:15:05

schooler would be sleep deprived we would be sleeping in class anyway you pay our teachers to do more than

2:15:11

teaching you pay our teachers to help us learn you pay our teachers to be engaging you pay our teachers to be

2:15:16

creative you pay our teachers to support us through thick and thin you pay our teachers to relate to us as human beings

2:15:24

you pay our teachers to practically be our substitute parents outside of school all of these jobs are not taken into

2:15:31

account in the teacher's salary or the teachers contracts you pay teachers to have an infinite level of patience

2:15:37

dealing with all our questions i would know i asked my math teacher sitting right behind me too many questions every

2:15:43

day and he sits there answers them all the time shout out to mr sinatra if

2:15:53

if i were a teacher i would have ran out with patients with me a while ago and told me to check google instead

2:15:59

the contract doesn't take into account the enormous patience that our teachers take in giving us the education that we

2:16:05

deserve at morristown high school and i think the contract should be one that reflects us the contract doesn't

2:16:11

reflect the fact that the teachers need to relate to us as people just like them

2:16:16

who need the same emotional support as any other teenagers do so i want i've been hearing a lot

2:16:23

tonight about how everyone wants to do what's best for the students so i'm here to tell the board definitively what's

2:16:29

best for the students is what's best for the teachers let our needs allied with theirs and as my senior classmates put

2:16:35

so eloquently pair teaches what they deserve thank you

2:16:49

hi uh gwen ghetto 724 mill street um i had no intention of speaking here

2:16:54

tonight i'm not a public speaker i am a parent however of four children three

2:16:59

graduates of morristown high school one current freshman to say that these

2:17:07

educators are not absolutely outstanding is an understatement my children are who

2:17:12

they are today in large part because of these people i have three very successful two in college one graduate

2:17:20

and uh they have this school provided them with opportunities they never would have

2:17:26  
ever received so um my only question to you all is why can't  
2:17:32  
we meet their expectations when they have succeeded mine and my  
children's  
2:17:37  
expectations every day for 18 years thank you  
2:17:48  
so gwen she hates to talk in public heather mckerney  
2:17:53  
28 woodland drive a friend of mine out here somewhere i don't know where  
you are teach friend text me oh my gosh  
2:17:58  
heather are you going to talk i said no i am not here to talk i'm just  
here to support but  
2:18:05  
looking at my roberts family and you are still my family i couldn't help  
but  
2:18:10  
have to stand up and say something for all of the teachers out here  
2:18:16  
my kids have been in the school district for 13 years i have four  
children junior sophomore freshman and sixth  
2:18:23  
grader these teachers have gone above and beyond those who know me know  
2:18:29  
my children know the many struggles that we have gone through over the  
years  
2:18:35  
and besides educating them and making them  
2:18:40  
so ready for the future they have supported them and their health  
2:18:46  
supported their mental health have gone well above and beyond starting  
2:18:52  
with mrs cicale in kindergarten and all the way up um  
2:18:58  
allowing me to text them to talk to them on their private time miss bell  
2:19:04  
i'll email her at 9 30 at night when i can get my thoughts just right and  
put it down in an email and 10 minutes later  
2:19:11  
she's responding to me and always there to support um  
2:19:17  
i can't say enough about these teachers in this room not only the people  
that have taught my  
2:19:22  
children but every single person in that building because every teacher  
2:19:27  
in the building touches my children and has an impact not only on them  
but in  
2:19:32  
all my entire family and so my children have a beautiful life today  
2:19:38

and they have a bright bright future and it's because of every single person in this room so i

2:19:44

thank you and please come to an agreement and give these teachers what they deserve which is the

2:19:51

moon

2:20:03

hello there my name is elizabeth andres 130 bridgeborough road and my children are grown um i have a

2:20:10

daughter who just graduated from college my son's been graduated from college both attended schools here in morristown

2:20:17

um and but i'm here and i say ditto to every all the great things that everyone's come up here to

2:20:22

say so far um i would i would add to the something power everything that they've said and but i think i have something to offer today that not anybody has said so far

2:20:28

2:20:34

so i thought it would be really important for me to say this and i'm an educator myself i've taught for many years in another district in camden

2:20:41

county and i have experienced what these teachers

2:20:46

are experiencing right now in in that i've come to work and not had a contract

2:20:52

i've had my pay frozen and i've had my uh take-home pay decrease because of action by the school

2:21:00

board and not settling contract and so i have seen what that did to that community and i come to you here today saying i do not want this community to be torn apart

2:21:06

2:21:14

the way some other communities have in south jersey over what what's going on

2:21:19

here and i can tell you it

2:21:24

it it's just not who we are here in morristown we are all morsetonians

2:21:31

many of you have graduated from morristown schools i'm not originally from morristown but i've lived here for 28 years now this is my home

2:21:38

and this is not who we are and i just i just cannot

2:21:44

fathom you're not doing for these teachers what would

2:21:50

pay the teachers what they deserve please thank you [Applause]

2:22:05

lisa trapani so inevitably as i teach my spanish students half  
2:22:12  
of the battle is in the anticipation of what someone is going to say or  
what  
2:22:17  
the response is correct worship oh my right so if you're really listening  
2:22:24  
then you should be thinking about well what's the response going to be  
here so  
2:22:30  
on my anticipation is that well we would pay our teachers a million  
dollars a year if we could i've heard  
2:22:37  
that throughout my career well of course we would if we could so i'm  
going to talk about some numbers here  
2:22:45  
so sustainability so i have the tax levy here provided to me by mr heiser  
2:22:52  
from 2008 9 school year  
2:22:57  
so if you average out over those 14 years  
2:23:03  
the average tax increase to the morristonian is 1.79  
2:23:10  
well under two percent now let's just take a look at the last  
2:23:16  
five years so when the district said that they budgeted to two percent  
that's  
2:23:23  
fine but then when you look at the actual audited amount what was  
actually spent that year  
2:23:29  
you will see that in the 2016 17 year 59 000 was not spent  
2:23:36  
the next year 63 000 the next year 139 000 the next year 372 000 the next  
year  
2:23:45  
two hundred and fourteen thousand so that's a grand total of six hundred  
and fifty thousand dollars  
2:23:50  
now did the district spend that money on something else yes but to say  
that  
2:23:56  
there's not money for the priorities and the priorities are these  
students  
2:24:03  
and those of us who are sitting in front of you that's simply not true so  
that is money that the district chose to spend  
2:24:11  
on other things that's your own tax levy right here the second thing  
2:24:16  
rainy day so rainy day when it comes to another anticipation that might  
come up well  
2:24:23

what about when we have to place a student out of district what about  
when we have costs due to special education  
2:24:29  
whatever it might be in 2019-20 the district received 1.4 million dollars  
2:24:35  
from the state and extraordinary aid in 2020 21 1.9 million we don't know  
that  
2:24:41  
number yet for this year but it's anticipated to be at least equal to  
2:24:46  
or better than that three rainy day insurance funds so  
2:24:51  
let's just say we have a year which we have not because over the past  
five years the insurance has gone up  
2:24:57  
on an average 2.5 not like in the 90s when you could have a year when it  
went up 13 we haven't had that we joined this  
2:25:04  
outdoors the insurance fund so the amount that they have from our  
dividends is  
2:25:11  
1.5 million dollars that is what this fund is holding  
2:25:16  
in in their funds of our money from what they have saved from us so i  
want to  
2:25:22  
address this issue of sustainability and the money that's available so i  
just told you all those facts i know my three  
2:25:28  
minutes are out yeah thanks mr penny  
2:25:45  
all right uh looks like i will entertain a motion to close the first  
public comment  
2:25:52  
session okay uh got a second oh  
2:26:01  
just under the wire this will be quick sorry um hi everyone  
2:26:07  
my name is abby brooks i graduated from class of 2015  
2:26:12  
from morristown high school and i'm a little nervous right now because  
i'm seeing all my old teachers  
2:26:18  
from the past years um i kind of feel like i'm interviewing for  
2:26:24  
jake from state farm with all the red shirts right now which wouldn't be  
a bad idea because  
2:26:30  
jake from state farm makes commission bonus salary gets rewarded  
2:26:36  
anyway um i just wanted to come up here quickly because i wanted to point  
out something  
2:26:44

that was sitting with me um while i was listening to the board and the superintendent  
2:26:51  
specifically mr superintendent you and i quote said  
2:26:57  
you want to gain the mea members trust trust is something that is earned and  
2:27:05  
not given i think that we all know that and i hope that  
2:27:10  
um the faculty here will gain that trust and the respect that i was given as a  
2:27:15  
student and with that um i know i'm not allowed to ask any questions but a rhetorical  
2:27:23  
question why are you all trying to fix something that is not broken  
2:27:28  
thank you [Applause]  
2:27:42  
okay so we have a motion and a second are there any others  
2:27:48  
okay so all in favor closing public comment aye  
2:27:53  
any opposed extensions so thanks to everyone for those comments  
2:28:00  
as i i said at the outset we definitely appreciate hearing from everybody  
2:28:06  
okay so um now we'll move on to reports to the board um  
2:28:13  
so under letter a we have uh five items  
2:28:18  
so the financial reports of the board secretary treasurer's report cafeteria report approval of budget transfer and approval  
2:28:25  
of bills so i'll entertain a motion for uh approval of items one through five  
2:28:30  
[Music] okay thank you any questions or comments  
2:28:36  
[Music] all in favor  
2:28:41  
aye the opposed extensions okay  
2:28:46  
motion carries moving on to recommendations of the superintendent uh under letter a we've got  
2:28:52  
uh policies and procedures that were spoken about before by dr snyder for first reading and second reading  
2:28:59  
so we have a motion for the approval of items one and two  
2:29:05  
second thank you all and uh i'm sorry any comments or questions  
2:29:11

okay all in favor guess i gotta wrap it up

2:29:17

all right under letter b uh number one uh home instruction for 21 and 22

2:29:23

these are all educational program items number two special education out of district placements 2122

2:29:28

special education out of district placements for 2223 burlington county alternative school placement for

2:29:35

special education in district placements for 2223 consulting service agreement special education services contract and

2:29:43

special uh there's actually two motions for that uh so i'll entertain a motion for approval of

2:29:48

items one through eight please thank you second oh any comments questions

2:29:58

okay all in favor aye any opposed

2:30:03

i will abstain from number three good mr heiser

2:30:10

yes okay moving on uh letter c finance and

2:30:16

business expenditures for travel approval requests uh and

2:30:23

let's see am i missing something it says one and two oh sorry

2:30:29

yeah sorry wrong page uh number two donations three annual meeting notice uh for non-tuition

2:30:35

student uh non-resident tuition students five summer enrichment and extended daycare

2:30:40

tuition rates for 22.23 bus emergency evacuation drills number six uh seven

2:30:45

interlocal services agreement for it services eight burlington county educational services unit resolution

2:30:52

nine uh the burlington county educational services unit non-public contracted services for 2223. number ten

2:30:58

athletic organization membership for 2223. uh 11 comprehensive equity plan uh 2223

2:31:05

statement of assurance and let's see uh 12

2:31:10

the student transportation bid uh 13. this is the long one chapter 47

2:31:16

annual notification 14 participation uh the resolution for participating in the joint services

2:31:22



agreement number 15 teacher evaluation system annual adoption 16 the principal  
2:31:28  
evaluation system annual adoption 17 the transfer to capital reserve the  
2:31:35  
not to exceed amount of 500 000 uh number 18 approval of a cottasil to the mea board of education agreement  
2:31:43  
number 19 the bid award for janitorial services and while it's not printed in  
2:31:48  
the distributed version of the agenda we discussed we amended this in executive  
2:31:55  
acb services incorporated is um filling in the blanks there uh  
2:32:02  
it's for we opened four bids on june 10th acb services incorporated was the  
2:32:09  
successful bidder uh for a total amount of three million 261  
2:32:14  
612 dollars um they were the the low bid as noted in  
2:32:20  
section one and section two uh we're authorizing the school business administrator to execute a contract with  
2:32:25  
acb services so that will take effect immediately on june 14th uh 2022 so that's all number  
2:32:32  
19 there for that bid that was amended in executive again number 20 fy 22 emergent capital  
2:32:39  
maintenance needs grant 21 uh settlement agreement so for all of  
2:32:45  
those items numbers 1 through 21 may we have a motion to approve those items  
2:32:52  
thank you thank you any uh comments questions  
2:32:58  
all right all in favor aye any opposed  
2:33:04  
extensions okay all right that one carries  
2:33:10  
so letter d employee relations so we have uh appointments um and and some of  
2:33:16  
these are as amended in executive session so appointments uh number two retirement number three resignations  
2:33:23  
number four leaves of absence number five substitutes six change in hours and adjustment to salary uh 22-23  
2:33:30  
appointments for the ma uh morristown um administrators association thank you

2:33:37  
um number eight 22-23 appointments for non-affiliated staff  
2:33:44  
there's a long list there [Music] so so uh number nine uh i won't read  
the  
2:33:49  
numbers anymore just go through these 22 23 reappointments for  
secretaries paraprofessionals buildings and grounds  
2:33:54  
bus drivers edc staff educational services job coaches delanco shared  
services incentive uh the employees with  
2:34:01  
black seal stipends athletics co-curriculars clubs those stipends  
volunteers homebound instructors  
2:34:08  
presenters curriculum writing staff extended school year staff  
supplemental reading and math serve summer teaching  
2:34:14  
staff summer enrichment staff summer transportation staff summer  
evaluation staff or cst summer  
2:34:21  
staff hours summer painters special projects assistant manager job  
2:34:27  
description and the nighttime head custodian job description so those 32  
items uh yes that we had the marathon  
2:34:34  
discussion and executive about and amended several of them are a few of  
them uh i'll entertain a motion for  
2:34:40  
approval of those items 1 through 32. okay  
2:34:45  
did we get a second okay any questions comments  
2:34:53  
did i miss any okay all right thank you all right all in favor  
2:34:59  
oh sorry roll call vote roll call dr alberti yes mr carol burns  
2:35:06  
miss foulds macaluso yes miss mcpolis mrs morano yes  
2:35:13  
miss romano mr villanueva dr schneider yes mr weeks  
2:35:19  
yes thank you thank you everybody okay so moving on uh letter uh 10 x  
2:35:27  
suspensions uh we have two items under that um recommend uh the board  
approve the  
2:35:32  
the following hip cases as noted in the agenda can i entertain a motion  
for approval of  
2:35:38  
those items thank you thank you any questions or comments  
2:35:46  
all in favor aye any opposed extensions  
2:35:53  
what one ascension okay it's noted

2:36:00

[Music] again uh all right uh 11 uh

2:36:06

informational only you have the enrollment information so uh we are quickly back to

2:36:11

i'm sorry question uh any old business

2:36:18

okay any new business for the discussion

2:36:24

okay moving past that now we are back to our second public comment session uh this public comment section

2:36:31

is available for uh items that are not necessarily on the agenda so the same

2:36:36

rules apply though three minutes we'll give you a 10 second notification please state your name address as you

2:36:42

approach the mic you can address the board see somehow the mic has gotten turned to address the

2:36:48

audience it should be the other way please do not

2:36:54

direct any comments specifically to a board member thank you mr arie excellent job

2:37:00

okay so i'll entertain a motion to open the general public comment

2:37:07

thank you for the people in my eye line

2:37:12

all right all in favor aye any opposed

2:37:17

okay please approach the microphone lamidi again i just wanted to make the

2:37:23

comment um actually hopefully i can directly respond to mr volpe he's not a

2:37:28

member of the board but i wanted to say thank you for your words and your remarks earlier in the opening

2:37:35

where you spoke about prioritizing inclusivity and helping to have students who don't necessarily feel

2:37:42

seen working on that and i really appreciate that and i'm looking forward to what that means for our district and my hope

2:37:49

is that this board and whomever is on the board in the coming year will stand

2:37:55

behind you and support you in those efforts so thank you

2:38:11

i'm going to cry bridget b potts i live at robert school before that

2:38:17

i lived at 123 south garth field and before that i lived at 608 grand avenue

2:38:23

i don't live in morristown anymore but i will always be a morristonian for 21 years i have come to this

2:38:30

microphone filled with hope each time somehow thinking

2:38:36

that whether it was about class size or pre-first or our settlement because unfortunately

2:38:42

every three years we seem to be in the same spot again always thinking maybe if i say that one thing

2:38:49

maybe that'll be enough for the board of education to look at things differently

2:38:56

so i took all these notes and i was super excited and i had all these sleepless nights and i'd go into school

2:39:01

and i'd share them with my colleagues and every time i got the same response

2:39:07

they're not gonna care so that night i'd go home and i think

2:39:12

all right instead of sharing the stories of what the paraprofessionals have done or the secretaries have done

2:39:19

what if i share about my personal story what if i share what kovit looked like

2:39:24

for me personally versus what it looked like for me as a professional

2:39:32

so i go in and i share that and guess what they told me again they're not going to care

2:39:39

so i went back again that night and instead of giving up said you know what i got it

2:39:45

i'm going to talk to them about what this settlement means from my colleagues

2:39:53

it's great to hear we deserve it i know we've earned it but we need it

2:39:59

this is our livelihood i may not have children i have 19 in my

2:40:05

classroom this year that are my kids but my colleagues do so humor me

2:40:11

i'm going to make this about that because let's remember they have families

2:40:17

so i'm going to share some stories i'll be brief i promise mr commando i already see you with your

2:40:22  
timer and just here because this is personal this is personal

2:40:29  
we need this we have bills to pay we have family members to take care of

2:40:36  
you know what our salary guides look like and i know it's going to look like i'm

2:40:43  
trying to have a pity party i promise i'm not i'm looking out at these dedicated colleagues and this is for

2:40:48  
them and i hope it might resonate with some of you so here i go

2:40:56  
tonight this is about my colleagues

2:41:01  
whose partner lost their job or took a pay cut it's about my colleagues who are single

2:41:08  
parents who have a child that needs extra help whether academically or emotionally but there's an out-of-pocket

2:41:14  
cost this is for my veteran staff colleagues who have their adult children that still

2:41:22  
need their help financially this is for my colleagues who lost their

2:41:27  
partner and are now supporting their family on a single income

2:41:34  
this is for my colleagues you carry around a picture of their salary guy this is true i didn't make any of this

2:41:40  
up and they count how many more steps until they'll be financially stable

2:41:47  
this is for my colleagues who put gas and food on a credit card every month because they can't afford it but still

2:41:53  
bought your children end of the year gifts and bubbles and scratch and sniff stickers and snacks when they don't have

2:41:59  
food this is personal this is our livestream

2:42:04  
could you um interrupt start start your is anybody else coming up to

2:42:10  
speak okay because your your three minutes are up so please

2:42:15  
if you'd like you can start another sorry okay well thanks i appreciate that so bottom line it's already what are the

2:42:22  
rules yeah now i agree i get it okay this is personal this is our livelihood

2:42:28  
my colleagues and i need this money to provide for our loved ones

2:42:34  
this settlement is not just what we deserve it's a necessity for us

2:42:39

this is not this is our life

2:42:45

this is how we provide for the people we love and we protect yours every day and we educate them every day so let's get

2:42:51

this done you know what i want mick you know what i want dr schneider i want to be walking with you

2:42:57

to try and i'm not calling you guys out i'm saying in the spirit of partnership and go to those legislators that's what

2:43:05

morristown should be spending their time doing and let's go to them and let's talk to them about their school funding that is

2:43:12

the kind of crew this is what we should be spending our time doing i won't wear my red

2:43:17

i'll pick a different color but let's insert our energy where it's worthwhile thank you thanks for giving me extra

2:43:23

time

2:43:41

and i ask already but are there any other comments

2:43:47

okay

2:43:55

um i live here in town i have not received my full more sound parent training my kids are still little so

2:44:02

i'm still learning a lot um i came here really because i wanted to learn i know this obviously has to be a very nuanced

2:44:07

conversation and um all the professionals here and and the board um know so much more than i do

2:44:14

so i really wanted to come and learn and it's my first board meeting in a long time i was at

2:44:19

senior doing stand-up at audubon high school 104. um

2:44:24

this is tough and i i so appreciate how personal it is right because we work to get paid

2:44:30

the exception of that might be like nurses and teachers who um you know work to save lives and i just

2:44:38

think i understand the personal aspect but i also don't live in a vacuum and i think

2:44:43

sometimes we do here in morristown specifically so i want to talk about the practical quickly because like these

2:44:49

teachers if they don't get their contract they're going to leave the district these amazing students that i heard get up and speak my kids aren't

2:44:55

going to maybe have the same opportunity they do that makes me sad sad face i uh

2:45:02

i also just feel like we're in an atmosphere where labor is more of a conversation i think we need

2:45:07

to respect that um the nine percent i thought nine was a little high i was coming in at eight i

2:45:13

don't think teachers are asking for eight um but everything's expensive so i just think like

2:45:19

i would like to learn more i also want my voice to be heard i think it's important that we think about this not just um but the

2:45:26

extremely emotional way but also at the very logical way that we don't want to lose these

2:45:31

incredibly talented staff members thanks

2:45:46

hi i'm lisa o'donnell 145 avon terrace i spoke at the last board meeting so i

2:45:52

won't run through my whole story about my son daniel who's a junior

2:45:57

but i did want to address some of the things that were raised earlier by the president and

2:46:03

superintendent and words that i heard tonight were trust

2:46:09

fairness equity excellence and inclusion

2:46:15

and coming from more of a corporate background than an education background i see those as

2:46:21

such important values i mean how can you argue with values right and they should be the goal of all of us the citizens and

2:46:28

educators and parents but in my background you could throw all

2:46:33

these values out to the people that work with you and for you but they don't really mean anything

2:46:39

unless you have behaviors and goals for those behaviors

2:46:45

and um i think that's what we're asking for tonight i don't think there's any disagreement on those nice values

2:46:52

but there's definitely some space when it comes to the behaviors

2:46:58

and particularly what we've just gone through and we've talked about before this just doesn't seem like the moment

2:47:05

to try to fix the broken public education system in our state on the backs of the people here in this room

2:47:14

[Applause] the last thing i want to say and it is a

2:47:20

little personal and it's a little bit about daniel but i just want you to take this away um

2:47:26

everybody gets a yearbook i actually didn't buy one as freshman in sophomore year it was covid they're expensive i

2:47:32

have two older kids and 100 yearbooks in my house already but this year i bought the yearbook

2:47:37

and he came home with it and threw it on the counter and was so excited and i didn't really get a

2:47:44

chance to look at it until yesterday morning when i was putting it back in his backpack to make sure he got

2:47:49

something signed and as the mom of a special education student you can imagine i get a little nervous

2:47:55

are people going to sign his yearbook is he going to sign theirs appropriately although i'm less nervous now because i

2:48:02

know these teachers and i know that's not going to be an issue my husband actually texted this to

2:48:10

a couple of people last night he heard me gasp as i went through the yearbook real quickly before i put in the

2:48:16

backpack i got to the sports section it's just flipping through

2:48:21

and introducing the sports section of the yearbook

2:48:26

was the best hockey player forgive me if i if she isn't but to me she is

2:48:31

the best basketball player full page double spread and daniel o'donnell

2:48:38

the best unified soccer guy in my life

2:48:50

the value mr volpe of inclusion we have more work to do and i am that

2:48:55

mom that's always pushing for that that spread was a student edited

2:49:04

piece students decided to put those three people front and center

2:49:11

because these people for the many years leading up to junior and

2:49:17

senior year had guided them on what the value of inclusion really



2:49:22

means and to me you know he could graduate tomorrow and

2:49:28

we would feel really like this has been such a wonderful experience i'm glad he doesn't

2:49:33

because i still have he still has more to go but that is the value and i guess i'm asking

2:49:39

asking for the behavior back don't let these people go into the summer without a contract please

2:50:08

trying to discern if people are going to the exit or coming to the microphone [Music]

2:50:15

exit okay all right we will then entertain a motion to close public comment

2:50:24

second all in favor hi hey thank you um so this portion i will

2:50:32

ask uh is there anything for the good of the order

2:50:38

chair recognizes dr alberti uh good evening uh i will say for those

2:50:45

of you that are unaware or don't know me i am a member of the negotiations committee of the morristown board of

2:50:50

education i am officially i think the senior most member of the board of education and

2:50:56

participated in the negotiation committee as chair during our last round of negotiations

2:51:04

still moved by our meeting last month i will share with you that i am the daughter of a public school teacher

2:51:10

uh i am a former teacher and an educator for 32 years now

2:51:15

31 years do the math um and i have a daughter who currently

2:51:22

attends morristown schools and as i have shared with some of her teachers she and i both consider many morristown

2:51:28

high school teachers as some the best friends that she has right now so i

2:51:33

will tell you with full-throatedness that i support and i value what each and every one of

2:51:39

you do every day as a member of this negotiations committee believe me this job would be very easy

2:51:48

if all we had to consider was the value and contributions that each and every one of you make every day i know it i

2:51:55

see it i've lived it uh and i value it tremendously that would be easy

2:52:02

there is more that we have to consider what does it mean to be fair what does it look like to engage in this process

2:52:09

there is in fact a process negotiations doesn't happen in this room it doesn't happen on the streets of main

2:52:15

street it happens at the table and speaking for myself as a very

2:52:20

committed member to this committee i'm proud of every one of the contributions of every single member of this committee

2:52:25

in this process we do want to settle this we wanted to settle this months ago there is no

2:52:32

value or interest to any one of us as a board as a member of this committee to prolonging this process

2:52:39

every comment that was made here wasn't of a surprise or a shock to us

2:52:44

we have seen you we have heard you we do value you we don't want this to go on

2:52:50

we have two weeks left before the contract expires it is absolutely our

2:52:55

intention to be there for you to have those conversations not just hear what you have to say but

2:53:02

get to the negotiation table and get to a settlement i said at the end of the last board meeting i thought we were

2:53:08

close i still think we can get there um but it takes both sides to get to that

2:53:14

settlement to get to that negotiation and you know whatever folks want to say about why we're not there

2:53:21

there is a process we can't speak publicly about every single thing that's happening in negotiations but know that

2:53:28

many of the comments that we heard today from parents from some of you about what's happening

2:53:34

to the profession i see it every day in my day-to-day job as well those are the same

2:53:39

care and considerations that we are making in the decisions that we're making we want you guys to have a good

2:53:46

summer you deserve a good summer and we want to get to a settlement and i just feel compelled to give our human side of this

2:53:54

to know that there's lots going on but none of this is taken lightly and yeah we look forward to working with the mea

2:54:01

negotiations committee and and hope to get you know you guys some good news by the end of the

2:54:06

contract here thanks dr alberti

2:54:12

dr schneider no i uh yeah i'll add i just wanted to similarly echo

2:54:20

i was really heartened by everything i heard tonight and similar to sandra it's not a surprise i've lived it with my

2:54:26

kids um i work in education i taught high school in south philadelphia i know all too

2:54:33

well the inequities that exist um and i don't need convincing of anyone's in

2:54:41

this room value or what you do uh i and anyone who knows me i hope

2:54:46

knows that's true but uh certainly that is as absolutely the case i don't take the cost-benefit analysis

2:54:55

of the effect that this process has on you or our kids

2:55:00

and our students lightly um and i think about that in every day in the context of how all

2:55:07

of this fits together um while well i mean clearly there is still

2:55:13

a difference i actually think there's quite a there's a much there's much more that we agree on

2:55:19

in the context of why we donate our time and do what we do

2:55:25

uh and tonight only makes me prouder that i've decided to volunteer my time

2:55:32

to do what we do um so like i said i have every intent to

2:55:37

do exactly what we've been doing for the previous however many months

2:55:42

but it has nothing to do with um you know some perceived lack of value

2:55:48

or anything like that um quite the contrary so

2:55:54

thank you dr snyder any anybody else have anything for the good of the order

2:55:59

at this point

2:56:04

thanks so much i really appreciate i first i'd like to echo what sandra and mark snyder said i

2:56:11

feel all the same deep feelings of value and appreciation for the teacher and

2:56:16

broader staff community and i also really appreciate all the members of the community who came here

2:56:22

tonight to speak up and share your feelings and beliefs but i do have i guess

2:56:29

i'd say some kind of concern because i think that some of those statements that were made that teachers are not getting

2:56:36

equal pay and that we're paying the bare minimum and that we don't care and are not negotiating in good faith some of

2:56:43

those are conclusions that can't be made with the publicly available information

2:56:48

because the terms of the negotiation are private and being handled by the negotiations committee

2:56:55

and i just wanted to echo what mick said at the outset that we are very clearly committed to

2:57:01

negotiating responsibly and negotiating a fair contract we have a commitment

2:57:08

to the community at large to discharge our role and obligations as board of

2:57:13

education members and are exercising that in good faith and i think maybe the last and most

2:57:19

important point that i want to make is that i'm so so incredibly proud of the students who got up to speak up

2:57:27

because that takes a lot of personal courage and at the same time that i'm so proud of them i'm also very saddened for

2:57:35

are seniors because in the spirit of transparency and being open and honest about how i

2:57:42

feel i am saddened and disheartened to hear that there are some teachers who may not

2:57:47

go to graduation and some teachers who are not writing letters of recommendation for our students

2:57:54

i don't think that that's a tactic that will move us forward in a positive and productive way and i just wanted to

2:58:00

share um that if that's the case that's the way that i feel so thank you for listening to me as i speak up because

2:58:06

for many months i was on the other side of the microphone and now i have the privilege of being on the board

2:58:19

thank you miss macaluso is there anybody else

2:58:28

okay so you know i'll just

2:58:34

add uh i think i said most of what i i believe and felt at the beginning

2:58:41

um of the things i said at the beginning

2:58:47

was i appreciate hearing the stories people sharing the anecdotes

2:58:52

telling what this means to people showing the emotion

2:58:58

i could see how you know some might think oh isn't that uncomfortable

2:59:03

it's not because i feel the same way

2:59:08

i my parents are both educators uh over 50 years combined

2:59:14

um i like to say my brother i have a brother and a sister also graduates of morristown i'm the

2:59:19

oldest i'm the only one who didn't teach in a classroom but i've worked in education

2:59:25

for over 20 years i understand

2:59:31

i understand what it means to commit your life to education

2:59:37

i found you know my way of trying to do it by working in the in the fields that

2:59:42

i've worked in working for the organizations that i've worked for and also

2:59:48

it was a great accomplishment for me to get onto this board because i wanted to contribute and give back

2:59:55

in a community that's given me so much i wanted it so badly that i i suffered

3:00:02

losing more times than i've i've won and then i was on i lost and i wanted to come back

3:00:09

during coven and people what is wrong with you and that by the way those people are my wife

3:00:15

um so you know while i am heartened to hear

3:00:20

all of the support and share and echo all the support

3:00:26

it's like dr alberti and dr snyder said

3:00:32

to suggest that we don't care i mean i i understand where that sentiment may come from but

3:00:38

hopefully those of you i talk to those of you i i see whether it's in the schools

3:00:45

those of you have taught my children those of you i talked to on main street when it would have been just as easy to

3:00:50

stay in my car or hide in the karate studio but i want you to see that we understand we see you

3:00:57

we appreciate you and that does not take away from what we need to

3:01:04

do together to get through this negotiation process and i

3:01:10

like the others up here want to spend the time and the effort on getting to the settlement because

3:01:15

like i said also in my opening remarks didn't expect to be here at this point don't want to be here at this point

3:01:26

but we are here and so we have two more weeks before this expires

3:01:31

so we're willing and we're ready to meet and continue to work this out

3:01:38

as we owe it like i said in fairness to you to our students to our community

3:01:44

so thanks for staying i actually

3:01:49

i'm appreciative of how many people are still here at this point so all right

3:01:55

any other board members have any comments for the good of the order

3:02:01

all right um i'll entertain a motion for adjournment

3:02:08

second

3:02:15

second okay all in favor aye any opposed extensions

3:02:21

okay thank you everybody have a good night get home safely

3:02:51

you