

Transcript of January 26, 2023 BOE Meeting

0:03

thank you

0:08

all right

0:20

I mean

0:26

questions

0:32

impossible

0:51

yeah yeah

1:10

oh next

1:18

um

1:36

foreign

2:30

foreign

3:00

foreign

3:27

to work

4:10

thank you

4:38

all right

4:46

okay

5:09

foreign

5:42

yeah no basketball okay

5:50

all right

5:56

please thanks for the next notifications

6:15

yes

6:31

thank you

6:46

all right

7:03

yeah sometimes got it

7:20

foreign

7:47

foreign

8:26

foreign

8:55

all right good evening like to call to order the regular meeting of the Morristown Township Board of Education

9:01

meetings properly noticed in accordance with the Oakland Public meetings act uh

9:08

to start off I'd like to have a moment of silence please

9:21

rise for the pledge please foreign [Music]

9:36

Ty and justice for all [Music]

9:42

you take roll call Mr Heiser please Mrs arcara Burns Mrs Fallows Macaluso here Dr Mike here

9:51

Mrs Miller Mrs Murano Miss Romano Mr weeks

9:57

president Mrs mccopless here Mr Villanueva here thank you

10:04

he's starting off with our routine matters uh like a motion to approve the

10:10

minutes is set forth in the agenda please

10:17

any comments questions all in favor aye

10:22

opposed or abstentions

10:28

are there any Communications from the board

10:34

okay hearing none um well welcome everybody thank you for

10:39

coming out to our January board meeting um this is uh an exciting time and I'm very

10:47

happy to introduce again Mr bolendorf who will be our interim superintendent

10:54

who uh joined us on Monday um and in the in the four short days but

11:01

active I've heard um he's really you know delivered

11:07

everything that we had expected um he has 40 years of experience 39 years

11:14

of educational experience most recently as superintendent of Washington Township

11:21

um he has such great leadership skills uh and and to a t everybody that I've

11:28

spoken to this week has been nothing but impressed and so we really are happy to

11:34

welcome you Joe um and look forward to working with you and getting the benefit of of your

11:39

leadership um you know it's uh I wanted to thank the

11:45

board and the cabinet and administration for their uh patience and Grace as uh there's been

11:54

a number of leadership transitions as as Mick had mentioned in the in the December meeting we were

12:01

offloading our prior superintendent and onboarding uh Mr ballendorf and uh I was

12:09

and Cheryl were getting uh acclimated to the our new

12:14

roles and um I think there was support uh certainly by cabinet

12:21

um really extended overextended themselves to make sure that we were continuing to move forward uh during

12:27

these transition periods so so thank you and thanks to the board again for your patience and Grace as I you know sort of

12:34

fumbled through trying to put together some of the Committees and and really um and still getting my arm around a lot of

12:41

the scheduling and sort of administrative issues that come along with with this role

12:46

um so with that I don't I didn't prepare formal remarks so that that is about it

12:52

I just wanted to turn it over to Mr bolendorf for for his comments

13:00

got it well thank you uh I really appreciate the uh many platitudes I'm

13:06

not sure that they're all so deserving but it's it's certainly been a nice transition uh coming here uh it

13:12

certainly beats uh staying at home each morning and doing our family's laundry

13:17

um having been retired for seven months I don't have a monthly report because I've only been here for four days

13:23

um but in those four short days uh it's I've been very impressed uh with the

13:29

quality of the people that I see working in the district um the the work the collaborative work

13:35

that exists between uh our staff and our Administration uh is really something

13:40

there's really quite a lot of give and take that goes along and I think that's really very critical uh in trying to

13:47

provide the very best that you can for our kids it takes a lot of people working together and uh and and and and

13:53

and providing what it is that we can to make this the best District that we can for our children

13:59

um I am somebody who's very kids Centric and I think that you'll learn that about me over the next few months in the

14:06

position of leadership that the superintendent has to be and you're often faced with you know very challenging decisions and decisions have

14:13

to be made and very often those decisions are not always going to be the the favorite decision by by folks

14:19

throughout whatever District you may be working in so my barometer has always been to to make decisions that I think

14:25

there are really in the best interest of our kids and in the district overall and

14:30

and if you do those things you're able to put your head on the pillow at night and uh and know that you're you're

14:35

moving in the right direction so I hope that I can subscribe to that and continue to do that here in Morristown

14:41

and uh hopefully continue the great tradition you guys have tremendous tradition

14:47

um moving forward in time so thank you for the opportunity and I'm very happy to be here thank you

14:53

great thank you uh moving on in our agenda our next item uh is to hear from

14:59

the student board Representatives that have joined us

15:08

good evening everybody my name is Lucas McGill and I'm your senior class Board of Ed liaison today I have some details

15:14

for you regarding the senior trip uh school years flying by and they're only a couple more months before our

15:19

senior trip the trip will take place from Saturday March 11th to Thursday March 16th and like last year us to

15:25

Universal Studios and Disney Parks the latest update is that everybody has their roommate forms in and payments in

15:31

and at this point we're all just super excited for everything that's to come I'll keep you updated as time goes by and that's all I have for tonight so I'm

15:37

going to pass it off to our junior class liaison foreign

15:54

class liaison and today I'm here to talk about our love fair so Morristown High

16:00

School hosted our first ever love Fair last Wednesday on January 18th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr Day and The

16:07

Love Fair stands for the learning opportunities and volunteering encouragement there at this event a number of organizations

16:14

and clubs set up booths in the cafeteria for students to browse the volunteering

16:19

opportunities they offered and I was on the committee responsible for finding organizations who would be able to come

16:25

to the fair and was a very long process of making calls to many organizations and facing lots of rejection where we

16:32

finally were able to find 25 organizations who are willing to come to the Love Fair these organizations

16:38

comprise of animal shelters like the Animal Welfare Association LGBTQ centers

16:44

like the mazoni center in Philly we had fire departments senior care homes like the Brandywine Senior care Living Center

16:51

right here in Morristown and we had soup kitchens and also a number of social justice groups like League of Women

16:57

Voters the Alice Paul Institute and the NAACP which was represented by councilman Clinton law and this was one

17:05

of my favorite parts of the fair was seeing students myself included having very meaningful conversations with

17:10

councilman law is especially because he is a recent Morristown graduate and was just like us at one point

17:17

we also had school clubs who set up booths in the cafeteria to teach about racial Justice For example the

video

17:24

production Club had a shout out set up showing black contributions to film and students from the math

department made

17:30

posters teaching us about black mathematicians we also had live volunteering opportunities the interact

17:37

Club had a booth where we could write cards to senior citizens in nursing homes and the organization

inspiring

17:44

life together had a booth where we could write encouraging cards to those with breast cancer

17:49

the love fair was definitely a success and we had a very high turnout from students I know that for me the

17:56

cafeteria was so loud and it was just hard getting across from one side of the cafeteria to the other so it

was

18:02

definitely a success and overall it was just very rewarding seeing so many of my peers so passionate

about service and

18:09

actively trying to find Opportunities to give back to our community and local communities student council

looks

18:16

forward to making the love for an annual event or even possibly two times two times a year with one in

the spring and

18:22

one in the fall thank you I'd like to pass it off to the sophomore class liaison

18:38

good morning everyone my name is Amin Cosby and I'm the sophomore class for liaison a few weeks

ago we hosted our

18:45

Martin Luther King Jr Day assembly to honor the achievements of not only MLK Jr himself but all African-

American

18:51

scientists teachers mathematicians and many more we had an assembly in the auditorium where I went

as follows we

18:58

began with the student council Representatives introducing the assembly then playing a video made by

the designated committee within the council

19:05

that celebrated MLK's life and its achievements following this video we introduced our guest speaker Dr

Benton

19:12

who gave an amazing speech about her life in connection to the life of Mr King I'd like to speak on behalf

of the

19:18

entire school and the council when I say thank you so much to Dr Benton for taking time out of her day to

give it

19:23

such an insightful thoughtful motivating speech encouraging students like us to be the
19:30
change that we want to see in the world overall it was a huge success and we were even just able to slip
in a little
19:37
bit of advertisement for the love fair that was just previously mentioned uh thank you all for listening I'll
pass
19:42
it to the Freshman days on Dom
19:58
good evening everyone I'm Domin freshman class liaison like I said last time it's crazy that
20:04
we're almost at midterms and yet here we are this week was the beginning of midterms at the high school
starting on
20:10
Monday some classes had the beginning of a small part of the midterms and others had just normal
classes
20:16
Tuesday and Wednesday we're reading uh reading days for the high school where teachers reviewed
lessons and topics of
20:22
the school year that we have already passed um today we started our actual exams we
20:28
had our world language and English test which went smoothly tomorrow we have history in science and
to finish it up
20:34
we have on Monday of next week we have math all of our exam days our early dismissals meeting will
get out around
20:40
12 o'clock instead of to around two thank you for having me here tonight and I hope everyone has a great
night
20:48
thanks to all the Reps
20:54
well thanks to all of you uh it's always a great part of me to hear to hear your student perspective
21:00
um I don't have a high schooler and so I didn't realize that uh midterms were this week so thanks Dom for
for letting
21:07
us know so obviously uh you're free to stay but take off and hit the books
21:12
um but thank you again it's uh really appreciate you taking the time out
21:18
um next we will do our board committee reports and these are the reports uh
21:25
from our committee chairs from our four standing committees which are Communications curriculum
Finance
21:31
operations and policy and so we'll start with an update from the communications
21:38
chair Miss fellows Macaluso yep that's that's excited to be the chair of this
21:45
committee we had our first meeting since the reorganization sitting on it are me Melissa Burns Brooke
21:52
Maya Mark Villanueva and we had a great meeting I think yesterday and the
21:58

purpose of this first meeting was to really discuss the scope and Mandate of the communications committee going
22:03
forward and evaluate whether or not we think it should continue to be a standing committee or perhaps just meet
22:08
on an ad hoc basis we had a good conversation about the work the committee's done the past 12 months
22:15
notably the engagement of the communications consultant Lori perlow who we share with other neighboring
22:21
school districts to tap into for her expertise and you may recall that we had started some top-down strategy work
22:28
where we would conduct stakeholder interviews and get feedback and develop a top-down strategy to evolve our
22:35
district-wide approach to Communications in 2022 we hit pause on that for
22:40
competing priorities so the committee talked about we really have a need to get an update
22:45
um from Miss perlow on the vision for that strategy work a download on the stakeholder surveys conducted to date
22:52
and to determine whether or not we want to move forward with that top-down strategy work we did talk about the fact
22:58
that regardless of whether we choose to move forward with the top-down strategy work there's a significant need to
23:05
continue to evolve and strengthen and modernize our approach to Communications as a district Joe really inspired us
23:12
with some things that he's done in his previous experiences and we have decided that we need to keep it as a standing
23:18
committee so our next meeting is scheduled for February 22nd
23:23
great thank you any questions for Jill
23:29
okay moving on uh Miss Romano could you give us a report from the curriculum
23:34
committee please sure so we met on January 12th it was uh Dr Benton Mr Volpe uh Dave Tate Kat
23:42
diambra mcweeks Cheryl mccopless Danielle Miller and myself um the first thing was a discussion that
23:50
focused on the clarification of the RFP that was pulled from December's board meeting and then we went into a
23:57
discussion um Dr Benton reviewed again the multi-tiered system of support that the district currently uses she reviewed the
24:05
tiered levels of support students are receiving in the district and is working to develop a communication chart for our
24:11

website so that it would better explain to the community at large our student learning and SEL Wellness levels of
24:19
support so that we would have a better communication with what's going on she's
24:24
also looking to help identify professional development and resources that are going to be needed to kind of
24:30
fully implement the tier letter what uh tiered system of support and enhance
24:35
that um Dr Benton and Mr Volpe addressed their look forward at how we
24:42
would specifically Target some of the learning needs issues uh Karen and Mike proposed that for next school year and
24:49
only for next school year grade one would cap class size um that was a recommendation from the
24:57
fac committee to address the learning needs at this grade level specifically focused on the committee then you know
25:04
discussed the pros and cons of that taking a look at that recommendation
25:09
we asked would it impact budget would it Impact Staffing do we have the school space issues and
25:18
so we are needing a little bit more information um you know moving forward and then we
25:23
also said that it would need to go to fno to assess the financial impact for next year's budget as well
25:30
um Dr Benton then did address just in general as we're getting ready to go into budget season the budget priorities
25:37
um she discussed the Personnel needs and how we would be focusing on Staffing needed to address the continuing
25:42
academic and SEL needs um a highlight to you know really focus on for the budget
25:49
that we're moving forward is going to be the grade six through eight ela curriculum adoption
25:56
um that will need to move forward for next school year um and then the curriculum writing for that as well she also highlighted the
26:03
K-8 math pilot um which would need to begin for the 2024 2023 2024 school year so that also
26:12
would need a budget priority although there are potential funds for resources
26:17
for pilot teacher planning for that already um and then she outlined all the
26:23
curriculum writing that was proposed to occurred during the summer um Karen submitted an outline for
26:28
curriculum writing that would be recommended for the 2023-2024 budget just kind of a specific note would be
26:34
the uh six through eight Ela update to reflect the new literature
26:40
um curriculum and then also uh cat kind of touched upon updating the curriculum would really need to happen for the AP

26:47

courses at the high school level to reflect the new testing format of the AP tests and then we reviewed the summer

26:54

brochure from Laura mcloone on the brochure was reviewed and then post

26:59

meeting I know that there were some edits that were presented for Karen to follow up on

27:06

that is our meeting summary thank you very much any questions for Lauren

27:14

okay next uh Mr weeks could you give us an update from finance and operations

27:21

certainly thank you so we met on January 17th at the admin building in attendance

27:29

in addition to myself uh we had Cheryl mcopoulos Claudine Moreno and Danielle

27:35

Miller from Administration James Heiser Dr Benton katambria adambra excuse me uh

27:43

Jeff Harry and Dave Tate so we had a pretty full meeting we started off with

27:48

items that the committee wanted to review to pass along to the board for

27:54

recommendation so there was a girls lacrosse trip the committee was in favor of that uh

28:00

purchasing of an assistive device for an IEP student the committee was in

28:06

favor of that discussed as Ms Romano pointed out and

28:11

many of the Committees have been talking about the RFP item for professional

28:17

development that was pulled from the previous agenda we had a conversation about that talked about the committee

28:24

had some questions about Administration looking all the different ways to uh to

28:29

address those issues see we talked about transportation

28:34

specifically increasing the hours the hourly rates to

28:41

be competitive with what's going on out there apparently bus driving is extremely

28:46

lucrative right now and uh we have to keep up to be able to be continuously

28:52

staff so the committee was in favor of the recommendation from Administration to

28:57

increase those pay rates we talked about reimbursing people who

29:03

have to get fingerprinted and get certification so that was for substitutes

29:09

uh and then also people that was also where we talked about for people earning under 750 to it I believe

29:17

let's see uh and then we talked about

29:23

uh the committee was in favor of that and then we talked about uh an update on

29:28

the budget uh that budget the budget process is starting we'll be talking about that over the next few months
29:34
we Let's see we covered uh this process the building level reviews and
29:40
Department level reviews are ongoing State still has to provide us information about rates and details that
29:46
are needed to put into the formulas where we used to calculate our budget we also need rates for insurance
29:52
but we're making progress and proceeding uh at a pace that we expect
29:58
we also talked about integrated preschool and Pre-K rates James did an analysis looking at the
30:05
costs at other districts and found that we were pretty much in line so we maintained our current rates of
30:12
3600 for integrated preschool and 4100 for kindergarten uh that's the recommendation uh to the
30:20
full board we discussed a few items that didn't require uh any action by the board those
30:28
included some unfortunate vandalism that took place at the high school we heard about the processes that
30:35
happened to address that we talked briefly about the RFP we got
30:40
one response for RFP for superintendent search so we'll be evaluating that
30:47
as a full board for security we looked at a system that
30:54
could help us identify uh potential people bringing weapons into the school
31:00
we want to look at that in conjunction with the roic reviews that are being done and
31:07
so once we have all those we have this background on this security system that could help and we'll evaluate whether or
31:13
not that is something that we want to to include
31:18
then we talked about uh preview basically uh because we were thinking about the two-hour point in the meeting
31:24
at this at by this time so we talked about um the items that we'll discuss next
31:30
month uh which include a bid for building for the grounds crew affordable
31:37
housing update the ESF contract uh exit conference from our auditors
31:43
and we actually talked about that we may need to have more than one finance and operations committee meeting uh
31:49
per month which uh everybody was enthusiastic and thrilled about but we
31:55
agreed that we could do in-person uh preferably but hybrid possibly to
32:00
accommodate everybody's schedules to make sure that we have everybody there so those were the
32:07

high level points so any questions or clarifications

32:14

I'd only say on the meeting point when I first got on the board I think fno met

32:19

twice a month it did um because it always has a heavy agenda

32:25

and so it look it it is a certain extent

32:30

a burden but the meetings are shorter so rather than having a two or three hour marathon yeah

32:36

to one hour potentially so yeah but I'm not on that committee uh we noticed

32:43

but you did it for many years and uh so appreciate that I did have a question

32:49

sure um specific to the acts of vandalism you mentioned the processes to

32:54

address it can you talk a little bit more about that do you mean the processes to repair physically the acts

33:02

of vandalism or are you talking about the discipline to address the acts of

33:07

vandalism and if it's the latter could you expand upon whether you're focused

33:12

just on the discipline for the Bad actors or what you're doing to prevent

33:17

future reoccurrence more broadly so I'll say in the meeting we discussed

33:23

all of that I just I could have done a full report on we spent a lot of time on

33:29

that one so all those things were discussed um I can defer to because basically all Administration that was there explaining

33:35

this to us is here um and certainly you know they can talk about the aspects of that that are makes

33:42

sense for here so I don't know do you want to Karen or

33:48

[Music] so um yes so um we did take immediate um

33:55

action once we were you know notified um and um without getting into too much

34:01

specific detail um we had our administrative team to interview students

34:07

um and appropriate action was taken for students

34:13

um that were identified um but I think also importantly Mr Seibel addressed the entire School

34:19

Community um because there was you know quite a bit of discussion about not just the

34:25

specific actor but the fact that it needed to be broadly known that that was not acceptable behavior

34:31

um which I think goes a long way to talking about safe spaces for students when they come to school and and being

34:37

able to feel safe I think in the immediate time afterwards they did make

34:42

changes to where students were so that they can ensure that everyone was properly supervised and that there were no further acts of vandalism

34:49

um and I think they're in discussion now in terms of moving forward about what that will look like moving forward

34:56

that's helpful thanks and I just maybe and maybe it's a question for Mark like as we look to

35:03

um you know kind of further enhance the measures to prevent

35:08

future reoccurrence and make sure that we're of course disciplining Bad actors but also

35:15

um being preventative and kind of um not taking a one-size-fits-all

35:21

approach across the school how do we what's the role in responsibility is

35:26

where does those conversations take place is it in the committees or at the leadership Level under Joe and

35:34

well I I intend to do a an audit for security purposes to find out where

35:40

things are and certainly I'd be uh in a position to make some recommendations

35:45

um there are a variety of things that are at our disposal obviously prevention is is always the better method and uh

35:52

and also trying to uh you know motivate kids to make better decisions but they

35:57

are kids and kids do things and and that's all part of the process

36:02

um so I don't know what's in place yet I don't know what kinds of things that we're doing uh to a prevent and then be

36:09

to uh you know dispense discipline in a way to dissuade kids from you know acts

36:16

of vandalism moving forward uh so uh in any event that's it's part of the

36:21

process that I'll be going through over the you know the course of the next you know few weeks great thanks I appreciate

36:26

it thank you anything else for f now

36:34

okay and uh Miss Morano can we get an update on policy please you got it well

36:40

I'm not new to the policy committee but I'm new as chair and I thank Mark because I am a complete policy wonk and

36:46

geek so this is fun maybe not for everybody but I think you are too so in attendance our meeting was

36:52

on January 10th uh it was me Melissa Burns Jill fellows Macaluso and Mark

36:58

Villanueva Administration was um Mr Volpe

37:03

um Dr Benton Mr Heiser Dr Tate uh cat I'm sorry if I don't know the if

37:09

it's a doctor or not but cat um and uh Carol Butler so on the on the agenda tonight you're

37:15

going to see several policies that are on first reading or second reading so I'm going to cover those first
our first
37:21
reading uh board policies that are being recommended um one of the things I thought was helpful
37:27
is knowing when we are proposed when we are adopting a policy whether we're knowing it's whether it's
voluntary or
37:33
if it's a mandatory thing that we're getting from the state and I think that's pretty relevant when you're
listening to us
37:39
um our first one is uh policy number zero one six three and that is about
37:45
Quorum of the board when we are unable to reach Quorum due to conflict of
37:51
interest of individual board members this is a recommended policy that we consulted with our board
attorneys and
37:58
they recommended that we go forward with this and as it is drafted it was going
38:04
to still require no change five members for board Quorum and it sets forward a
38:10
policy to invoke something called the doctor doctrine of necessity when
38:16
advised by our board attorney when we have to make a decision on something that cannot wait
38:21
policy number 1511 um is also on first reading it is a
38:26
mandatory policy from the state and it has to do with our Board of Education website as in terms of
accessibility and
38:33
ADA compliance so policy changes are necessary for us to be compliant with most revisions of the Ada
and just just
38:40
to understand it's mostly due to providing someone with motor or auditory
38:45
or cognitive and visual disabilities to navigate our website more efficiently and thing at all
38:52
uh policy on second rating we we um it was approved on first reading in the last meeting uh is number
5512 this is
39:00
uh an update and mandatory policy from the state on our harassment intimidation
39:06
and bullying uh which is him this mandatory policy uh revision is
39:12
procedural uh in nature for the most part and a lot of the hip policies will have a minimal impact because
our
39:19
district has been doing some of this work already as far as items for discussion that are
39:25
not up for vote we again focused on policy number 9190 which is the community organizations and clubs
39:32
um we are committed to get this done this has been something that's been going on for years long before
many of
39:38

us were on the board uh this is a top priority and we are not going to wait for the next committee meeting to

39:45

discuss this we're going to have um you know some some Drafting and

39:50

Concepts that we're going to be prepared to discuss the next time uh let's see

39:56

um I think it was also discussed in fno because we referred it to them but a policy will be

40:02

getting drafted it's policy number 3125 we're going to be amending it um to

40:07

discuss the possible reimbursement of fingerprinting and sub-certification costs for non-regular limited employees

40:14

who receive stipends under a certain threshold right now just for everybody's notes um it's it's at the expense of the

40:21

employee so if someone is making a very low amount just as a one-off

40:27

employment and and it's it's disproportionate in terms of what they

40:32

need to put out of their pocket for background checks and sub-certifications

40:38

uh we also briefly and um probably not super ripe for discussion but I was we

40:43

were curious about how our district uses the option to um exemption for physical education for

40:49

example um and that is when students have activities that go above and beyond

40:55

outside of school in terms of sports and they are able to satisfy their PE

41:01

requirements for the district um we were you know looking into possibly extending that or having a

41:07

discussion about extending that to in-school Athletics since we know our kids are spending a lot more than 150

41:14

minutes a week in sports and I believe

41:19

that is it thank you any questions for Claudine

41:28

no but I have one small correction to my um Communications committee update I

41:34

inadvertently left off two important committee members I only listed the board meeting board members and Joe

41:41

boondorf and Dave Tate were both present and contributed um very valuable contributions to the

41:47

conversation so I apologize for leaving you off foreign

41:53

thank you for the clarification next up on our agenda is uh our first

42:00

public comment section on agenda items so this this public comment

42:06

portion is for comment related to items specifically on the agenda there will be

42:12

a a more general public comment section towards the end of the meeting where uh

42:19
anyone can address items either on or off the agenda so could I get a motion
42:24
please to open public comment for agenda items so second
42:30
comment all in favor hi
42:39
anybody have public comment for agenda items
42:46
seeing no one uh may I get a motion to close public comments [Music]
42:52
all in favor opposed or abstentions all right
42:58
next the Section 8 of our agenda reports to the board we have
43:05
um Financial reports of the board Secretary of the treasurer's report cafeteria report the resolution uh
43:15
uh related to certification of the budgetary major account and fund status
43:21
approval of budget transfers and approval of bills may I please get a
43:26
motion for approval of items one through five second
43:33
any comment questions all in favor uh any opposed or
43:39
abstentions next the recommendations of the superintendent we have as items A1 the
43:48
policies for first reading the Miss Morano discussed in her policy report as
43:54
well as the policies for second reading in item A2 related to harassment
43:59
intimidation or bullying also as as referenced in Miss Morano's report may I
44:05
get a motion for the approval of items one through one and two
44:11
any second any comments or questions
44:16
all in favor any opposed or abstentions thank you
44:24
next letter B educational program uh item one includes homeless placements
44:32
for 2022 to 2023 item two is home instruction for 2022-2023
44:37
there are exhibits related to both of those in our agenda packet uh number three is the Burlington County
44:43
alternative school placement for 2022 to 2023. and number four is the special
44:49
education out of District placements for 2022 to 2023. may I get a motion for
44:54
approval of items one before second all in favor
45:04
any opposed or abstentions thank you
45:10
next Finance in business item one relates to travel expenditures
45:15
and approval requests item two relates to approval of State

45:20

contract and Consortium vendor purchases item number three relates to uh two very

45:27

generous donations from um uh community members one relates to the

45:36

high school board boys varsity and JV basketball program with an approximate value of eight thousand dollars and that

45:42

includes sportswear and warm-up shirts and the like uh and the second item

45:47

includes a 750 dollar donation from a Community member to the high school

45:52

girls cross country team item four includes an overnight trip and

45:59

that item is as amended as discussed in executive

46:05

number oh I'm sorry I'm sorry sorry number five is a student field trip which was amended as discussed and

46:12

executive item six is authorization and approval to purchase an assistive device

46:20

number seven includes the extended kindergarten rates

46:25

number eight and number nine include settlement agreements the copies of which the board has had

46:33

and which was discussed and executive I mean I get a motion for approval of

46:38

items one to nine please any questions or comment

46:47

I just wanted to again send it a very uh heartfelt thanks to to those that gave

46:53

the very generous donations that are listed in the in the agenda

46:58

all in favor any opposed or abstentions

47:05

next employee relations item d and this will require a roll call vote

47:12

and we reviewed these items are are included as exhibits

47:17

uh in our agenda packet it includes appointments retirements resignations leaves of absence administrative leaves

47:25

substitutes change an assignment salary adjustments black seal stipend

47:30

bus referral signing bonus Athletics co-curricular clubs moving on the salary guide esea tutors

47:39

presenters as amended and executive right that one was amended okay uh and a

47:45

transportation rate adjustment I mean I get a motion for approval of items one through fifteen please

47:54

any comments or questions could take a roll call vote please

47:59

this is our Kara Burns yeah Mrs fowles Macaluso yeah Dr Mike

48:05

Mrs Miller Mrs Morano yes Miss Romano Mr weeks yes

48:11

Mrs mccopless yes Mr Villanueva yes motion carriers thank you
48:17
thank you uh next uh information related to
48:23
suspensions which is contained in an exhibit we also have the superintendent's Hib report as noted in
48:30
the agenda and as discussed in our executive session from December 2022.
48:38
and I get a motion for approval please
48:45
any comments or questions all right I would only say so this the
48:51
the Hib report that is referenced here was something that was um discussed in December of 2022 and so
49:01
um for the new board members if you weren't at that meeting um
49:06
typical practice has been too abstain from that um so but obviously you can do whatever it feels
appropriate uh all in
49:13
favor any opposed or abstentions
49:22
thank you Roman numeral 11 is for informational
49:28
only and that includes our current enrollment numbers
49:33
do we have any old business
49:38
okay we do have an item for new business which was discussed in executive session
49:46
which is a Cod assault with the mea for a six period assignment for
49:51
certain uh Math teachers in the high school and we appreciate all the work
49:58
that went into getting that done so thanks to everybody involved may I
50:04
get a motion for approval of that codicil
50:10
any comments or questions all in favor oh I'm sorry role called
50:19
this is our Karen Burns yeah Dr Maya Mrs Miller
50:26
Mrs Morano yes Miss Romano Mr weeks yes Mrs mccopless yes Mr Villanueva yes
50:33
commission carries thank you thank you so our next item is the second
50:40
public comment portion of the meeting May I get a motion for to open public
50:47
comment please any comments or questions
50:53
[Music] well I'll just comment that this is the second uh public comment can relate to
50:59
anything on agenda off agenda um commenters will have three minutes to
51:05
speak uh it's not necessarily a question and answer session
51:10
um and we'd ask that obviously our our comments are cordial um and

51:16

um did I mention the three minutes there's three minutes time limit and uh I see we

51:22

have some some folks ready to go so I guess first can I get a vote uh is it

51:27

all in favor any opposer abstentions

51:32

all right oh please state your name and address please uh good evening my name is

51:39

Elizabeth Everett I live at 301 Evergreen Drive um I'm going to start a little good news train about teaching and teachers and

51:46

things that are going on in the district um I teach at the high school and I would like to commend the way I'm staff

51:52

for what they've been doing for MLK day um to celebrate Dr King's birthday and

51:58

his vision of acceptance Wham stop went to student lunches and mixed students into different groups they facilitated

52:05

discussions with different groups of students for three days to allow them to meet and get to know other students with

52:11

whom they don't usually sit the message from the staff to the students was that despite all the

52:16

differences among us we have many things in common as well having things in common gives a starting point for

52:22

conversations and building relationships it gives a way to feel connected to each other and therefore to work together to

52:29

make the world a better place we're grateful for the Wham staff and their dedication to helping the students grow

52:35

and learn thank you thank you

52:41

Jordan Fagan 49 Helen Avenue um I work at the middle school and I

52:46

would like to commend the high school staff for organizing and facilitating the first ever love Fair as mentioned

52:53

earlier love stands for learning opportunities and volunteer encouragement the high school hosted uh

52:59

10 volunteer tier organizations and invited students to attend during 14th period on January 18th the plan is to

53:06

hold this event two times a year so that students have the opportunity in the fall and winter to learn about these opportunities we thank all the staff

53:13

involved in the planning of this beneficial event for the entire School thank you

53:21

hello Kate Fishman 801 North Stanwick Road I work here at WAMS and I would

53:27

like to commend the ues for their work in preparing for the upcoming musical suitable students have started preparing

53:33

for the School Musical by creating artwork for suitable their work will be on display during the
53:39

month of March and some will be used for the set design of the show

53:46

hi I'm Caitlin Fiore and my address is six Firethorne Lane I wish our students were still here because I
would love to

53:54

recognize them because I never I can't imagine getting up here in front of everyone at that age so I
commend them I

54:01

work at the ues and I am here to thank Robert staff um Roberts Elementary

54:07

School staff is excited and getting ready to celebrate the 100th day of school this celebration is highly

54:13

anticipated by the students and the staff planche fund and educational activities throughout the day the
staff

54:18

also facilitated an assembly to recognize MLK and one for Chinese New Year third grade students did a
54:24

phenomenal job celebrating both holidays they were taught two beautiful songs by Mrs deshong they
even had a large Dragon

54:31

puppet led by three by some third graders it's during the Chinese New Year song

54:37

we're proud of all the staff at Roberts who plan and facilitate these events thank you

54:46

hi I'm Eileen Fitzpatrick and I live at 127 West Maple um I teach at the high school and I want

54:52

to commend the baker staff for the author Goes to School event my third grade son and his Baker bear
friends

54:58

enjoyed a visit from theme biscuit book author Alyssa sat in capacilli

55:03

we thank Homan school for providing this learning event for students and staff to enhance the event
Library Specialists

55:11

and ferrugia cut apart two identical Biscuit books laminated the pages and displayed them on the walls in
order in

55:18

page order so children could walk around and read the students very much enjoyed following the bear
paw prints as they

55:25

participated in the reading walk Activity thank you

55:34

good evening my name is Marie safeli and I teach ESL grade 7 through 12 and I'd

55:40

like to commend the first grade staff at South Valley who've organized and planned their annual Snowden
Day first

55:48

grade always celebrates the winter solstice at this event and students wear comfy pajamas they sip on
hot chocolate

55:55

and lunch on popcorn while learning about winter through videos dances and presentations this event will
take place

56:02

tomorrow January 27th and we're grateful for the creativity of the entire first grade staff at South Valley
thank you

56:14

hi Elise Trapani um basically 350 Bridge railroad but

56:19

really 118 Mill Street um I would like to recognize uh the people

56:26

who worked on our grand conversations committee and also Dr Benton for all of

56:32

her help and support with our grand conversations program which we used to work with uh Carol Butler
for many years

56:38

but we as a staff usually around 100 people meet on a Friday and a Saturday

56:45

night we watch a movie this year's movie was coda um which is an excellent movie I highly

56:51

recommend it and then we discuss several podcasts and books on Saturday we get

56:56

dinner Friday night and um lunch on Saturday and it was a great opportunity for professional development

57:01

outside of our regular setting so I appreciate the help from our committee and also from Administration
organizing

57:09

and facilitating that event which has been going on for over 30 years in our

57:14

district so and then um I know this isn't question and answer but if uh we could have the information

57:22

about the process in some form for the search for the new superintendent a

57:29

timeline if there is one I'll meet with you know Mr bowendorf I can get it through him or what either way no
thank

57:36

you I think um that is uh that and again this isn't a question answer right that's why I wanted to

57:43

I'll dress it in in the good of the order so okay thanks okay thank you

57:49

any other public comment

57:55

okay may I get a motion to close public comment

58:01

all in favor opposed or abstentions okay

58:07

uh next is the good of the order um and to pick off up where we just left

58:13

off um by way of a of a brief update in terms of our superintendent search

58:19

um as Mr weeks had had mentioned uh in his FNL update we

58:27

put out an RFP for a search firm it has been evaluated and we are

58:35

um in the process of deciding how to move forward um in terms of of a search firm so

58:42

um from my own personal perspective um you know we would like to really start uh Gathering candidates
and

58:50

interviewing candidates um very soon you know within the next month or two is my personal goal

58:58

um and I think the board is uh similarly has a similar view on it so that Mr

59:04

penny is is an update thank you for for asking the question um because we do want to make sure the

59:10

community is prized of of the status of that so um and one other thing that um I failed

59:16

that I had it intended to mention um but I didn't um was you know as as part of the

59:24

responsibilities in this new role for me is is attending uh home and school meetings and I've had candidly

I hadn't

59:31

really attended many in the past um and so I attended several this month and it really it's it is um it's

amazing

59:38

to see I mean I've I've known um of the amazing work that the

59:44

organization does um and Mr Penny last month had had laid

59:49

out um a number of of the things that that homeschool has done

59:54

to support our students staff and the district generally and um I just wanted to emphasize the gratitude

that we have

1:00:03

for them and all the volunteers that that put so much time into home in school I mean they it uh

1:00:10

their contributions are immeasurable so I just wanted to say thanks anything else for the good of the order

1:00:21

I should have abstained from the minutes from January 3rd

1:00:27

this is not really good of the order but it feels like it is because I wasn't there at the meeting

1:00:36

okay anything else for the good of the order before we exactly it should be a motion to rescind to the prior

votes to

1:00:43

improve the minutes then emotions that's why nobody likes lawyers

1:00:49

um [Laughter] so before we do that is there anything

1:00:55

else for the good of the order okay may I please get a motion to rescind

1:01:04

the vote on items seven a which relates to the minutes

1:01:11

can I get it any comments or questions

1:01:18

um all in favor uh any nose or abstentions

1:01:24

okay may I now have a renewed motion

1:01:29

to approve the items in 7A which relate to the the minutes

1:01:35

so some of uh

1:01:40

all in favor any nose or abstentions

1:01:54

great

1:01:59

thank you okay I think that covers it proceeds really right the most important emotion of the

1:02:06

life okay I may I please get a motion may I get a motion to adjourn

1:02:13

all in favor