

## Transcript of September 20, 2022 BOE Monthly Meeting

0:08

okay thank you everybody the regular meeting of the morristown township board of education is called to

0:14

order this meeting is called in conformance with the open public meetings act with adequate notice provided as follows in the courier post

0:21

on july 1 2022 and with burlington county times on the same date [Music]

0:30

oh that's me okay it's like who's talking over there um

0:36

so okay uh i'd like to ask if we could uh have a moment of silence please

0:46

[Music]

0:53

thank you everybody please rise for the pledge of allegiance

0:58

i pledge allegiance to the flag of the united states of america and to the republic for which stands

1:05

one nation under god indivisible with liberty and justice for all

1:15

thank you everybody mr heiser would you please do the roll call dr alberti here

1:22

this is our cara burns mrs fallows macaluso here miss mikopoulos here miss morano here

1:30

miss romano mr villanueva dr schneider here mr weeks president

1:36

thank you thank you mr heiser okay the board has already met an executive session and

1:44

move past that part um i'd like to call for approval of the minutes for uh

1:50

for august 16th uh the executive session in the regular meeting may i have a motion please

1:57

thank you thank you all in favor any abstentions

2:05

opposed and i'm in favor too i forgot to say that

2:10

okay are there any communications any of the board members or administration would like to share at this moment

2:19

no

2:24

uh we can do that during committee reports but yes please remind me if i forget please  
cheryl thanks

2:31

okay all right hearing none we'll move on to the president's remarks

2:38

so good evening again everybody the last time we met the school year was just over the  
horizon

2:43

since then we've we've gotten those opening day nerves out of the way had our back to  
school nights and things are generally

2:49

going well while there are still a few things being worked out like bus schedules and in  
my house getting new fifth graders to wake

2:56

up on time things seem to be moving generally in the right direction my remarks today i  
wanted to lay out

3:02

some thoughts and plans for this board for the upcoming school year as many of you  
may be aware after a

3:08

lengthy process we began implementing a new three-year strategic plan in the latter half  
of 2019.

3:15

that plan was intended to carry us through the 21-22 school year understandably though  
due to the

3:21

pandemic some of the elements of the plan were deferred or altered we have also had  
three different people

3:28

sitting in the superintendent's seat in that time period so i think it would be fair to say  
that we need to revisit

3:34

it and do some work in that area our efforts this year have been focused

3:40

on excuse me i have been focused on supporting the administration and returning to  
normal

3:46

operations and looking forward to laying the foundation for a full strategic planning  
process at this point our thinking is that

3:52

process would start after the end of this school year likely in the fall that will give our  
relatively new

3:57

superintendent and his administration time to gather the data and understanding to more fully and efficiently participate in the planning

4:03

process that said we as a board can also support the efforts to lay a new foundation for

4:09  
a new strategic planning process this coming saturday we will be holding our annual retreat for the first time in

4:16

at least a few years so hopefully we can start calling it annual again

4:22

we will be spending a few hours in the exotic location of the star center at the high school continuing the process

4:29

of talking about our collective high level goals for the district building the frameworks to gather and analyze data to support our decision making and

4:36

laying out the practices and policies to support the administration in achieving the identified goals the board has also

4:43

engaged communications specialist via a partnership with haddon township school district to aid in improving district

4:48

communications hopefully many of you engaged in the survey that we conducted earlier this year

4:54

phase two of that process will commence in mid-october and run through early november each building will recruit focus groups

5:01

to work through and help uh go through the data that we obtained from the community-wide survey

5:08

these efforts will lead to the foundation of improvements on how of how the board and administration gather input and communicate with the community

5:15

my expectation is also that early next year we will be able to return to the community

5:21

engagement forums that were held prior to the pandemic these are public board meetings those are public board meetings

5:27

with agendas solely dedicated to engaging in dialogue around specific topics with the community

5:33

in addition to those efforts i would also ask that all members of our community continue to make use of the

5:39

various mechanisms available to share your thoughts and suggestions to improve our schools in addition to public comment at board

5:46

meetings we have our community feedback form available online you can email us or set up calls with administration and

5:53

board leadership individual board members are also available to connect in various ways of their choosing as well

5:59

mr volpe is planning i should have checked this before i said it but i'll say it mr pope he is planning to

6:04

continue his meet the superintendent events okay at least he is now

6:10

this summer it was free ice cream so depending on where it's held who knows what will be free next time

6:17

of course you can also reach out to and connect with district and building administration and as we have uh

6:23

heard clearly on back to school night we have our dedicated and amazing teachers who go above and beyond for our students

6:29

and eagerly want to work with parents to ensure their children are supported and cared for in their learning journey

6:35

so whether it is through one of the named events i mentioned earlier or directly with the board or administration or faculty please let us

6:42

know how we can continue to improve this district to support the needs of every single one of our students

6:48

thanks okay i'll turn it over to you mr volpe

6:53

thank you mr president as part of the superintendent's report i am going to pause to let two people potentially come

6:59

up and say a couple of words but i do want to let everyone know it has certainly been an exciting start to my first school year as superintendent it's

7:06

wonderful to have all students back in person and to see their smiling faces i've had the pleasure of being in each

7:12

and every school to see parents staff members and students i've also very recently had a chance to be in many

7:18

classrooms at both roberts and south valley elementary where i introduced myself to students and inform them what

7:23

a superintendent does for schools surprisingly many students already knew who i was and what i do i look forward

7:30

to continuing to visit schools and interact with these students as the school year moves forward

7:35

the start of the new school year always comes with challenges one challenge right now is working on our transportation route so they work as

7:41

efficiently as possible for students as you know our efforts in this area were compromised this weekend

7:47

after two years of interrupted learning due to the pandemic it's unconscionable to think that anyone will resort to the

7:53

theft of catalytic converters from school buses and potentially compromising even more learning for our

7:58

students however upon learning about this issue on saturday morning dedicated members of our team spent most of the weekend

8:04

working coordinating with the county and ensuring that these buses would be fixed as quickly as possible

8:10

i am amazed and grateful to everyone that worked on the needed repairs allowing us to start the school week

8:15

without any disruption the safety of our students and staff remains my top priority we're already

8:21

taking steps to prevent something like this from happening again specifically i'd like to recognize

8:26

veronica reid sean canard laurie martinez dan hillman angela holt

8:32

christine fedorowitz drew seibel mo clayton sandy schaefer james heiser and

8:39

the morristown police department for their help in hours in efforts assuring that this past monday was not interrupted

8:47

as we look to improve our experiences in school for our children we are happy to be partnering with the school climate transformation project

8:54

which is an initiative run out of rutgers university designed to provide support to school climate teams in new jersey in developing a positive and

9:01

inclusive school climate we're pleased that we have been invited to obtain early access to a new school climate

9:06

assessment the new jersey school climate survey sherry caravano our wams assistant

9:12

principal is leading this effort district-wide the survey will provide important data for understanding school climate needs

9:18

and strengths for students grades 3-12 staff parents and families

9:23

this opportunity is offered at no cost to us which i'm always happy about and will provide us with access to

9:29

leading-edge online features for school climate assessment and planning which will be at least eight will be released

9:35

incrementally during the 22-23 school year our school district owns any data that

9:40

the students staff or parents put into the platform that identifies people in any way rutgers will use the district data to

9:47

create aggregated non-personally identifiable data for use in their research and for publication

9:52

if there are any parents out there who do not wish to have their students participate in the survey for whatever

9:57

reason we allow them to opt out and provide a process for that participation is strictly voluntary and we project

10:04

that this will be done sometime in november so you'll be hearing more about this as we move forward

10:09

speaking of surveys and as president weeks mentioned you may remember and may have participated in a communications

10:14

survey last spring our next step in analyzing our communications process is to speak to various focus groups each

10:21

made up of a particular type of stakeholder in the district for impartiality the focus groups are being

10:26

run by the haddon communications consortium not by me nor the board participation will be by invitation only

10:34

if you are interested in being nominated to one of these groups please contact your child's principal expressing your interest or feel free to reach out to me

10:40

and i can submit your name to the consortium right now the schedule for the groups is set and we'll be having a

10:46

daytime and an evening focus group for parents on monday october 17th and other members of the community who

10:53

are not parents or staff will have a focus group held on the evening of november 1st and to my staff members who

10:59

are interested we'll be getting that information out to you shortly as i mentioned earlier i'm so happy that

11:05

students are back in school in person this year that's why it is odd for me to let you know that one of the board agenda items

11:11

for tonight is the approval of a remote learning plan for the 22-23 school year

11:16

please understand i have no intention of implementing this plan we are moving forward past the pandemic

11:23

however the approval of such a plan has now become an annual requirement from the state

11:28

every school district in the state of new jersey will be approving such a plan every year this will become regular part

11:34

of the board's business each september tonight i am also happy to introduce the

11:40

newest member of our administrative team to the morristown community i'm recommending to the board that mr wilson

11:45

quintero be appointed our new permanent supervisor of buildings and grounds mr quintero has overseen the operations of

11:52

higher education institutions as well as k-12 school districts this includes

11:58

teachers college long island university the albert einstein college of medicine the east brunswick public schools and

12:04

the hillsborough township public schools mr quintero is a certified educational facilities manager having achieved that

12:10

distinction from rutgers and has also taken undergraduate courses in construction management from the new york city college of technology please

12:17

join me in welcoming mr quintero to our team [Applause]

12:25

you'd like to just say a word or two feel free thank you thank you uh i'm thrilled and excited to be part of this wonderful

12:32

district uh i was looking forward to this meeting i was just telling my wife i'm gonna be running a little bit late

12:37

but i'm sure we made it about an hour right i'm looking for a district and an operation of excellence of course

12:43

collaboration and partnership and support of my staff i want this the number one district to become in the state of new jersey

12:48

because that's what it is one of the top districts and hopefully be able to work with which each one of you moving forward so thank you for having me again

12:55

and i'm looking forward to this great opportunity thank you wilson [Applause]

13:04

for me one of them one of one of the many wonderful aspects of working in morristown is the many ways in which we get support from the community you may

13:11

have seen some pictures of me on facebook delivering backpacks full of school supplies on the weekend before school began getting around town and

13:18

seeing where our students live is so important and very valuable to me however my efforts in delivering

13:23

backpacks and school supplies would not have been possible without the generosity of the breakfast rotary club

13:29

here tonight we are happy and proud to recognize their efforts in donating 164 backpacks and school supplies for pre-k

13:36

through 8th grade students chris gillies is here tonight as their representative we thank you so much and are so happy to

13:43

partner with you in these efforts chris would you like to come up and say a couple words

13:50

well let me repeat again our thanks that [Applause]



13:59

i just wanted to say too this is off the cuff uh you know there are the meet the superintendent events that mr weeks was

14:05

talking about but when i have an opportunity to go up to uh to people's doors uh to talk to them uh or to have

14:11

them look through the window who is this guy please just leave it on the on the porch uh it's a really unique

14:16

opportunity for me and the breakfast rotary club not only was generous to students but was generous for me so that i could open the door and and knock on

14:23

people's doors and get to know morristown even better so thank you so much for that it's greatly appreciated

14:28

finally as you likely already know our schools are closed on september 26 and october 5th due the rosh hashanah and

14:34

yom kippur holidays respectively for those who celebrate i wish you a good and sweet new year as well as a good

14:40

holiday and that concludes my superintendence report

14:46

great thank you very much i do need to make an amendment

14:51

i was reminded of an oversight i meant to take care of during the

14:58

moment of silence um many of you may be aware some of you may not we had a new nurse who started the

15:05

high school last year and she came in and immediately made an impact i

15:12

talked to one of my neighbors who said she really helped her daughter through a difficult time with some surgery and recovery so she quickly became from my

15:20

understanding a valued member of the staff unfortunately she had some health issues and

15:25

we lost her she passed away um recently so um if i could kind of bend protocol a

15:32

little bit here and if we could have another moment of silence for uh miss catherine barron uh that that her nurse

15:51

thank you thank you very much okay um

15:56

now we uh actually get to move on to probably the more entertaining part of

16:01

these board meetings we didn't have them in august they were still getting ready to come back but now

16:07

we have our student representatives with us and i know they're eager to share with us some of their experiences and and

16:13

also potentially give us some feedback on how we as a school district are doing so i'm not sure who's planning to start are

16:19

we going from senior down senior privilege go

16:24

thank you good evening everyone my name is lucas

16:30

mcgill and i'm happy to come back again this year to be your senior class liaison senior year is off to a great start with

16:35

all kinds of kickoff activities like senior breakfast senior portraits and our parking spot lottery

16:40

senior breakfast was a huge success with help from the parents of morristown we had a great dj with an amazing food

16:46

truck catered waffle breakfast followed by our class picture speaking of pictures towards the end of

16:52

the summer all of our seniors had the opportunity to have senior portraits taken and from what i've seen they all look fantastic

16:57

the next and most exciting event we have coming up is everybody's favorite spirit week the wheels are already in motion

17:03

planning awesome games and events for the whole school to participate in spirit week will start on halloween and continue until friday the 4th when we'll

17:10

have our pep rally competitions aside from all these fun activities as summer came to a close everybody was

17:15

talking about another senior right of passage college applications a stressful yet important step in our

17:21

scholastic careers everybody is doing their absolute best writing commonapp essays filling out resumes and applying

17:26

to their favorite schools as previously stated i'm very excited to be speaking in front of you again this year that's all i have for tonight now

17:32

let me hand it off to your junior class liaison thank you mr mcgill

17:42

good evening board parents my name is jack britton your junior class liaison this year marks the start of my third

17:48

year being your liaison in a row so that's exciting we are back in school for the 2022-2023 school year and while the

17:54

student council is hard at work planning for all the important fall events that we look forward to lots of after school

17:59

clubs are starting up around this week for people who are interested during 14th period back to school night from morristown high school took place on

18:05

this past thursday the 15th and other important dates to mention are monday the 26th and wednesday october the 5th

18:12

in which we have off school and also monday october 10th is a teacher in service for people who are looking

18:17

forward to that also psats will begin in mid-october for 10th and 11th graders

18:22

and the national merit scholar minimum scores for psat specifically new jersey this year are actually quite high higher

18:28

than almost every other state additionally the student council has begun planning for spirit week which will take place from october 31st

18:34

through november 4th followed quickly by homecoming the next day on november 5th themes for spirit week and homecoming

18:40

are still being decided we hope to keep you updated on these and that's all i have to report tonight thank you

18:46

thanks mr britton [Music]

18:52

i'm still waiting on an opponent for homecoming right good evening everyone my name is amin cosby and i'm the board

18:59

liaison for the sophomore class of 2025 it's actually my first year so it's a great new experience for me

19:05

and to start off we're off to a good start for our school year we began with the activities fair which introduced our

19:11

students to all grades to a lot of new clubs especially the freshmen and sophomores who previously didn't have

19:17

this experience before and from there we were able to

19:22

basically expand and show a lot of new of our a lot of new students what opportunities there are for our school

19:28

classes are also going well so far as we advance into our second year of high school we're getting a little more settled in and we're getting more

19:34

comfortable and finally we have the psats coming up which is a new experience for us

19:39

sophomores and i'm sure we'll show our excellence as is shown by the rest of our morristown

19:44

class members and thank you

19:51

[Music]

20:00

good evening everyone my name is dom gorman and i am the freshman class liaison this is my first year in high school so it's amazing to meet everyone

20:06

and every one of you these first two weeks of school have been amazing but flown by

20:11

and been quite the experience the high school welcomed me and my fellow classmates with open arms

20:16

at first most of us were scared to come into the new school setting with all the amazing teachers and upperclassmen they

20:22

welcomed us and helped us get used to the new school a lot of things have already gone on as

20:27

they mentioned like the activity fair a bunch of different sports as well as different clubs we are really looking

20:33

forward to homecoming and spirit week as well as the pep rally coming up and also as the rest of the school year goes on

20:39

we are looking to excel in our academics i look forward to reporting more more information next week

20:45

next month thank you for having me here tonight thank you very much well done everybody

20:51

[Applause]

20:58

so we'll keep with the tradition at this point if you want to go do your homework or not

21:04

you're welcome to uh to go but again thanks for your participation here and sharing your experiences

21:13

okay now we'll move on to the board committee reports um

21:20

anybody like to go first lauren you looked at me so okay add eye contact all right so uh curriculum committee met on

21:27

the 15th jackie brunell came in and provided an ela curriculum

21:33

update she said that the rollout for the k through 5 hmh intro to reading has been

21:39

going quite successfully to date students and teachers have digital platform access the copies of

21:45

consumables are on back order not just for morristown but um you know for many

21:51

other districts as well but that this has not delayed instruction implementation they've been able to make

21:57

the copies that are needed curriculum documents were completed over the summer and were submitted for

22:03

administrative overview the curriculum the written curriculum

22:08

just to note to all the board members will be on the october board agenda for approval it should be noted that all

22:14

curriculum written over the summer will be on the october board agenda the board will be asked to approve the

22:20

superintendent's recommendation to adopt the curriculum and board members can reach out to mike or karen if they

22:26

have any specific curriculum questions prior to the meeting next month teacher pd for the ela curriculum was

22:34

provided and support has gone well for the new curriculum implementation communication of the new curriculum um

22:41

is being presented at the back to school nights at the schools and part of classroom parent communications

22:47

as well grades six through eight they have decided on

22:52

hmhs intro to literature to pilot this year in each of the grade levels

22:58

the pilot classes have free access to online and hard copy resources for all students and staff for this school year

23:05

and if all goes well the district plans to write curriculum for the summer of 2023 which would be a budgetary factor

23:11

to consider for as we look at next year's budget uh state testing update the nj gpa and

23:19

class of 2023 there were no results yet provided from the 2022

23:25

state assessments that were taken the ngdoe waived all assessment requirements now for the class of 2023

23:32

the start strong assessments originally districts were told that this was a temporary test solution to meet federal

23:38

accountability in a one-time test over the summer districts were now told that they have to administer tests again

23:45

the fall of 2022 so karen met to decide a district to

23:52

select the date and they're going to do that later this uh fall after writing the minutes i think i

23:57

hit submit and then the letter went out by karen for the district the test

24:03

information to went out to all the districts so the test will that's going out in september is going to be a

24:09

45-minute test karen sent out the district testing communication

24:16

prior to this meeting um required there is a requirement by ngdoa that um

24:24

all of this information is broadcast so the 2021 2022 state testing it has to be

24:30

reported so at the october meeting there'll be a state of the district presentation that karen will give

24:36

individual student reports then will be uploaded to genesis by october 10th

24:41

there was then a robust committee discussion about standardized testing ways to effectively utilize these test

24:47

scores information and also message that out to the community so and how can that be most effective

24:54

and helpful 2022 2023 districts testing schedule

25:00

parents are going to be notified of district assessment schedules that happened already

25:06

as was referenced by our student liaisons there's psat testing

25:11

that will be given to ninth graders the same day um psat testing is also given to the

25:17

ninth 10th and 11th graders october 12th it'll be a regular school day for nine

25:22

through 12 uh ninth through eleventh graders and it'll be a senior assembly for uh twelfth graders

25:28

we looked at district enrollment and class size due to summer enrollment shifts

25:34

we reduced one first grade classroom that teacher moved to teach a kindergarten class at robert

25:41

school because of an increased need with uh class size in the kindergarten level

25:47

and then additionally in the meeting cheryl brought up some concerns about the district

25:53

health curriculum mike and karen felt that at the moment we were meeting what we had said we

25:58

would do in the spring and that we had implemented the changes that we felt

26:05

were needed but that we would consider the suggestions while weighing the additional workload that it entailed

26:11

moving forward with the district it was noted that the health curriculum does need to be cuesack compliant and that

26:17

the district should continue to examine the best way to present the information clearly to

26:22

parents whether that's moving the scope and sequence where it can be more easily accessed and visible that

26:29

was the suggestion made you know by the committee and that's all i have

26:35

great thanks very much mr motto any questions or comments committee report

26:45

thank you lauren um just to put a finer point on one piece of it

26:51

dr benton and mr volpe were understood that there were still some

26:57

concerns that the scope and sequence which talks about the big ideas and objectives are a little bit buried

27:05

in how the curriculum is laid out it has to be consistent across all of the

27:10

curriculum for qsac compliance so what karen what dr benton had suggested was

27:16

adding when you get to the curriculum page about health and phys ed there will be a description of what the scope and

27:22

sequence is and a jump link to take you right to that information [Music]

27:28

and then also dr benton did mention that there were some questions she was getting his parents couldn't find the opt out so she

27:34

was going to add that with that description so it should be slightly more user-friendly

27:41

yeah just to clarify we will be making those adjustments might take us a little bit of time to do it the documents are there but we will make

27:47

it crystal clear where you can access everything

27:53

great thanks anything else okay uh we'll just move down the line if

27:58

we could do policy please sure thanks [Music]

28:03

uh policy meant on september 14th uh the conversation started with um

28:11

dealing with policy 9190 which is community organizations and clubs the this was something that we were

28:18

brief then on in the context of a home and school um

28:24

event that had risen in fno dealing with a lot issues of liability

28:30

and our conversation was really strictly about the policy itself and how best to

28:36

support the district going forward and also understanding the immense



28:41

relationship that we have with a lot of these clubs and booster clubs and affiliate organizations um

28:49

so we we definitely made a point of looking at the policy as it is written

28:56

and moving in a position to sort of actually adhere to the policy

29:01

but also we want to take a look at the policy and under and really understand it more fully in the context of what the

29:07

different organizations and clubs mean and how best they can support the

29:14

district and vice versa so this is going to be an ongoing conversation and policy

29:19

one that will likely not be resolved in a month but certainly one that is long overdue in the context of

29:26

understanding again that how these relationships work what's the best for the district and for these clubs and of

29:33

course obviously ultimately for the students um we talked about policy 1648-11 in

29:39

1648-13 which are the road forward copen 19 health and safety plan and the employee school uh school employee

29:45

vaccination requirements uh again the conversation about sort of what was the best for the district in

29:50

light of the the state's reticence to give any sort of definitive feedback going

29:56

forward um in terms of what what will be required of the of different districts

30:01

going from you know during this calendar year and who knows when this guidance will be coming um

30:06

we unanimously elected to to move towards abolishment so they'll be able they'll both of those are on the um agenda for

30:14

abolishment tonight policy 5512 which deals with hiv

30:19

is again not on for first or second reading um and many of the pieces in the

30:25

new mandated hiv policy are things that we're already doing

30:31

so the the actual hiv protocols and procedures in the district probably won't change

30:37

but um administration needed more time to understand exactly how the policy language should change

30:43

um and the same can be said for uh

30:48

2202 um school threat we talked about that um again august 1st there was legislation requiring the development uh

30:56

to adopt development and adopt a policy for the establishment of threat assessments uh across the district so um

31:03

the it was acknowledged that this was coming um but there is nothing specific that we need to adopt tonight

31:08

uh or even put into first reading uh and the last thing we just talked about was um trying to come back to policy 5530

31:15

which is the substance abuse policy for students while we fulfilled our requirement to

31:21

look at the policy which we did in the last school year we were still trying to

31:28

have a conversation and put our best foot forward in terms of aligning best practices with student consequences so

31:36

there's still aspects of the policy that we think are worth uh understanding more fully and

31:41

possibly revising but again this is a conversation that we will continue

31:46

the policies that are on for first reading tonight the first is policy 0143 which deals specifically with board

31:52

member election and appointment this is a policy that we've long looked at in the context of it being very

31:59

difficult to understand so it is substantially different looking

32:04

although the difference is in how the board will conduct itself

32:11

when and if they have to appoint or elect themselves a new member

32:17

some of the highlights that this new policy the the board will give public notice of the vacancy um and

32:24

in that public notice there'll be a timeline that's not drastically different there will be public notice of

32:29

all the candidates names in the agenda so any candidates who have uh get a an interview will be in the agenda for that

32:35

meeting all candidates will have an opportunity for a short statement at the start of the meeting prior to interviews so any

32:42

any candidate that is going to be considered will have an opportunity to make a short statement uh on the record

32:48

then all candidate interviews and deliberation will take place in executive and then after nominations and

32:53

voting will take place in public and that will not change in the context of how the nominating and voting will go

33:00

um the other mandated there's mandated policy dealing with emergency virtual

33:06

remote instruction for the school year that uh so we'll be alluded to already this is the same as was last year in the

33:12

context of being required um but not hopefully needed uh policy eight um eight six zero zero

33:20

deals with transportation again this is codifying something that seems a bit difficult to parse but doesn't change

33:27

practice dealing with pre-k transportation

33:32

and unless it's being specified in their iep we would not provide transportation

33:38

and 5517 um changes um and requires the suicide

33:43

prevention hope line to be put on the back of student identification cards um policies on for second reading

33:50

um there's no change except for policy 7510 and james you might need to help me out

33:57

on the best course of action when we get there but um

34:02

going from first to second reading i think what we were looking at is instead of saying however the board prohibits the use of school grounds and

34:08

school time for partisan political purposes just having it say however the board prohibits the use of school grounds and

34:15

eliminating and school time uh to make it clear in the context of what the goal of the policy change is

34:22

so again that is all i have

34:27

[Music]

34:33

thanks dr snyder any questions or comments about policy minutes

34:42

okay hearing none move on down i don't believe there's a communications

34:49

[Music] operations please

35:00

too many devices um so finance and operations met last tuesday

35:05

um circulated the the minutes to the board but some of the highlights

35:13

include meeting the interim buildings and ground supervisor joe bilick

35:18

who uh we were able to to pull in over the summer and help on a

35:25

on a per diem basis who has a very impressive background and has really helped

35:30

maintain the facilities and grounds operations while we were out

35:36

and successfully hunting for mr quintero who everybody met earlier there's going to be

35:43

a couple of weeks of overlap between mr billick and mr quintero so that mr villa can can

35:48

help get you acclimated hopefully and sort of ease the transition into the school

35:56

we discussed non-public services for

36:01

private schools so by the way a very brief background per new jersey state regulation and

36:08

practice the morristown public schools essentially serve as a pass-through for certain funds that are given to private

36:13

schools um and the bottom line is is that we as a

36:20

public school are required to hire certain vendors and provide certain services to private schools

36:26

um really at no financial benefit to us it's it's an

36:32

administrative task that we must bear um

36:38

and so we discussed the the one of the services that we provide is

36:43

to olgc and and we hire vendors to provide special needs services and there's going to be a replacement of one

36:50

vendor for another uh which is which is in our view a good thing and an amicable

36:56

uh resolution um to get this the former vendor in to provide special

37:03

services to to olgc and the current vendor has been very gracious

37:08

in uh terminating their contract at no cost to the district we looked at the

37:16

overnight trip request for the senior trip to disney which which will go off again this year as it has for

37:23

decades we discussed the pacing of our rfp

37:31

practices we currently issue rfps for professionals every three years and we

37:37

discussed whether we want to change that process and so i think it's something that's under

37:43

the committee's consideration and may be discussed at our next meeting

37:50

as a running item for finance and operations we continue to look at

37:57

the potential impact of affordable housing may have on the school district were

38:04

um as i explained it at a past meeting we believe that that some

38:11

of these locations are subject to a pilot agreement where um

38:16

if it's under a typical pilot arrangement there will be payments made to the township that won't necessarily flow to

38:23

the district um we would we would not receive tax

38:29

revenue from these locations and so we are uh you know mr

38:34

volpe and mr heiser had met with some representatives of the township over the summer and we hope to continue

38:40

to engage in discussions on how we can uh in my view hopefully get an equitable

38:47

portion of a revenue stream to accompany what may be a significant number of students

38:56

we briefly touched upon health benefits health benefits continued to go up as they typically do

39:01

and mr heiser just advised today that uh it was the school health benefits

39:07

program for state health health benefits program which we are not a part of we have we get our health

39:12

benefits through a separate organization but today just approved an increase of 15.5 percent

39:19

so we are hoping that the gif shift uh that we do participate in is not going

39:26

to follow suit because that is a huge increase um

39:32

took a look at a very gracious donation from the morristown alumni football club for two thousand dollars

39:39

to the school district that's on the agenda tonight

39:46

as mr snyder had talked about we

39:52

at fno discussed the affiliated clubs and organizations um

39:57

policy uh by way of a little bit more background um

40:05

we had been advised by our insurance broker that

40:10

the school that there are certain liability issues that attach to the school in connection

40:17

with an event that uh serve that provides alcohol on a byob

40:25

basis and it substantially increases the risk to the school district for

40:31

a host of various reasons that i won't i won't bore everybody with but

40:36

that issue obviously was was kicked over to to policy and that's under uh underway or continues to be underway

40:45

uh as we as we discuss uh issues related to

40:50

various organizations that we have like a formal affiliated relationship or a booster club relationship with um i

40:56

think those are these are issues that are going to be continued to discuss in the near term uh

41:02

with the board and for the good of the order we talked about

41:08

the a walk-in freezer that is going in the high school and we have a

41:13

capital we have to submit a capital project request um

41:19

to comply with certain township uh requirements and so that is underway as well

41:27

and that was all we discussed i i would like to note because it's an obvious operational issue that falls within

41:33

finance and operations my thanks to mr volpe and james and all your the whole team that you put

41:40

together over the weekend to deal with uh people stealing nine catalytic converters out of our buses i was

41:46

stunned that you know we found out about it mid-morning on saturday and by

41:54

mid-afternoon on saturday there was a plan in place to get them get everything fixed and

42:00

it happened and the buses went off per usual on monday so thank you and

42:06

thanks to your entire team that made that happen

42:13

thank you mr question yeah

42:19

mentioned a possible change to the rfp process were there

42:25

like a specific change that was being looked at or

42:32

for a number of years whether it makes sense or

42:37

doesn't make sense to move from three years to two years or to one year

42:43

um there have been board members that have suggested a one-year rfp process

42:50

um some that suggested two and some that suggest three i think three is the

42:55

maximum that we could do right um and so those are

43:01

you know those those are the things that we continue to think about um

43:07

and was raised with fmo it's not an issue that's new in terms of what the pacing should be

43:14

thanks

43:20

anybody else [Music] all right thanks mr villanueva

43:27

uh off come off board committees um

43:32

you want to do speak first or okay thank you

43:38

the garden state coalition of schools has their first meeting tomorrow morning so i will have uh hopefully a report on

43:45

that next month um speak which is the special education

43:50

advisory council has their first meeting of the year at 9 30

43:56

uh on this thursday the 22nd it will be live and in the star center but you can

44:01

also attend virtually uh via zoom and check the facebook page for the link to that

44:09

the group is open to all families of parents with kids with special needs no matter what

44:15

those needs may be it's really a great place to hear updates from dr tate

44:21

access resources for yourself and the students get involved in activities um that we

44:28

try to organize to foster inclusion throughout the district um and frankly just find support and

44:35

friendship through other parents who may be experiencing similar issues so i would encourage

44:42

anyone to come out if they can and we should have some hopefully some good

44:48

events this year thanks

44:53

we're supposed to leave it on mrs burns um miss mcopolis

45:00

i attended the more arts meeting on september 13th

45:05



um and just a few highlights uh ottoman moore's town is oh i was going to say  
45:12

august i wish it was still summer october 8th they still need a bunch of volunteers to  
45:17

help with craft prep set up shifts and take down so anybody who's interested in getting  
involved in more arts it's a  
45:23

great organization with very dedicated people um who do a lot for the school system  
45:29

um there they have some performers at mor uh ottoman morristown the madrigals and  
laura deshong are scheduled to  
45:36

present um to perform and they're still looking for performers so if you have any talents  
you want to show off  
45:42

um you can contact a more arts representative and then they also another highlight was  
45:49

that they approved a teacher grant request for the mhs vocal music group so  
45:56

um if you're interested in getting involved i suggest you reach out it's a great  
46:01

very active organization  
46:07

okay any other organizations yes  
46:13

briefly uh i'm the liaison for the recreation advisory committee and  
46:18

there is a great uh baseball program uh for people with  
46:24

special special needs at prior park um is it 11 30 mark i know we  
46:31

we checked it out this on saturday but they are looking for uh volunteers to  
46:36

help with the program uh anybody i think it's sixth grade or older can volunteer if you go  
to the  
46:43

rebecca department's website there is there's a link that you can click to submit your  
interest in volunteering but i know  
46:49

that they they could use some some additional volunteers so if you know any kids you  
can get a  
46:55

service hours for it if your kids in high school so i think it would be great if  
47:01

they could get some more support if i could real quickly thank you i wrote that down  
actually

47:07

because it was on our speak facebook page so um it's challenger baseball and if um

47:13

anyone is interested there's information through rec but there's also information on the speak facebook page

47:21

great good synergy there um also i guess i will mention uh the

47:28

morristown education foundation who i believe is responsible for the the tables outside of uh

47:35

did they help us get those uh no those ones are only small those are home in school okay well

47:41

thanks to home and school for those uh but with the more sun education foundation uh their annual golf outing

47:47

which also helps raise funds uh that go back into our schools that is uh monday

47:52

is october 3rd so i believe that will be hosted at

47:57

laurel creek country club all right any other offboard committees

48:06

okay hearing none we can now move into our first uh public comment session um

48:14

so um i'll entertain a motion to go into public comment

48:20

thank you all in favor aye the opposed extensions okay so uh we'll start that in a moment

48:27

uh i'll just remind everybody as uh you come up to the mic please address the board state your name and as much of your

48:33

address as you're comfortable with you'll have up to three minutes to speak and uh

48:40

just also reminding everybody it's not necessarily a question and answer period if you have questions or things you'd

48:45

like to have a dialogue about uh it's better to use one of the other communication message methods i mentioned before

48:51

but certainly we're open and willing to hear or eager to hear public comment

48:57

this first public comment session is for items that are on the agenda we will have one at the end for items that may

49:04

not be on the agenda uh please don't address your comments to any particular board member and um we look

49:12

forward to hearing your comments so if anybody would like to engage in public comment

49:17

now's the time okay

49:23

i don't even see any body language suggesting that it's going to happen so motion to close public comments

49:30

thank you all in favor aye opposed sentience okay

49:36

moving on right we are now at um eight

49:42

okay made me nervous um so let's see i'll entertain a motion for

49:49

items one through three uh the financial reports of the board secretary approval of budget transfers

49:55

and the approval of bills can i have a motion for that please

50:01

thank you all in favor i'm sorry any questions or comments

50:06

first

50:15

uh yes number three okay

50:21

uh well actually i'm sorry questions or comments and then we'll i need a second and then then we'll vote

50:27

right yeah okay so um

50:33

all right apologize for getting that out of order we have motion we have a second questions comments right

50:39

okay questions comments rusty beginning of the school year

50:45

all right all in favor aye any opposed abstentions

50:51

now there we go all right thank you cheryl

50:57

all right so that motion carries all right uh the next one uh number nine um

51:03

a uh the 2022-23 remote learning plan which we've discussed i'll entertain a motion for

51:09

that one thank you any

51:15

questions or comments okay all in favor aye

51:20

opposed extensions thank you

51:26

moving on um this one uh let's see items one through three uh the policies and procedures

51:33

that dr snyder noted that were on for first reading the ones you noted that were on for second reading and the ones uh to be abolished

51:39

uh those are all listed here so i'll entertain motion for approval of these items one through three so so moved with the

51:48

change to policy 75 10

51:54

and so freeze as amended so a motion for that so moved second

52:04

okay um any kind of questions comments

52:11

okay all in favor aye any opposed

52:16

extensions that one carries all right uh this is the the big one so

52:22

this one i'll just say everything under educational program uh numbers one through ten

52:33

all right any comments or questions all right all in favor

52:39

aye the opposed extensions all right hearing none

52:45

move on uh so on letter d number one travel expenditure approval request that's as amended in executive as we

52:52

discussed it uh number two is the approval of state contractor and consortium vendor purchases um three

52:58

four five uh six let's see

53:03

this one goes down to a number eight which is up two and including the uh the codicil uh for the mea board of

53:08

education agreement so entertain a motion for approval of those items one through eight

53:15

thank you any questions comments uh just just one comment i don't

53:22

we we talked about it in exactly um the the the console for class advisors

53:30

just as we talked about would like the minutes to reflect that

53:35

it's two class advisors per per class i don't think the codas will needs to be revised to note that but i think

53:44

the maps are understanding it's super class thank you mr villaleva

53:49

okay anybody else okay all in favor aye the opposed extensions

53:56

okay thank you uh letter e uh items one through thirteen

54:03

uh motion for those second

54:08

second okay any comments or questions i don't think we had any

54:14

actually there was one isn't there an addendum that dr benton had in this one

54:22

that was taken care of okay just wanted to be sure all right so as noted in the

54:27

agenda items one through thirteen have a motion um so all in favor

54:32

oh sorry roll call vote dr alberti yes mrs arcara burns yes

54:40

mrs fallows macaluso mrs micaopoulos yes mr romano

54:47

mrs morano my apologies miss romano yeah

54:53

mr villanueva yes dr snyder yes mr weeks yes thank you that was bound to happen

54:59

once all right that motion carries in actually along with that mr quintero we'd like to

55:07

officially welcome you aboard so thanks again appreciate you being here and look forward to your i'm sure what will be

55:12

amazing and dedicated service thank you very much

55:18

okay uh the next couple exhibits are um

55:24

informational only we have the suspensions um okay so now we're um up to old business

55:30

is there any old business right

55:36

no any new business all right we're rolling along

55:42

we're now to our second public comment uh everything i said before applies to this one except this one can

55:49

be on items that are not necessarily on the agenda so i'll entertain a motion to open

55:54

public comment second thank you all in favor

56:00

aye opposed extensions okay opportunity number two to come up to the mic

56:08

let's address the board okay

56:17

good evening hello i am kim martin and i teach seventh grade science at wims i

56:22

would like to commend and thank the staff at wams for the successful quaker time held last week we

56:28

dedicated an hour and a half of the second week of school to build relationships team building all the

56:35

students took part in various plant activities getting to know each other while having fun

56:40

these activities included a scavenger hunt where the seventh graders got to know the layout of the school by solving

56:46

clues when they reached their destination selfies were taken these will become part of the yearbook

56:52

additionally the eighth grade tested their knowledge of whams with the wim's edition of jeopardy and i

56:58

just wanted to take a moment to thank them

57:04

thank you hi i'm carrie courtray and i teach at roberts and i would just like to commend

57:10

the staff valley school for coming together to celebrate that day the students and teachers

57:16

it says they're looking forward but they made their mark on the new school year that day is celebrated globally to

57:21

encourage creativity courage and collaboration to the south of south valley your time and dedication is

57:27

appreciated by your

57:38

colleagues uh good evening i'm brian clayton i am a teacher at high school i

57:44

just want to take a second to thank all the staff at the school custodians and everyone there um on the second day of

57:50

school we had our activities fair um being a teacher through all grade levels

57:55

the third day of school everybody came back and told me about all the wonderful things that they have going on um

58:03

and to our staff again thank you for your time for setting up answering any questions a student may

58:08

have and for their continued support thank you thank you

58:20

hi i'm nicole chicarelli i teach fifth grade at the upper elementary school recently seeing one of you

58:25

um i'd like to recognize the preschool and kindergarten staff at all three of our elementary schools they welcome the

58:31

students and their families into the classrooms before the school year actually started and this extra time and care goes a long way to getting those

58:37

young students off to a great successful start so thank you for their time their dedication to our youngest morristown

58:43

students we appreciate all you did thank you

58:50

good evening i'm dana church williams i teach at the high school we'd like to commend the ues staff for holding the

58:56

first back to school night on the first full week of school they held it over two nights and to accomplish this was

59:04

i'm sure you know a big feat in that full week we we know we did it at the high school

59:11

last week we were so glad to have a normal back-to-school night and i'm sure they well were as well we thanked them

59:17

for their time and dedication at the ues and appreciate all that they do

59:28

hi lisa penny i teach at the high school i just have a couple questions the rfp process

59:35

that you were talking about a year two years what this is not just a bid process

59:42

it's do you want me it's for professional services and so

59:48

um it is a request for proposal right for

59:53

certain categories of professionals and the practice has been

59:59

i believe for at least the last few years to issue the rfps

1:00:04

once every three years and to appoint the professionals for a single year

1:00:10

for three sequential years so that has been the practice and so that's what we are discussing discussing changing that

1:00:16

we're discussing changing it okay okay i just wanted so when you put out a bid for a subcontracted

1:00:23

firm like for the cleaning bid no no no this this is professionals professional

1:00:28

services so it's architect engineer auditor okay so legal got it

1:00:35

that's right it's a discrete category of all right that's fine it's not it's not bid it's not there's a

1:00:42

distinction between bid and got it okay all right i just wanted to make sure i wasn't connecting a year two

1:00:47

years three years for that sorry i wasn't very articulate yeah uh i'm sorry

1:00:52

i just um i want to make sure uh new school year that we um follow our establishment

1:01:00

if you have questions well that's why i looked at you i didn't yeah my bad my bad i should have i should have right

1:01:06

yeah so i appreciate that i'm sorry um but yes uh if you have other questions we're happy to entertain them afterwards

1:01:14

okay and then but comments certainly please go okay well that was a question

1:01:19

i wanted to know what rfp meant and what was referring to okay but was a question so my second

1:01:28

statement is that the as far as i know being in the shift our

1:01:34

health benefits increase over the past three years have not increased more than

1:01:40



two to three percent with the shift so i just want to make that statement because  
1:01:46  
i do speak to mr heiser yearly about that so that's why we're in the shift  
1:01:51  
to begin with so thank you okay thanks mr patty  
1:01:58  
right anyone else  
1:02:03  
okay i think it's safe to move on all right i'll entertain a  
1:02:10  
motion to close public comment thank you second  
1:02:15  
thank you all in favor aye thank you very much oppose abstentions  
1:02:21  
no okay all right is there anything uh for the good of the order  
1:02:28  
briefly i think it was it was great to hear the recognition  
1:02:34  
uh of the the groups of of teachers and staff from other teachers and staff in the district i  
1:02:40  
think it's it's wonderful um so thank you and i hope i would personally love if  
1:02:47  
the board could do similar types of formal recognitions um  
1:02:53  
of our of our outstanding staff members so um that's uh i know we've got a retreat  
1:02:59  
coming up to talk about things and who knows maybe that will be a subject  
1:03:07  
two people who would like to discuss the board recognizing exceptional teachers and  
staff  
1:03:14  
bring your flip-flops and bathing suits at our retreat we certainly have that in the agenda  
all  
1:03:21  
right can i just say for for the good of the order as a parent of a  
1:03:26  
can i'm saying a senior in high school my last uh child in the high school i will admit i  
was like oh are we really  
1:03:33  
doing back to school night in person this year virtual was like so convenient wasn't that  
one of the things but having  
1:03:39  
done it uh it was very nice to be there and to actually experience all of the uh  
1:03:46  
teachers and the energy and enthusiasm that they all uh shared for not only what they  
do

1:03:52

but being there in person with the parents and the kids and so i really appreciated uh that very much

1:04:01

anybody else okay all right well thank you very much i'll

1:04:08

enchain a motion for adjournment second all in favor

1:04:14

i won't even ask if anybody's opposed

1:04:30

you