

Transcript of 11/15/22 BOE Meeting

1:22

okay

1:54

hey good evening everyone sorry we're running a few minutes behind I'm starting to feel like uh

2:01

broken record each time we come here saying that no matter how much time we allot for

2:06

executive we always seem to fill it and then some all right good job everybody

2:15

Jill and Cheryl okay they're there foreign

2:23

to get settled and then we'll get started

2:43

okay great I'd like to call to order the

2:49

regular meeting of the Moorestown Township Board of Education this meeting is called a conformance with the open public meetings act with

2:56

adequate notice provided in The Courier Post July 1 2022 and the Burlington County Times on July 1 22 as well it's

3:04

time I'd like to ask if we could have a moment of silence please

3:19

thank you everyone please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance I pledge allegiance to the flag of the

3:26

United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and

3:34

justice for all

3:39

hey Mr Heiser please uh start with the roll call Dr Alberti here

3:45

Mrs arcara Burns present Mrs spouse Macaluso yeah Mrs mccopless here Mrs

3:52

Moreno Miss Romano Mr Villanueva Dr Snyder here Mr weeks president thank

4:00

you thank you Mr Heiser all right the board as I mentioned before did meet an executive session

4:06

again apologies for the extra time needed there uh we'll start off with uh

4:11

our routine matters um ask for motion for approval of the

4:17

minutes from the October 18th executive and regular meeting in the November 2nd executive and special meeting

4:23

thank you okay any comments or questions

4:30

okay all in favor aye okay uh which one

4:37

the last name from both okay okay all right

4:43

um so and no Nays right okay so all right

4:49

moving on any Communications uh to share board

4:55

all right hearing none let's see I'll get to

5:03

start with the president's remarks so just a few remarks tonight um so first I'd like to start off I know

5:09

uh things are not necessarily official they're still counting some ballots I don't know why CNN's not reporting on

5:15

our races here but um or the AP hasn't called it but uh looks like

5:21

congratulations are in order uh for um Mark Villanueva and uh Claudine

5:27

Moreno so congratulations also um Brooke Molly up there you are Brooke

5:33

congratulations and uh we'll still see we're awaiting the final results but um

5:39

whether uh no matter the outcome I want to just say thanks to everyone who endeavored to serve this district and uh

5:45

special thanks to our vice president Mark Snyder um but I'll have more to say about Mark

5:52

Snyder after we see the the final results so I want to provide for the community

5:57

um an update on our interim superintendent process um we are moving forward with that uh

6:04

we'll have some some more information to share about that uh we're planning to have a special board meeting looks like

6:11

next week um Tuesday night I believe the 22nd right if I can count correctly so there

6:19

we'll uh be looking more closely at uh interim superintendents and we'll have

6:25

more information to share after that uh the permanent search process I can say

6:30

that the board has decided to put out an RFP for search firms uh to help us with

6:36

that so that RFP will be going out sometime in the next week or so

6:42

maybe let you have some Thanksgiving turkey first and then get that out okay so

6:48

um just so the quick update on that uh I'll put together some more details and we'll

6:53

probably share that out in a more formal um uh communication tomorrow

6:59

um but I just want to say that with all the changes going on our

7:04

overall goals uh still remain the same so we we plan to continue to to continue

7:12

to execute on the broad plans laid out by this board and Mr Volpe those include

7:18

continuing to provide the supports our students need as we recover from the impacts of the pandemic

7:23

endeavoring to be more student focused as we adapt and improve our offerings

7:29

with the settlement this past summer of an agreement with the mea continuing to find ways to recognize and support the

7:35

exemplary efforts of our dedicated faculty and staff and doing all of these things in a

7:41

culture of inclusiveness and belonging specifically for members of our community that are people of color or

7:47

lgbtq or other minorities we want it to be clear that everyone is welcome and

7:54

should feel supported in our learning community Mr Volpe helped us move the needle forward in this area which is greatly

8:00

appreciated we do not intend to let those efforts lose momentum with changes to the board and in the superintendent's

8:07

chair so with that I'll conclude my remarks and pass it over to Mr Volpe

8:17

thank you thank you president weeks I have some brief comments too um recently you may have heard that we

8:23

had an incident on a bus that was transporting our high school girls field hockey team to their playoff game I want

8:30

to take this opportunity to thank one of our staff members coach Ali Collins and the entire field Hocking coaching staff

8:36

for how they handled that incident as a bus driver was involved in a medical situation Coach Collins and her staff

8:42

kept the girls safe throughout the entire event this was a great example of Staff members exercising autonomy in an

8:49

emergency situation in order to help keep students safe there aren't always plans and flow charts for all emergency

8:56

situations in fact one of the things we train our staff about is situational awareness and being aware of what's

9:02

going on around you Coach Collins exemplified high quality judgment and quick action

9:08

as a bonus the girls team did end up winning their game that day in advance to the group three sectional finals so

9:14

thank you very much Coach Collins for your for your actions as previously mentioned to you we do

9:19

have two ongoing efforts involved with further issues pertaining to school climate Safety and Security

9:25

first today is the last day for you to opt in for your students to participate in the school climate survey as a

9:32

reminder we are collaborating with Rutgers University in this effort in order to get high quality data for our building-based school climate teams in order to help improve students experiences in our schools parents who

9:44

do not opt in will not have their students voices or input involved with the survey results there's no other

9:49

consequences of any kind after all students have been given the survey our schools will get information

9:54

out to both staff and parents as well as how you can participate in a similar

10:00

survey also our initiative with the stop it app that I have referenced previously will

10:05

go live this Friday November 18th if you have further questions about the stop it app please reach out to your building

10:11

principal but I can always address them as well stop it is simply another tool where

10:16

students can say something if they see something this app is going to be pushed out to

10:22

all student District devices in grades 7 through 12 as well as staff devices it

10:28

will eventually become accessible for students and parents on the website for grades pre-k through six for your own

10:33

personal devices the app is available to download from the App Store and Google Play please note however that this should not

10:41

replace the relationships that we've established with teachers administrators and law enforcement the stop it app is

10:48

simply another tool if you need to report something when it comes to a see something say something incident but of

10:54

course you can use all of the means that you are currently using right now it's the most direct way to have your concerns addressed

11:01

as president weeks had mentioned while my remaining time in Morristown here will be short-lived I will indeed continue to work on the initiatives that

11:08

I said I would and I will help out in whatever way I can and that concludes my report for today

11:14

great thank you superintendent Volpe all right at this point we will turn to

11:21

our student representatives and uh look to hear an update on what they're doing in school and

11:26

maybe how they're feeling about it as well and what we could do better all right

11:34

hello I'm Peyton Emmel I'm filling in for Lucas today and I'm very excited to present to you guys

11:41

so I'm gonna start by telling you about our first annual homecoming parade so we

11:46

have been trying to attempt to do this for six years and this year was the first time we were able to do it so we

11:52

had people from all around town um allow us to use their convertibles and we had a couple from each grade and

11:59

five couples from the senior class ride down Main Street and we had an awesome turnout from people in town it was just

12:06

an awesome event and really got the town involved in our like spirit week activities so next every year we do a Thanksgiving

12:14

food drive which is also part of spirit week we treat it like a little competition to get the most food

12:19

possible to help the citizens in our town so we collect things like cranberry sauce and mashed potatoes and it's a

12:27

good way to get the school involved in the community finally the fall play opens this Friday

12:32

the cast crew and directors have been working for months to put on a Christmas carol this year this is an awesome show

12:39

to put on this season and it's a great way to get into the holiday spirit and to get your family together

12:45

um thank you for listening and now Jack will tell you about our Veterans Day assembly

12:51

thank you very much

12:58

hello my name is Jack Britton I'm your junior class liaison and today I'm going to tell you about our Veterans Day assembly so today after second period in

13:05

the high school our student council and our student council advisors put together our annual Veterans Day assembly this assembly took place in the

13:12

Mac gym and we were happy to host a slew of veterans that were connected to our community and that were able to show up

13:17

today our student council members gave a few brief speeches we had an amazing veteran keynote speaker and we honored

13:22

the names of the attending veterans and their Associated accommodations afterwards we had food and drinks out for the veterans and they had time to

13:29

talk and socialize and it was all a very fun experience it was well put together and well executed as another annual

13:35

Veterans Day assembly I'd also like to have a few brief comments on spirit week which happens recently so our annual

13:42

high school spirit week I personally thought was fun we had fun many competitions during lunch the themes each day were well attended by the

13:48

students well-dressed the decorations across the school I think look fantastic the pep rally on Friday was fun and

13:54

offered students a chance to participate in games versus other grades it also gave other student students a chance to show other school spirit and all in all

14:01

I think the week was filled with fun activities and a fun chance for high school students um next day I'd like to introduce you to

14:06

our sophomore class liaison thank you very much

14:16

good evening everyone I'm Amin cosmi the uh sophomore class for liaison today

14:22

I'll be discussing our school's performance regarding fall Sports beginning with our girls cross country

14:28

they perform extraordinarily freezing through sectionals and finally being barely being put down at States first

14:34

round our football team made it all the way to the playoff quarterfinals taking a tough loss to Mainland

14:40

our boys soccer team did as amazing as a club seed defeating the fourth seed in a close game and only taking a close loss

14:47

to Shawnee in the semi-finals the girls soccer team also made it to

14:52

the playoffs taking a really tough loss in the first round we'll do it next year girls tennis made it to the playoffs as

15:00

well made a lot of Underdog wins and took a tough loss once again to Shawnee as the first seed

15:06

girls volleyball they made it to the quarterfinals as well being number one in the conference until barely being

15:11

beaten by Jackson Memorial 2-1 and last but not least we had our field hockey team beginning all the way to the

15:18

playoffs defeating Allentown Cherry Hill West Lacey and final and barely losing sectional finals to clear view 2-1

15:26

overall our Athletics are Stellar as always and we will surely see that once again in the winter and spring seasons

15:32

and I'll now pass it to the freshman class in aison Sophia thank you all for listening

15:39

thank you very much

15:45

hi my name is Sophie overall I'm going to be filling in for Dom as the freshman class liaison so with the first marking

15:53

period just ending I just wanted to touch on the Freshman experience after their first marking period in high

15:58

school learning to learn at a high school level was one of the biggest lessons in itself especially to meet and

16:05

it is it was a completely different ball game than Middle School we all had to get a lot more time

16:11

management in and a lot less procrastinatory as we are introduced to different subjects every day at a faster

16:17

Pace than at whams the clubs and extracurriculars as well at the high school also open up many different

16:23

opportunities and experiences that most of us can't get elsewhere whether it be the musical Christmas Carol mock trial

16:31

student council athletes or countless others at the end of this first marking period I think many freshmen have

16:38

learned lessons and improved upon their studying and organization and I think those things will only improve in the

16:44

marking periods to come for us thank you thank you very much

16:56

so we appreciate you bringing uh some insight into the lives of uh the

17:01

different high school students and so thank you for that um at this point this is where you

17:06

traditionally can go and get all that homework done or catch up on extra sleep or whatever you need to do all right so

17:12

thank you all all right have a good evening get home safely

17:17

thank you thanks good job Windermere residents too

17:24

before there all right so moving on we'll go to our board committee reports

17:31

um I'd plan to start on this end of the table this time but Mr villanue is not here I know Cheryl you're doing fno but

17:38

I'll still go this way um we have a Communications please we'll start over here

17:47

we had a Communications meeting on October 26th and present were uh Mr

17:54

Volpe Mr weeks uh Dr Tate MS carloso MR Carl Burns and myself

18:01

um it was one of those like oh we just have a couple things to talk about and I think we took most of the hour the first thing that we talked about as a

18:08

Communications committee and following up from our last board meeting uh was some board discussion about our

18:14

interests in recognizing teachers um we talked about purpose of this we

18:19

talked about whether it's an administrative or a Board responsibility

18:25

um and you know lots of opinions shared about this um just a couple of highlights uh from

18:31

the minutes was that you know there should be a purpose to this recognition and and the opportunity to connect it to

18:38

some of the goals that we're doing in dish in districts some strategy work um and then toward the end of our

18:44

conversation on this topic Mr Volpe shared that there's some evidence that some of this recognition is happening at

18:50

the building level and that might be a way to kind of go forward just to like let us know what the extent of that

18:56

building level recognition is we don't want to create disruptions and um to just see if there's something uh

19:02

to build up that and then to talk about recognition as being one of the core

19:08

values of the board as Mr week shared in his president's comments today uh the

19:14

Second Step that the second topic that we talked about what are the community engagement forums lots of different

19:19

ideas on that and one of my to Do's that I didn't do but I will do following this meeting is to reach out to all of the

19:25

committee chairs to see if you all have ideas for different topics we talked about lots of different opportunities

19:32

for Community engagement including new voices new um audience that we don't

19:37

typically have different places that we could have it not just at the school and that what we would want to do is kind of

19:43

a series we had some significant discussion uh around how we can further

19:49

the topic although he talked to you about it as a topic are commitments to equity what's the next step from where

19:56

we left off in that work and what that might look like going forward we talked about the opportunity to not just engage

20:03

the community but allow for some learning opportunities with the community and so more to plan with that

20:10

that was you know kind of um in the midst of some Transitions and so I will reach out to the committee

20:17

chairs for some additional ideas for topics and then we'll see where we want to go we will likely look to plan two

20:23

meetings in the second half of the school year foreign

20:30

any questions comments okay I just I think it might be a good

20:37

place to add to that when we do come up with a list of topics we might be looking for Community Partners to kind

20:43

of help maybe either if not co-present kind of Drive attendance um so that we can get

20:49

into other parts of the community bring more people into the conversation that have been involved before so I just

20:54

turned the page and forgot that I had another page on my notes so there was one other topic I was just stretching

20:59

one other topic that we did talk about uh and we actually want to um we named that it was important to to

21:06

name this topic kind of in our public meeting is to reflect on um the board meeting structure how we talked about it

21:13

the last time following our Retreat that we would um integrate comments that we hear from the

21:20

public into our um considerations of agenda items if you all recall I don't

21:25

think we had any public comment in the first section of the public comment last time so we didn't have a good

21:30

opportunity to model that um but that this is something that we want to be public about that we're

21:37

trying to get better at recognizing the public comments that come to us in consideration of our votes
21:42
um to make sure people feel heard and uh we'll just keep out loud reflecting on
21:48
um how effective our efforts are in that regard okay any other comments to part two
21:56
okay all right thank you Dr Alberti all right continue to my my right
22:03
sounds good yep uh so policy met on the eighth uh it was myself
22:09
um Melissa Carl Burns Karen Benton and and Mike Volpe um the first thing we did was discussed
22:15
some of the outstanding policies that have been in discussion for a while to
22:21
ensure that sort of like to you know where they are and um moving into the new year where where
22:28
they stand so the one was policy 9190 the community organizations and clubs and the parent
organizations the
22:35
administration will be sending out or just has sent out um a letter to all the affiliate
22:40
organizations surveying what kinds of events are planned for the rest of the year and just to sort of inform
them of what the policy has currently written is
22:47
which is in in March or April they would present the following Year's events
22:53
um and and sort of have that discussion then the thing that the committee has to do
22:59
and the board has to do at large outstanding is discuss more discreetly
23:05
uh and concretely the the specific criteria that we would be using to enforce the policy as it is written
23:11
which is very big so um ostensibly there should be criteria
23:16
that the pot that the policy committee and the board at large would use to determine if an affiliate
organization
23:22
if a particular organization should be endorsed as an affiliate organization and what even that means so
23:29
um that's still the lift for the board and the committee um and as it as we go into the new year
23:35
that's something that will be discussed at the community level policy 163
23:41
um deals with Quorum we just need to get clarification from the business
23:48
administrator and the board attorney on specifically the number of uh board
23:53
members that constitute a quorum if there are different numbers of board members in existence so
whether it's
23:58
eight or seven like if we're filling different things so um and then the the new uh policy will
24:04
be adopted policy 143.2 deals with high school representation On The Board of Education
24:10
while we are currently compliant we're looking at as a board making a template
24:17

for what that position would look like outlining sort of the roles and responsibilities that would exist for
24:23
that um with the hope of sort of in 2023 um flushing flushing that into something
24:30
that would be in existence the following year so again a lot of still decisions
24:36
to be made um but I think something that um the board in the spring will take up
24:43
uh policy 5722 we discussed which is student journalism um we're currently compliant and I think
24:48
ultimately we'll abolish 2432 and the final one that we were just discussing is 5530 which deals with
24:56
substance abuse again this was something that we looked at several times in the spring and again there's
a there's a piece of
25:03
this which is still outstanding dealing with how student how it is the mechanisms for how students are
25:10
um treated and dealt with not necessarily what constitutes an infraction um and so we were talking about
having a
25:17
meeting with all the relevant stakeholders at the different schools to sort of understand
25:22
um parts of that and what should and should not um be looked at within the policy the
25:28
policy is very very long it has a lot of different parts um and we're trying to understand
25:33
specifically what is in the best interest of the students so those are the outstanding policies that over the
25:39
next whether it's December or January or February will be looked at continued in
25:45
terms of first reading for this evening um not a lot to really report honestly so 2415 is a mandated policy
dealing
25:52
with Title One changes um their D and then 20 24 15.04 deals
25:58
with sort of family engagement so the the predominant amount of Title One funds for our district go to
after
26:03
school tutoring and the policy specifically deals with how it's communicate and engaged with parents so
26:09
there's a parent night and how we the policy specifically lays out how
26:14
information should be solicited from parents on how it's How that's working for how the whole process
26:21
um again you don't have to be in title one two and to actually get the tutoring
26:27
so there's a number of pieces these are mandated policies and each policy there's a different policy for
each
26:32
school but they are identical um so it's all things that we're doing currently but just required and mandated
26:39
um and there are no changes for the policies that are on for second reading so
26:44
any questions
26:51
great thank you Dr Snyder uh curriculum met November 3rd in

26:59

attendance was Karen Benton Mike Volpe Julie Colby Sandra Alberti Cheryl

27:04

mccopless Mark Snyder and myself um first item was really just

27:09

informational but you know could have potential big impact for our district um uh ngdoa was visiting our

27:18

kindergarten programs we are one of the few districts remaining that have a half day kindergarten program and we are

27:25

anticipating that there will be a mandate coming soon from the state that you know we would have to provide full

27:31

day kindergarten so we will need to look for plan for the revenue loss impact

27:38

that that would have and the class size and school space impact that that would have in the upcoming years whenever that

27:43

happens but that was just kind of a preliminary visit the state was um touring with our uh District on November

27:51

4th um then we talked about the new curriculum that's on for approved level this month it's to be approved at

27:58

tonight's board meeting there was all the curriculum kind of shared with the board we changed our

28:04

process this year to have a little bit more transparency just between board members also being more prepared what

28:09

they're voting on um so all the curriculum for review was in the shared board drive we discussed

28:16

really the role of the board with regards to curriculum approval in general and we reviewed briefly policy

28:22

2210 which kind of outlines you know who is in charge of curriculum and the

28:27

writing thereof um then we had a math update Julie Colby came to our meeting and gave an update

28:35

on the ues math instructional model Julie reported really a lot of positive

28:40

feedback this year implementing the program um just as

28:46

um looking at the goals of all the lessons are inquiry based you know challenging fun encouraging productive

28:52

struggle with the learning process um she kind of outlined how the changes

28:57

were implemented and how they're moving forward then Julie shared uh just some

29:03

general goals for math instructions shifting from k through eight as far as designing for improved student critical

29:10

thinking test scores what were some overall goals for the math program moving forward

29:16

um she then gave an outline for the k-6 math adoption last year we were looking at the English language arts adoption

29:24

now we're focusing on the math adoption um so she outlined that process to the
29:30
board um as they're looking to you know select a curriculum that they'll or textbook
29:37
and curriculum that they'll look to be piloting later in this year um and then there was a
29:44
um Ela update just um Dr Benton talked about a curricular
29:49
adjustment um to address writing concerns that was based on the NG SLA data and prepare
29:56
students for high school writing expectations so in order to adjust to meet the student needs the ELO
30:02
supervisor and wham's English teachers had reviewed the 2022 NJ SLA results and
30:08
identified that there needed to be Improvement in research skills and writing about informational texts and
so
30:15
therefore the teachers were going to use the novel Uprising which is currently approved for use in small
group literature classes as a whole class text
30:23
for instruction in the following areas and then they kind of outline that process that they'd be moving
forward to
30:30
help with the student in enhance learning looking then also forward to
30:36
Pilot a plan to implement describe Below in the minutes of looking at how 30
30:43
copies per teacher would be you know given purchased with the ELA funds and
30:49
looking at how there would be an interconnection between the English and the social studies departments
for
30:54
planning and for incorporating the novels additional books will be
31:00
purchased in 2023 for individual student use and the text will be included as an anchor tax in the new
curriculum
31:06
documents to be written in the summer of 2023 as well um lastly there was an update uh last
31:13
month we uh presented on the Teen Mental Health uh first aid unit
31:18
um there was an update presented to that just how it was going to be instructional for grade 11 PE
classes
31:24
and it was going to begin in January February because this is in the health PE classes there was going to
be a
31:29
parent notification letter that was sent out ahead of instruction with an opt-out option is available for
parents because
31:36
this is Health curriculum related so and that that was what we covered in our
31:41
meeting any questions
32:13
because I think
32:21

okay seeing or hearing no questions thank you Lauren MS mccopless
32:30
well not do nearly as good a job as Mark but um our meeting for finance and
32:35
operations was on November 9th um in person and included in the meeting
32:42
where Mr Volpe Mr Airy Dr Benton Mr Heiser Mr Quintero joined us our new
32:48
buildings and ground supervisor and then it was from the Board of Ed myself Miss Morano Mr Villanueva
Mr weeks
32:57
um on the agenda the first agenda item was around Mr Quintero came and visited
33:03
us he joined the meeting to provide an update on what he's been learning while
33:08
he's been on site but he's been observing and he said he will be he's
33:14
learning a lot and he'll be back in a couple weeks to share more updates uh the second agenda item was
our Mr
33:22
volpes talked about this a few times the regional operations and Intelligence Center assessment of
Roberts this was a
33:30
secure a Safety and Security assessment that will be happening in all of our schools we'd given the
sensitive nature
33:37
of the assessment and the information that's in the document the committee discussed the best approach
to sharing
33:43
that information we had a lot of thoughts but we ultimately agreed to sharing
33:50
um the assessments once they're done by school so the elementary schools being
33:55
prioritized all the elementary schools are being prioritized once the elementary schools are finished we
will
34:00
receive an assessment that we can review and ask questions about and then it'll move to the ues
34:08
whams and then the high school and the documents about this the specifics about
34:14
the assessments um will be available in the board office for review
34:19
um if you're interested in seeing them but those assessments will move through committee so that
everybody gets an
34:25
opportunity to see what the administration's takeaway was um we had a discussion about the updated
34:31
tort claim notice um the Egypt solicitor made recommendations to the notice that a
34:37
sent to potential claimants upon receipt of a tort claim um the committee recommend adopting the
34:43
revised notice on that's on today's tonight's agenda um there were some overnight trip
34:49
requests that the committee recommends the board approved that was for the Sam Cali invitation
wrestling tournament and
34:55

the New Jersey state wrestling tournament um there was discussion about the Morristown Hoops proposal

35:03

um uh the committee discussed the proposal to allow Rowan University students engage in a project to video

35:10

record the basketball team this season the committee was supportive of The Proposal under the condition that we had

35:18

clearance from all the legal hurdles there are potential issues associated

35:24

with the proposal that couldn't be resolved before the season starts so the project will not happen this year

35:32

uh financially we talked about the 23-24 budget process

35:38

um the committee discussed the calendar which generally has moved all dates two

35:44

to four weeks earlier than usual which is great news um and we had a robust discussion about

35:52

the per pupil budgeting that will be implemented at the building level

35:59

and then from old business just to kind of build on the discussion that started in curriculum Dr Benton was with us she

36:07

updated the committee regarding the potential for the state mandate for

36:12

districts to provide free full day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten so

36:19

um a doe representative conducted a walkthrough of Baker which is what Lauren was talking about to verify our

36:26

half day program there was discussion about a potential mandate for free extended programs for K and Pre-K

36:35

um it's not clear of what the timing of the Mandate will be but approximately 96

36:41

percent of our kindergartners pay for extended day so the impact on Space may

36:47

not be insurmountable because the student the number of students likely won't change but

36:54

um the budget impact on full free Day on free full day programs would be

37:00

significant as we roughly budget around six hundred thousand dollars in revenue from the kindergarten program

37:08

and that was our meeting

37:15

questions comments for that report which I say is as good if not better than Mr

37:20

villanuevas delivery I said it was as good or better than Mr Villa wave is delivering just

37:28

anyway any questions or comments all right hearing none

37:34

we can move on um so that concludes the uh board

37:40

committee reports now we'll move to the public comments on agenda items

37:50

oh yeah I guess um yeah we can do the off-board Committees there too

37:57

apologies yeah go ahead yep uh okay so on um Wednesday October 19th

38:07

I attended the Garden State Coalition of schools meeting um uh professor at Drew University uh Dr

38:15

Edwards she spoke she gave a great um presentation related to how schools can

38:20

incorporate incorporate Namaste and other diversity elements into their curriculum

38:27

um the next meeting is on November 16th um our speak meeting which are is our

38:33

special education advisory Council uh we met October 27th that was an

38:40

evening meeting um Dr Tate provided a terrific update including

38:45

um that on December 5th through the 9th is the inclusive schools week um whose theme this year is

Unity within

38:52

our community and I'm hopeful that we'll see um things throughout all the schools

38:58

related to that um also uh the high school unified soccer team sent two teams uh to the

39:07

Schreiber cup have I got that right and one team won a gold and one won the

39:12

bronze um the whams Unified sports is getting up and running and ues unified Club is

39:19

already up um speak is also putting together a parent training which will probably

39:24

occur the last week of January uh its topic will be parental rights and special education and will include

39:31

information about 504s and IEP plans um there are a lot of similar resources

39:36

like that available through speak and then next meeting is Thursday November 17th so Thursday at 9 30

in the

39:45

Star Center which is connected to the high school and all of the meetings have brought they're in person

but there also

39:53

is a virtual option for anybody who wants to attend um two other real quick things I

39:58

our second health and safety committee meeting is November 30th the our first

40:03

one was September 28th um and it's a relatively self-explanatory what we talk about

40:10

um and I do want to mention that I was really grateful for the opportunity to attend the New Jersey school

boards

40:16

Workshop at the end of October I had the chance to participate in

40:21

workshops about ethics updates on special ed laws how to ensure board policies reflect empathy

40:29

and Equity or cyber security incorporating SEL how to communicate and

40:35

other extremely interesting and relevant topics so um I was grateful for that so thank you
40:41
everybody that's it
40:47
thank you any other off-board reports
40:53
please now you know why I let her go first um on November 8th I attended the More
41:00
arts meeting only for the first 10 minutes um because I had a conflict but I was
41:05
able to share with them that Mr Volpe was leaving and what gave them the information about his
departure
41:12
um and then the main things are that More arts will be doing concession sales
41:20
at the MHS fall play on 11 18 and 19 and
41:25
11 20 at 2 p.m so they're always looking for volunteers to help set up and help
41:30
do concessions so if anybody's free on those dates I'm sure they would appreciate it and then planning is
41:36
underway for the holiday Arts Festival on December 3rd from one to four again
41:41
another opportunity to get involved either as a volunteer um or to help set up before and after
41:48
and Melissa thank you I also have the opportunity to attend the New Jersey
41:53
school boards association meeting this year I was disappointed that I couldn't stay longer
41:59
um I attended sessions on special education budgeting and
42:06
governance and I think there's a lot of great takeaways for some of the practices within our own board
and next
42:14
year I will promise to set aside more time to spend more time there because it's definitely I think a
42:20
benefit to the district to have board members attend thank you
42:27
okay is that it for those off-board reports okay thank you very much so moving on
42:35
we'll we'll go to our first section of public comment this is the public comment on agenda items so uh
continuing
42:43
on what Dr Alberti was talking about with uh our our endeavors our efforts to
42:48
improve this process I just want to make some of the same remarks I made last time and that basically
this first
42:55
public comment session or section is to help inform the board as we think
43:01
through votes um I'll point out that it's it's the last opportunity to speak to us before
43:07
but not your only opportunity um we've been talking at least you know the year I've been up here and and
43:14
previously that we want to hear from the public we want to hear from the community and we're available
via email we set up

43:22

a form online so there are lots of different ways to get us your thoughts and opinions

43:27

um prior to here but also here is an opportunity for you to share those with us and while the board will take those

43:35

in and potentially have discussions about them before votes um it's not necessarily guaranteed that

43:40

what you say here will be in part of that conversation but we'll Endeavor to

43:45

try to take common themes and and do that as much as possible so that said

43:52

um before I go over the rules I'll entertain a motion to open public comment

43:57

okay thank you all in favor aye the opposed absentions all right thanks so uh for this first

44:04

public comment section again just on agenda items please come to the mic uh state your name and as much of your

44:10

address as you're comfortable with sharing they'll have up to three minutes to speak and we'll let you know as your

44:15

time progresses uh it's not necessarily it's not it's not a question an answer period

44:21

um so uh should you be seeking an answer or dialogue it's best to follow up with one of us or like I said use one of the

44:27

other opportunities to engage with us before um we also want to remind people you

44:32

don't necessarily you should not address individual board members or people on the Deus and be respectful in making

44:38

your public comment and note which agenda item your comment relates to so with that the mic is available

44:55

Andrea Lawson Garwood Road um I just wanted to go back to the climate survey for a minute if if that's

45:02

part of this uh open public comment okay Mr Volpe mentioned it when we walk when

45:08

I was walking in yeah it was part of the Subaru attendance remarks um so as I understood it it was described as an

45:13

opt-in which I really appreciate that it's an opt-in versus an opt-out

45:18

um and that it's our our choice to participate I'm just a little confused because if it was truly an opt-in

45:24

everyone should have been opted out unless they replied the reason that

45:30

matters is because my eighth grade daughter was locked out of Genesis preventing her from viewing her homework and her grades until me as the parent

45:37

actually opted in or out um I know that an email was sent to the

45:44

community however I just don't understand how the students should be locked out or penalized for their parents

45:49

responsibilities it wasn't a fine it wasn't anything it was just whether I was opting in or out the parents of the
45:55
younger grades don't realize the impact of their child being locked out but this created a lot of confusion in our house
46:01
it created a lot of anxiety as to how many days was she going to be locked out
46:06
um and I was also not really sure like where and when was the survey going
46:11
to take place and what is the plan for the children who can't read the questions or answers like how are they
46:18
going to participate who was actually completing the survey on their behalf again I really want to thank you for the
46:24
opt-in versus the opt out I think it's really important given the sensitivity of these questions but I'm not sure that
46:32
the parents of the younger grades which I have five children through the district so I have 20 down to nine
46:38
um I don't think the younger kid the younger parents even realize what's going on because they're not aware of
46:44
how Genesis locks out their kids and that some of these kids may not be able to read these questions so I I know you
46:51
can't answer my questions but if maybe you can follow up with an email and explaining a little more about that please thank you thank you for your
46:58
comments okay anyone else
47:06
okay all right not seeing any activity going towards the microphone I will entertain
47:13
the motion to close public comment thank you thank you all in favor
47:18
aye aye opposed extensions all right thanks very much so moving on
47:25
um now reports uh to the board so request a motion for approval of items
47:33
uh one through four uh including the financial reports treasurer's report approval of budget transfers and the
47:40
approval of bills um so can I have a motion please second thank you any questions comments
47:48
concerns okay all in favor aye your opposed extensions
47:56
all right thank you moving on next to uh the recommendations of the superintendent so we have a the memory
48:03
of a memorandum of agreement for live streaming uh these with the uh law
48:08
enforcement uh Morristown Police uh policies that were mentioned first reading second reading
48:14
so oh I'm sorry I keep missing that what did I miss you
48:20

know just we have to stop there yeah oh yeah oh just the ammo right yeah

48:27

and I keep all right I miss at least one each meeting so thanks for keeping me honest all right so uh the motion uh

48:34

I'll entertain a motion for approving the Moa thank you all right all in favor hi uh were there

48:43

any questions sorry I skipped that part too no all right uh so we have the favor any opposed

48:49

abstentions all right thank you motion carries right

48:54

now uh policies and procedures the items uh upper first and second reading so a

49:00

motion to approve those policies soon thank you

49:06

okay any comments questions okay

49:14

there you go um so I apologize I did miss that policy committee I'm just really curious uh

49:21

what the even though it's mandated what what are what are the changes requiring us to do differently is it just um more

49:28

engagement more engagement from school to parent versus asking the parents to be more involved on their own I I just

49:35

wanted to get some clarification on that I'll let I'll let Dr Benton speak to that

49:40

um sorry so the one change was that

49:47

um previously you've only had to have a district Title One policy um the state is now requiring that each

49:53

school um have its own policy um in my research if that it had to do with

50:00

districts really that have larger much larger Title One populations and many more say like elementary schools where

50:06

the title one program might be very different at one school than at another school in districts like ours where we

50:13

have small Title One population um our programming is pretty much just the the same across the district for

50:19

instance we for you know primarily use our funding for after school tutoring um

50:25

and we've also in the recent years used it to uh for our summer programming so that was the first change the second

50:31

change had to do with the increased focused um on family engagement so one of the

50:36

things that we did uh Dr Tate and I went through that and we looked at how we are gathering information from our Title One

50:44

families and then how we are communicating information about our programming and academic support and

50:50

those things so what the when you look through the policies for the different schools they're pretty much all the same
50:55
but what we've done is clarified how we're going to communicate out and elicit feedback from our parents so
51:02
those are the big changes no and that was it was both right it was
51:07
both looking at the policy that was the conversation we had predominantly was what are the current practices and sort
51:14
of like are we ensuring that we're capturing the concerns and issues from the
51:19
different groups that make up title one and then also are the mechanisms for conveying information about an adequate
51:27
um so I think that both that's as she said
51:35
all right any other questions or comments so all in favor of these policies uh for
51:43
first and second reading aye any opposed extensions
51:48
all right motion carries moving on the letter c we've got two items the special education and District placements for
51:54
2223 and the approval of new curriculum uh I'll entertain a motion for approval of those two items
52:00
thank you thank you any comments or questions I just want to
52:06
uh having the process and carrying out the process and that I will say from a
52:12
committee perspective I think we have a good combination of concerns and conversation and I think it is to the
52:19
benefit of what we're approving and even the timing of it I think I really
52:25
appreciate all the work that went into it to represent everybody's concerns and where we are with this vote early in the
52:32
school year to approve the curriculum that's in place okay
52:39
um I second a lot of what Sandra said I did want to say thank you to Mr Volpe
52:44
and to Dr Benton um the curriculum development process was very thorough for somebody who is
52:52
still I'm going to call myself new until January um I appreciate all the work of the
52:58
administrations and teach the administration and the teachers who are teaching our children every day and on
53:04
top of it being asked to develop and learn how to apply a new curriculum in
53:09
seven content areas to meet the new learning standards that are required by
53:14
the state it was definitely a lot of work and a big lift I personally don't believe that the
53:22

implementation of these new state requirements is ideal given the impact of the past two years

53:27

on learning that said I think we can look for the opportunity that this situation presents

53:35

and find ways to incorporate inclusive approaches to delivering curriculum that

53:41

create the best conditions possible to help every student learn grow and succeed

53:47

one example within the curriculum that we reviewed were areas where books were

53:53

listed and I was pleased to see the lists and it led me to a discussion with Dr Benton about incorporating required

54:01

or anchor books um into all curriculum as a way to promote greater transparency and

54:07

collaboration between all of our caring teachers and Educators or parents and

54:12

Guardians in support of our students so the New Jersey school boards which is my go-to resource I mentioned earlier

54:19

states that children learn more when their parents are involved in their education and we all want our children

54:25

to succeed and I am thankful that Dr Benton and I have started this conversation around transparency and

54:33

being more inclusive and I look forward to continuing that discussion in our next curriculum committee meeting in

54:40

December and seeing how we can look at maybe potentially policy updates that reflect

54:46

the desire to be more transparent and inclusive so Dr Benton I do want to say thank you this has been a great

54:52

educational process and I think we're moving in a really good direction

54:59

foreign thank you any other comments or

55:06

questions for the vote all right so we have a motion on the

55:13

floor all in favor aye any opposed extensions

55:21

um

55:28

pasta I just myself don't feel as though I'm close enough to it and that could be

55:35

because of the process it could be resting on my shoulders that I should have taken on a greater level of

55:41

responsibility to get closer enough that I'd be comfortable um for example with the budget and the

55:47

negotiation committee I did do that and I felt like the process really went to self to me get in close enough but not

55:55

fully immersed but theorizers don't feel confident that I'm supposed to not to weigh in on your community

56:04

hey anybody else all right thank you sorry

56:11
so that motion carries all right moving on um so this one we have uh numbers one
56:18
through 11. it's 11. yeah yeah right tried to
56:24
trick me up tripped me up on that one I've got Mark here so can't happen all
56:30
right so um items one through eleven under uh letter d uh these are all under
56:36
finance and business so motion to approve these second thank you any comments or
56:44
questions all right hearing none all in favor
56:52
aye any opposed extensions motion carries thank you all right up to
57:00
letter e we've got uh 11 items here um number one the appointments uh is as
57:06
amended an executive with the two additional um positions that we are walking on uh
57:13
for tonight's meeting so I'll entertain a motion for approval of items one through eleven
57:19
thank you second thank you any questions or comments
57:25
I think we should make a comment that anybody listened to the meeting wants to be a substitute yes
again for
57:31
substitutes we should say that every time um so teachers nurses bus drivers
57:43
okay [Music]
57:51
no we're gonna wait we're gonna wait till somebody volunteers let's go
57:56
all right sorry Cheryl very okay all right uh so
58:04
um we have the motion in the second so all in favor oh I'm sorry roll call Vote Yes
58:10
yes Mrs arkara Burns yes that was Macaluso
58:16
yeah yeah Mrs mcpoulos yes Miss Romano Mr Villanueva
58:22
Dr Schneider yes Mr weeks yes thank you all right thank you Mr Heiser all right
58:29
uh letter our 10 is suspensions in the HIV report
58:35
um as discussed in the previous exec so yeah motion
58:41
all right any comments questions all right all in favor
58:48
aye the oppose extensions
58:54
okay uh the last uh section there we have the informational only section with
59:00
our enrollment information any old business
59:06
okay hearing none moving on um I'll address what's listed under new business first the 2023-24 budget
59:13

calendar acknowledgment we're going to move that one to December because we
59:19
don't have the state's budget calendar yet so even though we have some preliminary dates and
understanding of
59:25
how we want to handle the budget on our side we need the state's details before we can move forward
with that so we're
59:32
going to talk about that probably at the December meeting not not even the special meeting next week
59:38
all right so uh any other new business
59:44
nope okay now we'll move well I guess I'll cancel it for new business okay
59:50
um just that um as we were talking about the positives of school board um convention this Saturday is the
um
59:56
biannual um School Board delegation uh meeting so um anyone is welcome to register and
1:00:03
sign up and attend that as well um it's it's an interesting event so I
1:00:08
will I will be there but if anyone else would like to sign up please join us also a good meal for
1:00:14
breakfast all right thank you
1:00:20
um any other new business okay all right moving on we'll come to
1:00:25
our second public comment uh this public comment section is open uh it doesn't
1:00:32
have to be restricted to specifically items that are on our agenda uh these
1:00:37
are Communications or information that you'd like to share if you again if you do have questions
1:00:43
when we get to our for the good of the order section the board may discuss that
1:00:49
may not it might be better to follow up uh in another format later so same rules
1:00:57
apply for this one um which I'll briefly touch on once we get the motion on the
1:01:02
floor and approve that so motion to open public comment thank you all in favor
1:01:09
aye pose abstentions assuming none all right so this again public comment up to three
1:01:15
minutes to speak we'll let you know about your time um please don't address individual people
1:01:21
on the Deus or on the board and um let's see you know the routine you just
1:01:26
heard it so
1:01:32
cricket ever 310 North Stanwick Road I'm also a teacher at South Valley third
1:01:37
grade and I would like to recognize uh the student council advisors for a great
1:01:43
spirit week pep rallies and the new clap in I have to keep reminding myself clap
1:01:50
in not clap out um that obviously was very successful the students enjoyed it I remember when

1:01:57

my boys went to school here it was the highlight of their four years so that was great I also have to give a special

1:02:04

shout out to the Morristown Police Department for helping to make the clap

1:02:09

in successful so thank you thank you

1:02:19

hello my name is Steve Dickerson I work at Baker Elementary I have another positive comment

1:02:25

um so I just like to commend the Wham staff for organizing and facilitating

1:02:30

two awesome excuse me sorry uh and creative events in the month of October

1:02:36

so the seventh grade staff facilitated po day with the board game Clue as a

1:02:43

guiding model and the eighth grade staff facilitated the Salem Witch Trials which

1:02:48

included the historical background but also included a cool escape room activity

1:02:53

so they also celebrated and pardoned my Spanish here uh El Dia de los Muertos

1:02:59

how was that might be working on it all right

1:03:05

with a luncheon for all seventh and eighth grade Spanish students so thank

1:03:10

you thank you

1:03:18

hello my name is Maria Puccini and I teach at William Allen Middle School I

1:03:24

would like to commend the ues staff and especially just had for organizing a

1:03:29

collection of toiletries instead of food for the month of November since there

1:03:34

are many they are usually a lot of food donations now

1:03:40

the ues donated over a thousand items for the food pantry to the First Baptist

1:03:46

Church of Morristown

1:03:55

hello I am Courtney Barling and I teach English at the high school and I also

1:04:00

have first grader at Baker so I'm actually speaking on behalf of that and my fellow staff members I'd like to

1:04:06

recognize the staff at Baker Roberts hot Valley for not only surviving Halloween

1:04:11

this year but having it all on a Monday especially and then catering to our kids

1:04:16

all week long but they provided the annual parade with the high school band in attendance which was so awesome

1:04:23

um they dressed up with their students and they shared class parties and tons of Halloween fun so they made it really special so we appreciate that thank you

1:04:30

very much thank you

1:04:40

I guess they could have met Marcella uh Clark 806 Joshua Court
1:04:46
um I was reviewing Dr Benton's presentation um from last month and um since it was a
1:04:51
curriculum meeting I thought I would just throw something out there I'm not really familiar with a lot of
what's happening so I might be saying something
1:04:58
that you know I there's a lot of missing pieces that I'm not sure um as far as piloting I noticed that um
1:05:06
there's a pilot program happening this year for dyslexia screener um and it's super important to really
1:05:12
catch those kids early and I noticed it was nwea which is also the maps
1:05:17
assessments and I'm familiar with the maps assessment from administering it and um everything has
short comment
1:05:24
comings everything has benefits um my concern is and I'm not familiar
1:05:29
with the dyslexia screener I know that's a new uh screener um is when everything is computerized
1:05:35
those shortcomings from a computerized assessment you're already getting the data from Maps which it
seems like worst
1:05:41
town really relies on heavily now you're going to use that as your dyslexia screener and so all of the
shortcomings
1:05:48
that are happening in the map assessment they're going to be there on the dyslexia screener and so I
would just
1:05:53
hope that maybe two pilots would happen typically when when districts pilot a program they often do at
least two
1:06:01
so that you can really do an analysis of the different components of a couple programs and like for
instance the
1:06:08
reading program last year maybe there were two pilots I'm not familiar with that I know the one that was
piloted
1:06:14
with my child is the one that was ultimately purchased um as far as cost the district
1:06:20
um I've never paid for a pilot ever in my experience in education the Reps usually give me everything for
free
1:06:26
um especially if I mention and say hey if if we don't get this you know as as
1:06:31
you know basically a free item I'll just go to this company um so I just think best practice would
1:06:38
be to Pilot more than one program and to really have different teachers come together and talk about the
strengths of
1:06:43
the program success with students and kind of look at that together and as I said you might be piloting
three
1:06:49
programs I really don't know that I just noticed on the presentation I saw one pilot program for dyslexia
screener
1:06:56

thank you okay thank you

1:07:04

hey anyone else

1:07:10

all right I guess we're all eager to get back out into the rain um okay motion to close public comment

1:07:18

thank you thanks all in favor

1:07:23

aye all right any opposed abstentions no all

1:07:28

right no problem uh anything uh for the good of the order

1:07:34

yes yes I if you look at the

1:07:41

updated but we don't have 11 000 students in our elementary schools

1:07:48

thanks that's the extra students extra one to

1:07:54

go make that one to 11 under kindergarten yes yeah

1:07:59

all right exactly a lot of construction

1:08:05

so um there's anybody have anything else because I can ask I don't know Dr Benton

1:08:11

um if you think it would be best to you know we heard a concern during public comment about piloting and assessments I

1:08:19

don't know if it's better to address that kind of succinctly here or if it might be better to meet with the person

1:08:24

with Miss Clark what do you think

1:08:29

I mean I'm happy to where'd you go oh uh you know speak with Ms Clark if you'd like to send me an email and we can talk

1:08:36

about um what I will say is that um many times in a pilot you do use

1:08:42

multiple um you know pilot multiple resources um another approach though however is

1:08:48

that we develop a set of criteria that we're looking for that we want to require in whatever resource that we do

1:08:54

and then we can look at the resources that are available and see which of those meet and then sometimes in that

1:09:01

case we will only Pilot One material one resource other times we go through kind

1:09:06

of multiple um tiers of screening and selection

1:09:11

um which then we kind of Whittle down to one resource or maybe two resources so

1:09:17

we do have a process I'm happy to you know talk to you about that and to your point any program or tool that you're

1:09:23

going to bring in is going to have its shortcomings and we have to kind of weigh are the shortcomings against the

1:09:28

things that we've identified that we've prioritized in in this case a screener but any resource that we would use

1:09:36

thanks Dr Benton um and then also Mr Volpe I don't know if you want to address

1:09:41

um the comments from the first Public public comment uh where we talk about

1:09:46

the opt-in process and if you have any more thoughts to share about that sure just right right now if you have any

1:09:53

specific questions about how it's being delivered please contact your child's principal they can best direct that to

1:09:58

you each building is doing it slightly differently but the comments can be taken into consideration for future

1:10:04

instances and I'll make sure that the next superintendent certainly knows that okay anything else for the good of the

1:10:11

order if not we'll entertain a motion for a German

1:10:17

all in favor aye aye not even going to give anybody a chance to abstain or say no all right

1:10:24

motion carries thanks everybody get home safely and hopefully as dry as possible