

Transcript of 7-6-22 BOE Special Meeting

10:23

just a quick note James said that it'll be about 15-20 minutes before they actually get over here

34:19

I have to go

34:24

okay I apologize we're running a bit behind I

34:31

don't need a microphone

34:39

I apologize uh for being behind a little bit we were having a robust discussion

34:44

but thank you for your patience we're just another moment we have one more board member who will be here

34:52

very soon

34:58

if anybody would like an agenda right here

35:28

okay I thought you said something we're affirmative

35:37

thank you on the YouTube videos

35:52

yeah I always miss it though yeah so thanks for reminding me okay

36:06

albeit a bit behind for this portion of the meeting we did start the actual meeting on time but um the uh special

36:13

meeting this special meeting of the Moorestown Township Board of Education is called to order uh this meeting is

36:19

called a conformance with the open public meetings act with adequate notice provided as follows uh The Courier Post

36:24

on July 1 2022 also the Burlington County Times on the same date like to

36:29

ask everybody um if we could all have a moment of silence and um

36:35

sad to be saying it again but thinking about additional victims of gun violence in

36:41

our country

36:55

thanks everyone please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance foreign

37:16

thanks everyone I'm Mr Heiser please do the roll call Dr Alberti

37:23

this is our Cara Burns Mrs fowles Macaluso here

37:28

Mrs mcopoulos Miss Morano here that's Romano Mr Villanueva Dr Schneider

37:37

here Mr weeks president thank you okay the board

37:42

um has already met an executive session again I apologize that ran a bit long

37:48

so we will move on to uh our public comment our first public comment this is

37:54

uh on agenda items so once we take the vote and open public

38:01

comment um same process applies please I guess you guys are all over here

38:07

Mike's over there or you can go to the mic or you can stand here um but um

38:13

you uh we'll have three minutes up to three minutes excuse me up to three minutes uh

please don't address any

38:19

individual member of the board please keep your uh comments uh you know the whole

you know the whole

38:26

Spiel so all right I will request a motion uh to open public comment

38:32

okay all in favor aye any opposed extensions

38:38

okay yes I'm sorry actually please use the mic

38:43

um so that the people on the live stream can hear so is there anyone who would like to make a public comment

38:52

all at once okay all right seeing no one move in that

38:57

direction I will entertain a motion to close public comment

39:03

okay all in favor aye any abstentions opposed

39:08

okay so the next item on the agenda is a the approval of a memorandum of

39:14

agreement with the Morristown Education Association for July 1 2022 to June 30th

39:20

2025. um I'll entertain a motion yeah

39:27

thanks yes I'm too breathy when I talk

39:34

so it's the passion um so uh motion for approval of the mem

39:40

said memorandum okay okay uh any comments or questions

39:47

at this time to make a comment I just really would like to um as a board member not on the

39:54

negotiations committee I really would like to um extend my gratitude and appreciation to the uh members of that committee

40:02

um I really appreciate that throughout the process anytime I called any of the members to kind of uh ask some questions

40:10

um you know get some feedback you know everyone responded really quickly and I I know that it was a arduous task and

40:17

and so I do appreciate the way as a board member not on the committee um everyone you know was able to answer

40:23

my questions and uh thankfully keep me involved to the point where I feel really comfortable than making this vote

40:30

today so I really do want to thank everyone for their efforts

40:35

thank you any other go ahead no I'll just say

40:42

I want to thank um Mark villanue the Sandra Alberti uh make

40:48

weeks and just um the entire uh mea committee for their work

40:54

um the process was very long but I am very appreciative of all the support and

41:01

uh thought that went into it um I I came from a place where trying to

41:08

balance the needs of the district and the students while also always coming from a

41:16

place of being as like fair and Equitable to the staff

41:21

um and I know me personally I started and ended in a place where I felt like both the

41:27

things those things happened the entire time um so I just I am very comfortable with

41:33

where we are now in terms of both of those things um and again I just want to thank the

41:39

committee for their at times tireless help as well as input and support

41:48

so I just want to say as a member of Committee of the committee I first appreciate Mark Snyder's leadership of

41:55

the committee kind of not not even having done this last time and then chairing it this time uh certainly was a

42:01

steep learning curve and um also want to thank you know to a person every single

42:07

uh member of the negotiations committee um those of you who know me on the board

42:13

and in the audience know uh how passionately I believe in the promise of public education and

42:19

um public education that is run by a committee that represents the community and I think we came to this with very

42:26

diverse experiences very diverse perspectives but always thinking about you know our goal going into this was

42:33

the effective and efficient running of this school district to best serve the students of this community and even

42:39

though we had different approaches different perspectives we kept ourselves to that in every step of the way and um

42:47

I just think you know getting to a settlement is you know a testament to everyone's

42:53

commitment and you know to to my further championing the importance of public

42:58

education being run by locally elected school board members so I appreciate everybody in that

43:06

okay any other comments questions discussion I guess I'll just

43:12

I'll offer my thanks as well uh to the committee but especially to James Heiser

43:18

um I think he uh uh I don't know how you do it but

43:25

tons of time thank you so thank you it obviously uh wouldn't we wouldn't have

43:30

been able to accomplish it without you so thank you and I think you know um

43:36

as Lauren had said at times it was tumultuous but hopefully we can move forward

43:42

uh together um I think I you know I think the the the future

43:50

here is bright but not without its challenges and

43:55

um you know I think we can as a group continue to advocate

44:01

for the state to fully fund us um you know the state just passed a

44:08

budget that's over 50 billion dollars with a massive Surplus and the funding formula is still not fully funded for us

44:15

so I think there are things that we can do together to try to accomplish that

44:20

um and even locally there's um you know there's there's new housing

44:26

projects that my understanding is we don't currently anticipate to receive

44:31

any tax revenue to support the hundreds of students that may come here and I think together as a group we can

44:37

advocate for our fair share to make sure that we can continue to provide an actual excellent

44:43

education here um so look forward to moving forward together uh and again James thank you

44:55

okay anyone else

45:00

okay well I I don't want to believe this I want to get to the vote but I I do want to just

45:07

kind of echo all the sentiments here I mean working with this committee

45:12

especially with the leadership of Dr Snyder um I did an outstanding job I really

45:19

appreciated how you were able to kind of help us all keep focused and and work

45:25

together to get the best outcome I appreciate the meas negotiating

45:31

committee um it was you know definitely um when you have passionate people coming

45:37

together um you know especially if they have different ideas about how to get to an outcome

45:42

um it could take you know it could be a process let's just characterize it there but the

45:49

important thing is as I said all along I knew we would get to a place where

45:54

we'd have something that would be acceptable and help us move forward

45:59

and you know keeps in mind you know Dr Snyder you mentioned um balancing the

46:05

the needs uh and the and being fair to the Educators that we value uh also the

46:12

children and then frankly I've said all along too uh the commitment to the community um we owe this community

46:18

um continued uh Excellence right uh to the to the best of our ability

46:25

and I think what we've come up with is uh something

46:30

that's sustainable that will help the community um be assured that we will

46:35

be able to continue this forward so um thanks also to my fellow committee members

46:41

um Mr Heiser yeah I'm in awe so thank you

46:47

um and and please you know continue to do the great work you are and then also I want to have a thanks to our fellow

46:54

board members um as Miss Romano mentioned she reached out all the board

47:01

members um have reached out to varying degrees but all to a significant degree and

47:07

asked us uh those of us on the committee uh to help them understand the process and I appreciate their engagement

47:15

um and whatever you know however we go forward I just appreciate your efforts

47:21

and your dedication um just you know for being part of this board so with that and if there's nobody else

47:28

who wants to say anything I can ask Mr Heiser to do a roll call vote please

47:34

Dr Alberti yes yes Mrs arcara Burns Mrs fallow's Macaluso

47:41

mcopoulos Mrs Moreno yes

47:47

Mr Villanueva yes Dr Snyder yes Mr weeks yes thank you

47:55

okay thanks everybody okay um moving on we have the

48:01

superintendent's HIV report so I'll entertain a motion to approve

48:06

the hrb cases listed in the agenda that were discussed in executive session

48:13

thank you any comments

48:22

at the virtual meeting okay any other comments or questions

48:28

okay all in favor aye any opposed extensions

48:36

two abstentions

48:43

okay thank you that motion carries all right next uh we have a open public comment

48:49

period so again I forgot about the come to the mic state

48:55

your name everything else that we've said before all right um motion to open public comment please

49:04

all in favor aye opposed abstentions okay our open public comment period is

49:11

open nobody looks like they're making a move so motion to close public comment people

49:19

exactly all right all in favor aye oppose abstentions

49:25

okay well looks like uh we can then move on to entertaining a motion for a German

49:30

emotion for adjournment all right all in favor

49:36

aye aye no opposed abstentions okay all right well thank you everybody

49:43

um again appreciate your patience um and uh congratulations so thanks

49:48

everybody have a great night