

# Transcript – February 21, 2023 BOE Meeting

0:00  
over aye the nature abstentions  
0:07  
well welcome to the February 2023 regular meeting of the Board of  
0:12  
Education I see um our seats are more full than they usually are  
0:17  
uh with some people that look like they can run very very fast and for great  
0:24  
distances so thank you for for coming out um and for your Communications over the  
0:30  
last few days and weeks we look forward to hearing from you further  
0:35  
um haven't prepared remarks I intended to  
0:41  
today but my day got away from me so I'll be brief uh I know people have asked about the status of the  
0:47  
superintendent search and we are working with our search consultant that we  
0:54  
utilized last time it's a company by the name of hya for the board members if you haven't yet  
1:01  
already please report back to hya about the dates that you'd be available for an  
1:07  
interview uh they want to interview all the board members to get a sense as to  
1:12  
what we're looking for in a in a permanent superintendent candidate um  
1:18  
the next sort of big item that is on our uh agenda for the next couple of months  
1:24  
is the budget we uh the board hasn't seen yet a budget  
1:29  
that's been proposed by Administration and there's going to be a budget Workshop  
1:35  
between now and our next regularly scheduled board meeting so sometime in either late February or early March uh  
1:42  
we'll have a budget Workshop where we will discuss uh budget priorities and take a deeper dive into into the numbers  
1:49  
so keep an eye out for some proposed dates for the budget Workshop foreign  
1:56  
Black History Month and uh I wanted to  
2:01  
highlight uh one teacher in particular in Morristown I went to school here and  
2:09  
um I thought it would be nice to highlight I had many many wonderful teachers many wonderful black teachers  
2:15  
but there was one in particular that that came to mind when I started thinking about black history month and  
2:21  
what that means specifically to to our schools and some of you may have had her  
2:28  
that went to school here but it was a Miss Ruby Jean Marshall uh was the  
2:35  
seventh grade science teacher here that was uh a legend by any stretch she  
2:41  
uh you know there was this famous Leaf project that everybody had to do in the fall where you'd collect leaves and and  
2:49  
identify the leaves from around town and it was sort of one of those Rites of Passage if you ever had  
2:54  
Mrs Marshall um did anybody did anybody have her up here  
3:00  
okay a quiz do you remember her famous sort of forward phrase that  
3:07  
she would say to her to her glasses what was it [Laughter]  
3:14  
after that she would say love your hearts I love your hearts yeah and um you know  
3:21  
she was she could be tough at times uh but very fair and uh  
3:27  
believe it or not I tended to get in some trouble at times and I just I remember distinctly during one of the  
3:33  
many detentions I served with her uh she had she had given me a lecture on uh my  
3:40  
flaws and my behavior and um you know as a typical 12 or 13 year old I wasn't too  
3:46

happy to hear it um and sort of you know as I was leaving the detention was sort of stomping out of the room and I remember  
3:53  
I I can't remember exactly what it was that I did I got trouble for but I do remember her  
3:59  
stopping me turning me around and saying but you know I love your heart and you know you could tell that she meant it  
4:05  
um and so she she had such an impact on students certainly on on me and on  
4:11  
hundreds if not thousands of students in this District um I think she worked here from 1971 to 2005.  
4:20  
and I think she was a Morristown resident okay thank you and um so she was just  
4:28  
wonderful I think and I I wanted to to mention her uh particularly this month as part of our history unfortunately she  
4:35  
passed away uh in 2015 I believe um but I wanted to pay homage to miss  
4:41  
Marshall so with that I will pass the microphone off to Mr ballindor for any superintendent  
4:48  
comments  
4:54  
thank you Mark that was actually quite refreshing to hear comments of that level about a teacher in the district so  
5:01  
thank you for taking the time to to bring her to life for all of us um we're going to just flip things  
5:06  
around a little bit before my update and I do want to get right into uh Karen  
5:12  
Benton and her presentation on the smart strong results so our director of  
5:17  
curriculum Karen Betton I turn it over to you at this point thanks foreign  
5:39  
so um tonight we are going to present our start strong assessment results from  
5:45  
the fall of 2020 and if you remember from last year when I gave this  
5:50  
presentation this was our first year last year giving the test as we were returning to full in-person learning at  
5:57  
that time the njdoe had told districts that this would be a one-time assessment  
6:02  
that was meant to assess where students were as we were returning to full  
6:08  
in-person learning as well as to meet the requirement for the previous year during the pandemic when we were not  
6:14  
able to do our typical end of the year annual assessment the NJ SLA  
6:21  
um in June of 2022 we were told districts were told that we would  
6:26  
administer the start strong again along with the njsla um and our high school graduation  
6:32  
proficiency exam so we did administer that this fall um and we will again administer the njsla as well as the high  
6:41  
school proficiency exam and in addition to that I'll just remind everyone that the district also uses several other  
6:49  
data points assessment data points including our map testing that we administer two to three times a year for  
6:54  
difference across grades uh K through eighth grade we midterm and final exam  
7:01  
data that we have um our benchmark assessments such as Running Records over several different  
7:06  
course levels so we have several points of data that we use and the other part of this presentation will go into  
7:12  
highlighting some of the instructional supports that the district is providing for all of our students  
7:20  
so here you can see our overall performance and our start strong assessment um the categories for start strong are  
7:28  
not typical typical of what we get for njsla we really just get kind of three  
7:33  
categories that all students fall into so students are either in need of  
7:39  
um less support some support in yellow and then strong support in red and so you can see for  
7:47  
our overall performance in grades four through twelve which were our tested grades in ela math and science of  
7:54  
students in green are those that are in need of less support students in yellow some support and then students in red  
8:01  
are in strong support we have been using this data as another source of

8:07  
information because at the time that we took this in the fall students who were designated as in strong need of support  
8:14  
as evidenced by their njsla data course grade data from the previous year as  
8:20  
well as teacher Benchmark informative assessments had already been identified for either our reading and math support  
8:27  
courses as well as placement at the secondary level in courses that would provide them additional supports  
8:34  
so we kind of use this as kind of like a final data point that could help us to identify any students that we might have  
8:41  
missed at that point because we did take this last year  
8:48  
this is a comparative slide to show where we were in 2021 and you can see  
8:54  
that in ela in math as well as in science we've increased the number of  
9:00  
students that are falling into the category of in need of less support needed so our green has increased if the  
9:09  
state continues to administer this data then we'll start to have you know several years of data to be able to  
9:14  
compare and have another data point to show how our students are improving and  
9:19  
what additional instructional supports that we would need so in the next couple of slides we're  
9:26  
going to talk about the results in each of the categories and we're going to look at the disaggregated data across  
9:32  
our different ethnic groups as well as our social economically disadvantaged  
9:37  
students our ESL students and our IEP students and we'll also talk about some of the different instructional supports  
9:43  
that we're providing in each of these categories across the grade levels  
9:51  
oops sorry all right so here you can see our Ela  
9:56  
scores by ethnicity um and again we're using this as a data as an another data point to tell the  
10:04  
story that we have seen in our njsla data so as I presented uh back in  
10:09  
December you can see that our Black and Hispanic students which while it is a  
10:14  
small percentage of our total population if we look just at that category we can  
10:19  
see that they do not perform as well as some of their counterparts and other ethnic groups  
10:29  
this is our sorry there's a delay  
10:39  
can you go back to the ell slide please thank you all right so one interesting  
10:45  
point here if you look at our current Ells and again back in December I talked about the fact that from 2017-18 we had  
10:53  
12 ell students in District uh in this current school year we have 68 ell  
10:58  
students so we've seen a dramatic increase in the number of ell students and one of the things that we're looking  
11:04  
at is trying to get an understanding of how students are coming to us in terms of what has been their educational  
11:11  
background to that point many of them we see are having disrupted learning where they have not been receiving continuous  
11:18  
education consistently especially throughout the pandemic years so most of our students are coming to us at the  
11:25  
emerging language level when we do our access scores and so you see that you  
11:31  
know represented here um because 70 of the students that are in current Ells are in this category for  
11:38  
strong support and so we're looking for ways to address that not only within our math Ela and science instruction but  
11:44  
also in terms of the ell instruction that they are receiving however one interesting note is to look at students  
11:51  
who are our former Ells so when students have progressed out of our ell  
11:56  
programming and are now in our general education courses and not receiving ESL supports you can see that our students  
12:03  
do very well so we're doing a good job of preparing our ESL students when they  
12:09

stay with us and have the opportunity to graduate from our ESL programming  
12:14  
you can also see here with our special education population that these numbers are very similar to those that we saw  
12:22  
when we looked at our disaggregated data for in jsla can you go to the next one for me please  
12:30  
thank you and then here when we look at our social economic status again we see  
12:36  
that our economically disadvantaged students are disproportionately performing compared to their  
12:42  
non-economically disadvantaged counterparts and again that's something that we see repeated in all of our data  
12:47  
sets so let's talk a little bit about what are some of the instructional supports  
12:53  
that we're getting as a reminder the start strong assessment only looks at a  
12:58  
subset of our standards whereas the njsla assessment that we take at the end  
13:04  
of year looks at the entire set of standards for each grade level so what I've highlighted for you here are the  
13:10  
subset of standards that they look across and for ELA it really is just two categories of Standards there's Reading  
13:17  
literature and there's reading information and these are progressive standards meaning you'll see some of the  
13:23  
same things as we go grade four through grade 12 but these things are getting uh  
13:28  
progressively harder and more rigorous in terms of the expectations of what students are going to do when they're  
13:33  
looking for instance for details from a passage to support their answers and what would be expected to be evidenced  
13:40  
in their writing at the different grade levels if you can hit next  
13:46  
and so uh here you can see some of the supports that we have in place  
13:51  
if you can go back um so use of short constructed responses  
13:57  
uh are a way for us to practice skills and for students to receive more immediate feedback from teachers you can  
14:04  
see that we have changed um our we adopted a new K-5 Ela  
14:09  
curriculum where there's a greater use of informational text within our literature study at the secondary level  
14:16  
for English one and four at the high school we're doing a course needs assessment with the anticipation that  
14:23  
we're going to be rewriting those courses in the next year to two years um and so those are in some of the  
14:30  
instructional supports in terms of specific student supports all students  
14:35  
have access to 14th period to tutorial with course teachers at the high school students are identified for what we call  
14:42  
tier two level two courses at the high school as well as there's peer tutoring  
14:48  
tutoring provided through the counseling office and our honor and service society and after school students after school  
14:55  
tutoring for identified students if we move on to our math results  
15:03  
go to the next slide we see a similar Trend here where our  
15:08  
black and Latino students are are in more need of strong support  
15:15  
than their counterparts and go to the next one and again we see a similar Trend with  
15:22  
our current ell students versus our former ell students so again when our  
15:28  
students are with us and are able to move through our ell programming we see great Improvement in their language  
15:34  
acquisition which then translates into their ability to learn in their core content areas  
15:41  
go ahead next week and then again similarly for our social economic status we see the trend that  
15:48  
our economically disadvantaged students um are performing at a lower than their  
15:53  
non-economically disadvantaged so our for our math  
16:00  
um standards again I'm not going to go through all of the different standards that are here but if we talk about some of our

16:07  
instructional supports hit next nope

16:12  
other direction yep um one of the things that our supervisor

16:18  
and the teachers and grades really K through six even though the test is only

16:24  
designed for four through six is we looked at grade level alignment we created grade level alignment documents

16:31  
that have additional resources that teachers can use to provide reinforcement and practice in their

16:37  
lessons and that's available to all students we've also increased the availability of physical and virtual

16:44  
manipulatives that students are using and they also will have access to these at home and we have started and investigated

16:51  
math lesson um with the math certified teacher which they received once every eight days

16:59  
um additionally in grade six and through grade 12 there's now a professional learning focus on building thinking

17:05  
classrooms which really thinks about small group collaboration and instruction that gives students the

17:11  
opportunity to do things like explain their answers to use reasoning

17:16  
um and to model which are some of the practice standards that are embedded within the math standards additionally

17:22  
students are identified for Mass support as well as after school tutoring similar

17:28  
to lead to ell Ela thank you in grades seven and eight you see a

17:34  
progression in these standards as well as the inclusion of algebraic expressions equations and inequalities

17:41  
many of the supports that you see here are similar if you click to the next one

17:49  
as what we talked about for grades four through six and if you can go to nine to twelve

17:55  
so at the high school level uh the test is in algebra one geometry in algebra 2.

18:02  
we can go to support and in addition to the course alignment and the focus on building thinking

18:08  
classrooms students again have access to the level 2 course support those students that are in need of stronger

18:14  
support as well as peer tutoring and the after schools tutoring and we see the same things for algebra 2. you can go to

18:20  
ahead one more and finally the third area is science

18:27  
for science for the njsla we only test in grades five eight and eleven so the

18:34  
start strong assessment is only given for grades for see if I can get that right no 6 9 and

18:40  
12. and so again similar Trends to what we

18:46  
see for ELA and math for both ethnicity and go to the next

18:52  
for our ell because it is only um one grade level we actually have less

18:57  
than uh 10 students in each grade therefore we do not receive data as it's identifiable but if we look at our

19:04  
special education population you can see that this is an area that again we are continuing to address within our

19:10  
instruction and also by social economic status

19:18  
and so when we get to the supports

19:24  
um in all grades K through five as well as in

19:29  
um six through twelve we are increasing the use of Hands-On inquiry-based

19:34  
learning and there is a specific focus on students constructing explanations and engaging an argument from evidence

19:41  
which is one of the practice standards that actually overlaps between science Ela and math

19:48  
and students are having opportunities to engage in claim evidence reasoning tasks

19:54  
which includes writing as well as modeling and developing our arguments

20:02

and we see the same if we go to the next one in grades 6 through 12. keep going  
20:08  
and then 9 through 12.  
20:13  
that's it yep any questions in the books  
20:22  
sorry it's like you or her or me I don't know  
20:28  
thank you Karen I really appreciate the work that you do and thanks for your presentation tonight just a few uh  
20:34  
updates uh from my office uh first of all it's hard to believe I've been here a month and uh it's really been great  
20:41  
it's kind of cool getting to know people's faces and names and getting around the district to see folks I'm very much impressed with what I  
see is a  
20:48  
very collaborative spirit that exists in this District between the administration our staff our board members  
20:55  
our supervisors our support staff there really is a generous Spirit of  
21:01  
collaboration with the same tact in mind to do the very best that we can for the kids you know that we serve every single  
21:07  
day and it's it's really nice to be a part of that that sort of culture  
21:12  
um I wanted to commend principal Brian Carter who did a presentation today for the office of emergency management  
21:18  
locally you know it's it's difficult and and not fun work to focus on those  
21:24  
things that need to be in place for those events that we all hope never happened and uh he's built a really a starting  
21:32  
groundwork of a strong reunification plan uh and uh that was presented today  
21:37  
we've made some real solid connections with the county level of office emergency of office of emergency  
21:43  
management and I think that there's some real room for growth and experience in  
21:49  
terms of the things that we need to have in place here in Moorestown but I wanted to commend Brian for the work he's doing  
21:55  
as our district safety specialist I do want to thank the Board of Ed too after working here now for a month the  
22:02  
level of commitment that I see by board members with regards to the amount of time that they spend in committee  
22:08  
meetings through the course of their day how they're juggling their responsibilities as as uh as folks that  
22:15  
have jobs and have families and serving The District in the way that they do is is really impressive and very  
22:21  
commendable and and I think that they deserve a great sense of gratitude a lot of people take for granted that these  
22:26  
folks are volunteering in these roles uh and giving up a lot of their personal time again committed to making these  
22:34  
schools great for our kids I think is wonderful um I want to thank Jeff Jeff Avery who  
22:39  
spent the entire weekend updating our district servers and making sure that we had the local or the most recent updates  
22:45  
with regards to security these things happen behind the scenes you don't know that they happen but to know that we  
22:51  
have people dedicated to make sure that we're protected and that our technology is working in order is very uh very much  
22:57  
needed so Jeff thank you for doing that I wanted to tell folks that next week  
23:02  
there will be a presentation with regards to the work that the district's been doing for the past couple of years related to cceis and what it was  
that  
23:10  
Bishop was identified in terms of disproportionality I'm very impressed with the work that's happening so far  
23:16  
and I think that the uh the board and the community will have a better sense of what that all means and what  
23:22  
direction we're going in so be sure to tune in at the March board meeting for that information and lastly a real  
23:28  
positive note congrats to our Middle School wrestling team who want a thrilling 43-42 match over Williamstown  
23:36  
they won their first ever Middle School South Jersey wrestling championship and they were down 30 to 9 and came back to  
23:44  
win so we all need to celebrate great things like that before our kids [Applause]  
23:53  
and I know that this is a Shameless plug but Cinderella is about to get underway with our spring musical uh it promises I

24:00  
think to be a great show it plays next weekend and the weekend after and I would uh I would encourage you uh to uh

24:07  
take your kids and go see a wonderful uh you know family family entertainment

24:12  
event so with that I uh I turned the meeting back to mark

24:18  
great thank you Joe it's great to hear an update on things that are going on behind the scenes some that are not so

24:26  
much behind the scenes but uh it's it's great to to hear those updates as to

24:31  
what's going on in the district so I appreciate it next we will hear from our student board

24:37  
Representatives please

24:46  
uh hello ladies and gentlemen my name is Lucas McGill and I'm your senior class Board of Ed liaison this evening I have some updates on our

24:52  
upcoming senior trip and some information on Morristown High School spring Musical so I'll start with the musical MHS

24:58  
theater is putting on Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella it's an original spin on a classic fairy tale and I for one can't wait to see it

25:05  
performances are Friday the 24th at 7 pm Saturday the 25th at 7 pm Sunday the

25:10  
26th at 2 p.m Friday the 3rd at 7 pm and then one more time on Saturday the 4th

25:15  
at 7 pm you won't want to miss it now on to our next topic we have the imminent Disney parks slash Universal Studios

25:21  
senior trip the itinerary just came out last week so it's all anybody's talking about I'll give you a quick rundown of

25:27  
what we have in store Saturday in the morning we'll have a luggage check before leaving for the airport around 2 15. the last flight

25:33  
should be landing in Orlando around eight and time for the pizza and ice cream party at night Sunday we're taking

25:38  
a group photo in front of hard rock and we're Park hopping between Universal and islands and adventure parks on Monday we

25:44  
have a choice between Magic Kingdom and Epcot on Tuesdays between volcano Bay and Universal Studios or Islands of

25:50  
Adventure Wednesday it's either Hollywood Studios or animal kingdom and Thursday our final day will be in either

25:55  
Universal Studios or Islands of Adventure until it's time to go home with flights leaving at around 9 and

26:00  
arriving at 11 both groups should arrive for the high school around 12 30 wrapping up an incredibly exciting week

26:06  
next Tuesday the 28th we have a parent student meeting to go over all the previous information with the entire class

26:12  
thank you that's all I have for you tonight I'm going to hand it over to the junior class liaison

26:25  
good evening parents I'm Jack Britton your junior class liaison and as many of you know because it was reported last month the Morristown High School hosted

26:31  
hey love fair oh Wednesday January 18th we got tons of organizations to come down to the cafeteria set up a little

26:37  
table and offer service hours or opportunities to anyone who stopped by I personally stopped by and thought it was a very cool idea and the channel was one

26:43  
of the highest I have ever personally seen for a high school event as a response to Love Fair the student council talked about the idea of doing

26:49  
something at Brandywine Senior Care Center in Morristown to volunteer with the elderly we tossed around the idea of

26:54  
making care packages and bringing them in to give to the elderly in addition to talking reading Walking and or being

27:00  
present with the Brandywine residents we are hoping to allocate two Sundays to have a solid mix of volunteers from all

27:05  
grade levels in student council and outside of student council to go for around an hour to an hour and a half this is piggybacking off the idea of

27:12  
trying to present our students with more volunteer opportunities to give back to the community and obviously we hope this provides an adequate opportunity and we

27:19  
think it's a great way to give back to the Elder of our community and demonstrate a stronger purpose within our school and our community as a whole

27:24  
thank you and I'll hand off to our sophomore class liaison

27:40  
good evening everyone and it's great to see you all again my name is Amin Cosby and I'm the sophomore class for liaison

27:45  
as I'm sure a lot of you know this year marks the 125th anniversary of Morristown High School which is kind of

27:52  
a big milestone and in remembrance of this Milestone the council the advisors came up with an idea we want to bring

27:58  
the graduates of the class of 1973 for their 50-year reunion and give them a

28:04  
tour of the school as simple as that sounds a lot has changed the high school we are grateful

28:09  
for today is more than double the size of what the high school was 50 years ago with numerous for hallways a new gym and

28:16  
an extended second floor to give the alumni the best experience possible we plan to research all the new additions

28:21  
to the school through old yearbooks original plans and ensure all the information we give out is accurate we

28:27  
will invite the alumni and all who wish to show up will come on the first Saturday of June and the council and its

28:34  
advisors will show them how amazing the school is today we ultimate is a new tradition at high school and we hope

28:40  
that you all share that feeling thank you all for listening I'll now pass it to freshman class liaison Dom

28:59  
good evening everyone I'm Freshman Class of days I'm Dom werman last week was just about we got about

29:05  
the ending point for most winter sports but uh our high school is doing very well and most teams are still going the

29:12  
team wrestling season was over last week but a few individual wrestlers are still looking to win at States and are in the

29:18  
regional part of their bracket right now a girls swimming team ended their season with the loss in the playoffs and the

29:25  
boys swimming team is still going after the state sectional win last Friday and they have a meet tomorrow to look to win

29:31  
States finally both boys and basketball teams are in the playoffs right as the number

29:37  
four seed in group three playoffs and both have a game tomorrow night as they look to advance for the playoffs thank

29:43  
you for having me here tonight and have a great night

29:53  
as always thank you gentlemen these are great updates and it's up to you you feel free to stay or take off whatever

29:59  
you guys want to do but thanks again no surprise

30:08  
foreign okay next we have our board committee reports and we will start

30:14  
first with Communications which Jill so I don't have a big report because our

30:20  
next Communications committee meeting is actually tomorrow morning bright and early at 7 45 a.m but for the committee

30:27  
heads up that Joe bolendorf and I had a chance to meet today with Lori perlow

30:32  
who was the communications consultant that was engaged by the district about a year and a half ago to provide us with

30:38  
that strategic support on developing and evolving our approach to Communications we had a good meeting and we'll provide

30:46  
you with a more thorough update tomorrow so we can talk about next steps

30:51  
great thank you any questions for Jill all right moving on Lauren for

30:57  
curriculum sure um curriculum met February 9th um 7 45

31:04  
is a hybrid meeting uh Dr Benton Joe boldorf uh Dr Tate mcweek Cheryl

31:10  
mccopless Danielle Miller and myself were in attendance um we began the meeting with information

31:16  
sharing of the proposed calendar that's on tonight's agenda to review we also then were given an update

31:24  
um I know uh Mr boldov mentioned that we were going to hear the presentation to

31:29  
the full board and public next month but we were given an update in committee on

31:35  
the CC Eis expenditures an update was given by Karen and Dave as the district

31:40  
continues to look for ways to how to spend the funds um and also the district will continue to focus on professional

31:46



development building level programs and family engagement and we look forward to the March presentation there was a  
31:54  
discussion then about a World Language programming um Karen presented a plan because one of  
32:00  
the Latin teachers is retiring and really kind of looking forward for how to meet that need as Latin remains a  
32:08  
popular program within the district and so efforts are being made to continue that program in the midst of  
32:14  
teacher shortages and challenges with hiring so a hiring plan was presented  
32:19  
and a communication timeline was given and we anticipate decisions uh to be made by the end of this school year  
32:27  
um and then lastly we discussed a little bit of an overview of Karen's presentation today for the uh fall 22 uh  
32:35  
2022 start strong presentation that she just gave any questions  
32:42  
all right thanks Lauren next is finance and operations Mick  
32:51  
thank you Mark okay uh even though we had a three-hour meeting I'll try to keep this update  
32:57  
brief um so starting off with things that we  
33:02  
were recommending to the larger board for Action EDC tuition was the first thing we discussed the increase on that  
33:10  
is about two to four percent which is in keeping with previous practice usually followed by a year where we keep costs  
33:16  
flat the increase is being primarily driven by the minimum wage increase  
33:21  
needing to pay higher wages uh also I think what we have on this  
33:28  
agenda uh later tonight something related to this the emergent Capital needs Grant it's a continuation of some  
33:34  
coveted funding we're going to use it to help retrofit some windows at the upper  
33:39  
elementary school that haven't ever really worked right I know some people in here have probably had some  
33:45  
experience with those windows so there's a retrofit kit that will help make them work better while we get the rest of the  
33:52  
useful life out of them which will hopefully be many more years so that we don't have to replace those I also  
33:59  
mentioned by Ms Rano the 2324 calendar we talked about that the one wonderful  
34:06  
thing it's been something that we've been asked about a lot and the administration was great to work on this  
34:12  
to be able to add some additional holidays uh Muslim holidays ID and then  
34:19  
also adding Diwali along with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur which we've had for years being able to fit those into  
34:25  
the calendar for payroll James informed us of some  
34:30  
items we're bringing in we have a new assistant coming to your office but  
34:37  
before they get here we need some help uh have a retired business administrator coming in to help  
34:43  
fix up some things clean up some things and then some overtime hours for the existing bookkeeper to help clean up  
34:48  
things so that when the new payroll person comes in everything will be in good a good place for them  
34:54  
we also talked about donations that were received a garden sign provided by the  
35:00  
mea thank you for that at Roberts Dick's Sporting Goods is sponsoring gift  
35:05  
cards to help students in the SLE program get fishing licenses and then there were some donations  
35:11  
primarily led by the Morrison Education Foundation but also with others contributing for backdrops having a red  
35:17  
carpet experience and small giveaways at the science fair coming up so recommend that the board accept all those  
35:25  
donations and then uh on the final recommendation was a transportation joint chair  
35:31  
an agreement with Lenape Regional High School District to add two of uh special  
35:37  
ed students to existing Lenape routes that really helps with the transportation challenges we have the shortages that are out there so being  
35:44  
able to transport those students working with Lenape Lenape Regional School District is really really beneficial for

35:50  
us so those were all the recommendations we talked about the uh also alluded to  
35:56  
before the CCI Eis update talking about how that's proceeding and that the  
36:01  
administration is targeting next month to have a public presentation about that talked about the upcoming bids and rfps  
36:08  
uh grounds bid for grounds is coming up and then also uh we have a RFP out for  
36:13  
cyber security audit see ESF we're working with them to  
36:20  
renegotiate their contract to have them use our facility uh also looking to help a charter school  
36:29  
in Willingboro potentially providing helping them to provide their lunch service which could also help us improve  
36:35  
our lunch service by having more resources here that are afforded by what  
36:42  
we would get out of that contract to help us improve our lunch program which would be a great win-win  
36:48  
um let's see we talked about the 2324 budget update uh it was already  
36:53  
mentioned that we're going to have a special session about the budget coming up next month  
36:59  
uh then generally conversations about Transportation talking about uh what we  
37:05  
need to do to maybe increase pay rates to compete with the surrounding area at State competitive and be able to hire  
37:11  
people to handle our busing needs uh and then also just some things  
37:16  
related to the up kind of upcoming budget conversation uh looking at the  
37:22  
health care costs we're starting to get that information we'll have that information prior to the budget meeting  
37:27  
hopefully uh let's see and then um some conversations about helping uh  
37:34  
or seeing if we can do things in the budget like um looking at class sizes  
37:40  
um especially in the lower grades and then uh let's see potentially adding other  
37:48  
fno meetings because my three-hour meetings uh are not necessarily uh  
37:54  
compatible with everybody's schedule so potentially meeting more than once a month so that was uh  
38:01  
summary of what we covered at the fno meeting so quite the gala it was  
38:09  
any questions comments all right thank you buddy thank you  
38:15  
everybody thank you policy policy committee uh so  
38:20  
we met on February 10th um and it was uh me um Melissa Burns Jill fellows Macaluso  
38:27  
and Mark Villanueva from the administration we had Mr ballandar for Dr Benton Dr Tate and Mr Airy  
38:34  
so um my minutes are broken up into two sections mostly of like items that we discussed and then you'll see first  
38:40  
reading and second reading policies that we're voting on uh tonight so items for discussion we continue to have um  
38:47  
uh policy 9190 in working groups trying to figure out how we can rewrite these  
38:54  
to kind of reflect the actual practices in the district and those have to do with not only home and school but parent  
39:00  
organizations uh boosters and and otherwise so that's a work in progress for many years but we're going to get it  
39:07  
done um I also thought it was helpful since we have a lot of new members that I  
39:12  
asked Dr Benton to share the process in which she identifies policies that we need to discuss and adopt from stress  
39:18  
Esme and she also gave us an update on an internal audit of existing board  
39:24  
policies that she had begun with our previous superintendent just some duplicative and overlapping and  
39:31  
unnecessary policies so that's that's good to clear those out we also looked at the calendar as well for 2023-24.  
39:39  
so policies I'm first reading tonight what you're going to see is policy 3125  
39:45

which is employment of teaching staff it's an amendment to a mandatory policy  
39:50  
that's already in existence we discussed this at the last meeting um that it was coming so this is a  
39:56  
reflecting the need to reimburse fingerprinting and  
40:01  
sub-certification costs for non-regular limited employees who receive stipends under a certain dollar threshold and  
40:08  
we're marking that as 750 or less um the next one on first reading is uh  
40:15  
policy number 143.2 that's the one that has to do with um it's a mandatory policy from the  
40:20  
state they want us to have student representation on the board um we've determined that our existing  
40:26  
policy and having our four reps would satisfy this so we're already in compliance  
40:32  
um the next one is 57.22 which is also mandatory policy from the state on student journalism and it just provides  
40:39  
that we have a board policy that reflects a student Freedom of Information expression in any school  
40:45  
sponsored media uh policy number 5460 has to do with  
40:52  
mandatory requirements for high school graduation um we just simply adopted language that  
40:58  
was updated in a regulation and I think if anyone has any specific questions I would probably defer that to Karen Dr  
41:05  
Benton um on what that involves and policies on second reading which passed last meeting  
41:11  
uh um was the policy number 163 which is about  
41:17  
Quorum uh when we have don't have Quorum for if we don't have Quorum for a reason  
41:23  
of conflict and we have decided to put a policy that  
41:29  
was approved on first reading in January on hold um that has to do with policy 1511 which  
41:36  
is our Board of Education website accessibility policy um Dr Mr Airy has kind of uh needed us  
41:43  
to flush through some changes that might be needed to be made we didn't want to adopt a policy that we weren't going to  
41:48  
be able to comply with so we'll probably have that on the next month's agenda any questions  
41:57  
great thank you Claudine are there any updates for off-board  
42:04  
committees  
42:09  
I'm new to this this is where I would give the update on More arts yes okay yes so I am the new board liaison for  
42:17  
More arts and I wanted to give a brief update it's been mentioned a number of times that the musical season has begun  
42:23  
and Shout out that the more Arts is going to be selling concessions to support its grants and scholarship  
42:29  
programs which is great opportunity for graduating seniors the scholarship  
42:34  
applications are going to be up on their portal very soon and it's for any  
42:40  
students that are involved in the Arts in any form an important footnote is that the applicants don't have to be  
42:46  
majoring in the Arts moving forward in the next chapter of their life and last but not least this wonderful program art  
42:53  
about town which has Elementary School artwork on display at nine local businesses quickly the math accelerator  
43:00  
corollos Health Haven Luna De Sol Akira pie lady Morristown hardware pasarellos  
43:06  
and the library so I think it's great if folks can shop uh stop by and take a look that's it  
43:13  
great any other off-board committee reports sure Mark  
43:20  
um let's share some information I I attended the uh the I'm the liaison now  
43:25  
I guess for the rec advisory committee uh Morristown recognizing committee and  
43:30  
they uh primarily spoke about a a new Wiffle ball softball field that's  
43:37  
going to be installed at Memorial Field in memory of Jack Hannon uh one of our

43:44  
students who who lost his life a few years ago a year or two a year ago that's right this past August thank you  
43:51  
Melissa and so uh they are having a fundraiser or golf outing on May 22nd  
43:57  
and expect the field to be dedicated sometime later this spring  
44:03  
so just wanted to share that with the board  
44:09  
um I just have a quick speak update the meeting this month is actually this  
44:14  
Thursday it's at 6 p.m and it is at the Star Center uh right at the high school and there  
44:21  
will be a guest speaker Diana sever from Pastor knock Appel and I'm sure I just  
44:27  
butchered all of those names and so I apologize um it's at 6 p.m and she'll be talking  
44:32  
about IEPs 504 plans and uh parents rights in terms of special education  
44:39  
so I would encourage anyone who has a student with any kind of special need to come on out it'll be a very informative  
44:46  
presentation  
44:51  
any others hi I had the pleasure of attending the first robotics competition at the ues  
44:57  
last month and I'd like to personally recognize Miss Bennett and Mr Peltier uh  
45:03  
the teachers and coaches of the high school combustible lemons first robotics team as well as professional Mentor  
45:09  
Chris Schaefer for the dedication to the children to the program and to stem the world of Robotics is not only  
45:15  
technically challenging but it requires substantial funding which is primarily met through fundraising through the  
45:22  
tireless efforts of the teachers the coaches and the mentors as well as parents staff and volunteers this event  
45:28  
was a huge success and it helped secure funding for the high school team it also created a competitive yet fun  
45:35  
environment for our kids and those in neighboring districts it was well attended and the kids creativity problem  
45:42  
solving camaraderie and teamwork was at the Forefront no matter how big or small events like these have such positive and  
45:48  
meaningful impacts on the competitors The Spectators and our community at large thank you to everyone whose  
45:54  
efforts helped make this competition such a success I encourage any level of  
45:59  
involvement you can give and I look forward to attending and participating future stem events throughout our  
46:05  
district excellent any other reports  
46:12  
okay great so now we'll move on to the uh public first public comment section on  
46:19  
the agenda and um what we've done this month and we'll continue to do going forward is is laid out the ground rules  
46:27  
and the written agenda itself as to public comment but since this is the first meeting that we've done that and  
46:33  
to continue with our tradition um if there is public comment on the first agenda on the on the first this  
46:41  
section that deals with agenda items I'll discuss them but just so we're clear this is only comment on things  
46:49  
that are within this agenda the public comment on off-board agenda item off agenda items is later on in the meeting  
46:57  
um but if there are any commenters on things related to the  
47:02  
agenda you can feel free to to take the microphone  
47:08  
after I would make a motion can I get a motion to open public comments so  
47:14  
all in favor aye opposed or abstentions okay  
47:20  
going once going twice all right can I get a motion to close public comment  
47:26  
all in favor aye next  
47:33  
we have uh Roman numeral eight reports to the  
47:38

board which includes items one through five as set forth in the agenda may I  
47:45  
get a motion to approve all those items please second  
47:53  
uh any comments or questions all in favor  
47:59  
aye any opposed or abstentions next Roman numeral nine  
48:05  
nine a regarding the 2023 to 2024 school calendar May get a motion for approval  
48:12  
of the calendar please so move second Jinx any comments or questions  
48:20  
let's have a quick comment um I mentioned it in my minutes but just again to commend the administration  
48:25  
I know and Dr Benton you uh were working on this from the previous administration Drew now I think it's wonderful that we  
48:32  
were able to amend the calendar to be more inclusive and representative of other people's uh holidays other  
48:39  
religions holidays so thank you for for all the efforts on that just not to be remiss Mick I appreciate  
48:45  
the congratulations of the work of our group but you heard me mention collaborative spirit before and I want  
48:51  
to thank all the members of the calendar committee who also worked with us and uh and developed this calendar for for  
48:56  
approval for this evening so thank you to all and then just to go back on top of that there was a very vocal and and helpful  
49:04  
and committed parent group that that came with met with us and helped explain the issue  
49:09  
um and so that was also appreciate it great Community effort  
49:16  
um really quickly I've sat on that committee previous years as uh president of Hillman school and it is a bear and  
49:23  
it is shocking how difficult it is to manage that calendar and get everything  
49:30  
in and satisfy all the requirements and um I'm very appreciative of the work  
49:38  
that every calendar committee does every year because it is awful so thank you and uh it's great  
49:46  
that we did uh include those holidays  
49:52  
great all right all in favor to approve the calendar aye  
49:58  
any opposed your abstentions okay thank you next policies and procedures we have two  
50:06  
items under Section 9B can I get a motion please for approval of those  
50:12  
items some of them any questions or comments  
50:20  
all in favor I suppose their abstentions  
50:26  
next letter C we have four items for approval set forth in the agenda can I  
50:33  
get a motion for approval of those items please  
50:38  
any questions or comments all in favor he knows or extensions  
50:47  
letter d  
50:53  
as 12 items on it and  
51:01  
letter item d10 is the purchase agreement as amended as  
51:09  
discussed in executive and I get a motion for approval of items  
51:14  
one to twelve so second uh any comments or questions  
51:22  
uh again uh Mick had mentioned the donations set forth in in item two from  
51:29  
mea Dick Sporting Goods the MEF uh and a number of sponsors to for the science  
51:36  
fair including Power Engineers yard science 2s2 Communications and uh home  
51:43  
at school that's a reminder that the science fair is on the 29th uh in the evening  
51:48  
so if you have an opportunity to get out there and check it out or participate

51:54  
um and wow us with some of your science scientific Acumen uh that would be great

51:59  
uh but I did want to reiterate the thanks for those for those very very helpful and generous donations

52:07  
so all in favor for items one through twelve all right

52:12  
and your nose or abstentions

52:21  
right we're good letter e

52:27  
employee relations has 12 items and this one is a roll call vote but first could

52:33  
we get a motion for approval of those items

52:38  
so moved any comments or questions

52:44  
all in favor oh of course I knew that this is our Carol Burns yes Ms fowles

52:52  
Macaluso yeah yeah Dr Mike yeah Mrs Miller yes Mrs

52:58  
Morano yes Miss Romano Mr weeks yes Mrs mcccopless

53:03  
Mr Villanueva yes thank you Roman 10 items

53:12  
a item a relates to suspensions and Item B relates to the superintendent's hip

53:18  
report that we reviewed last month an executive could I get a motion for approval of those two items please

53:26  
okay any comments or questions all in favor aye any noser abstentions

53:34  
next is information only that lists our current enrollment as compared to last

53:40  
year is there any old new business I mean I'm sorry that didn't make any sense is there any old business

53:48  
hearing none any new business okay hearing none will now move to the

53:55  
second public comment section and this is for public comment regarding uh

54:01  
items that are not necessarily included on tonight's agenda and as I said the

54:07  
ground rules are set forth in the agenda itself but uh please keep your comments

54:13  
to three minutes uh of course please be be cordial and respectful uh of of

54:19  
everybody here um and um with that John are you going to be

54:26  
keeping the yes the timer okay gotcha gotcha gotcha gotcha

54:32  
um okay can I get a motion to open public comment so moved second all in favor

54:38  
aye and one thing I failed to mention is if you could uh please State your your name and address as much as your of your

54:45  
address as you're comfortable sharing publicly uh please do that before you uh begin your comments

54:52  
all right

55:01  
hold on one I think it's is the microphone on

55:07  
she she's working on it right now oh okay

55:13  
you want to test it yes yes okay as long as

55:21  
it off did somebody turn it off it's so it's so people streaming can

55:27  
hear you this won't count against your time

55:44  
should we just use one of these

55:52  
testing testing one two three

55:59  
Live Theater okay hello I'm Sarah Ginger I live on Summers Ave in Morristown I

56:06  
teach at the upper elementary school and I would like to truly commend the high school staff for all of the work that

56:12

they have done preparing for Cinderella our spring musical the staff devotes countless hours to make sure that the  
56:19  
stage makeup costumes everything is perfection as well as the time devoted  
56:24  
to prepare the students for the production I would also like to recognize the very hard working custodial staff at the high school Dave  
56:31  
Mike John and Liz for keeping the areas clean and safe break a leg Cinderella  
56:41  
hey guys I'm Rosemary Anderson uh I live at 290 Crescent Ave for those of you who  
56:46  
don't know that's Roberts Elementary uh this is Sally Wilson uh I teach first grade she's a Paris so we're here to  
56:52  
quickly talk about the garden sign that you briefly mentioned donated by the mea um I want to give a quick background on  
56:59  
the garden um because we do a lot of really good work at the Garden um so the Robert Garden Robert's garden beds were  
57:05  
originally built and donated by Liv civilly around a decade ago um after years of not being utilized to  
57:12  
their best potential in 2015 Sally Wilson decided to use her own gardening  
57:17  
skills to improve the students experience um at first the students just began to  
57:22  
get experience on planting and harvesting and within that first year the garden kind of like started to see a  
57:29  
purpose so using the connection that the school has with the First Baptist food pantry through food for all Fridays  
57:37  
um we decided to start donating the Harvest that we were getting which is awesome so uh students would plant in  
57:43  
the spring Sally said Sally took all of her own personal time set up a weekly calendar where families uh could sign up for a  
57:50  
week to uh water and then um at the end of the week this is through the summer uh harvest vegetables and then take them  
57:57  
to the food pantry um so that the local families who were using the food pantry were actually  
58:02  
getting uh fresh produce um and then come September the students would take over Harvest again and then  
58:10  
the garden would be broken down in the fall um completely maintained by staff and  
58:16  
students I can't tell you how many times Sally has brought dump loads of soil with her own truck in the morning you  
58:22  
see her there at 7 30 in the morning gotta get this ready gotta have the kids plant tomatoes today so I have like tons  
58:28  
of pictures that I'm going to share with Joe and hopefully uh Jeff can share out to you guys too uh in May of 2022 uh the  
58:35  
Morristown Sun did an article on us and it was called you're part of something bigger um and Sally wanted to just kind of  
58:42  
come on show uh and talk a little bit about the progression of the sign and how we ended up where we are today so we  
58:48  
wanted to say thanks to the mea for our sign but just as Rosemary said we  
58:53  
started out with the sign made with paper covered with laminating film provided by you and um then it  
59:01  
progressed to a family in town at our school the Zoni family and they just spontaneously on their own donated this  
59:08  
sign and it needs some buffing up but then the mea we  
59:13  
filled out grant money and we got a sign and it's at our school and it's going to  
59:19  
be put up and it's going to be great so and then it's done week we're having um  
59:26  
Farms Swayze Farms is going to come out and they're going to do a nice segment uh paid for by women's school  
59:31  
um a nice assembly for the kids out of the garden we'll talk about pollinators we've since then plan uh Marie  
59:37  
pollinator beds again Sally went out until on her own time um so we've it's really transformed and  
59:43  
I think this is the dark design a lot of the bench and things like that have changed the space so thank you thank you  
59:49  
thank you and and as much as we want to keep hearing about it we have to be consistent uh in our three minute clock  
59:55  
so thank you very much okay  
1:00:03  
good evening my name is Margaret Nissen I live at 409 Dawson and I teach special education at the high school I would  
1:00:10  
like to commend the ues staff and students who just finished celebrating kindness week during the week many

1:00:15  
activities and lessons were organized by the guidance counselors at the ues kindness ambassadors were chosen by the  
1:00:21  
homeroom teachers these students worked on Guidance with the guidance counselors to learn how to be student leaders for the week they  
created inspirational  
1:00:27  
posters that were hung in the cafeteria and even started in a video that was shared during the guidance lessons with  
1:00:32  
each respective grade level all the students in the school decorated hot beverage sleeves with pictures and  
1:00:38  
phrases of kindness which starting this Friday you will be able to purchase with  
1:00:44  
a hot beverage at Wawa on Main Street um they also contributed donations for  
1:00:50  
Meals on Wheels program so we just want to thank the ues staff for all they do for our students  
1:00:57  
thank you uh it's uh probably better if I don't use a microphone um so I'm Glenn Furman  
1:01:04  
I teach at the ues I'm here to commend the baker staff where they will be celebrating National reading month with  
1:01:11  
our their fourth annual one school one book program each Baker family will receive a copy of Zoe and Sassafras  
1:01:18  
unicorns and germs bigger teachers were recording recorded reading chapters of the book out loud  
1:01:24  
each night the link to the reading will be released to parents to share with their children teachers will revisit  
1:01:29  
each chapter on the next school day and provide vocabulary and comprehension activities children enjoyed creating  
1:01:36  
their own unicorns for the bulletin board display in the main hall the entire Baker staff made this a wonderful  
1:01:41  
event for the entire School  
1:01:48  
hi Allison Simpson 132 Chestnut Street thank you all for your service to for  
1:01:54  
advocating for our kids and for our community as a parent of three students in our wonderful School District I'm here to  
1:02:01  
ask for your support to reinstate an important program that was cut in 2009  
1:02:06  
the winter track and field program at Warsaw High School here are the top 10  
1:02:12  
reasons why we should bring back winter track and field number 10 it's an inclusive sport that  
1:02:18  
virtually any student can participate in there's no sitting on the sidelines no Cuts all body types and abilities are  
1:02:25  
welcome be it a runner or a shop putter track and field is so inclusive that  
1:02:30  
it's one of the three Unified sports offered at our school number nine it's an in-demand sport we  
1:02:36  
have 100 students in our Spring Track program and 55 on the cross-country team last year there were 125 students in  
1:02:44  
Spring Track and Field at Wham so the pipeline is strong for the last five years of this program when it existed at  
1:02:50  
MHS leading up to 2009 or Mr soluble provided me with a stat  
1:02:55  
that there were about 50 to 60 athletes on the team every year number eight this program serves as a  
1:03:02  
bridge sport to help both track and non-track athletes stay in shape between fall and spring Sports such as soccer  
1:03:08  
and Lacrosse for example one of the MHS students that came competed this winter a month ago  
1:03:15  
um in winter track sectionals is the lacrosse play at our school he runs track in the winter to get ready for  
1:03:20  
lacrosse number seven not having a winter track program is a direct disadvantage to our athletes because our  
1:03:27  
competitors all have this program they have momentum coming into the Spring Track season we're playing catch-up with  
1:03:34  
our physical and mental Fitness number six winter track has a positive impact on Mental Health reducing cases of  
1:03:40  
seasonal depression among students it's the only winter sport that trains outdoors in the fresh air number five  
1:03:47  
track is the best of both worlds a team and individual sport rolled into one there's team camaraderie along with  
1:03:53  
athletes setting personal goals I've heard our track coaches state that their mission is not to have every athlete be  
1:03:59  
number one but to have them set a goal be Challenge and achieve their personal best these are skills that prepare them



1:04:06  
for life number four for the new policy the nj sia our athletes will no longer be able to  
1:04:13  
participate in a coveted winter sectionals and states meets we had Dom up here talking tonight about wrestling  
1:04:18  
swimming they're going to States they're doing all these wonderful things our track athletes in the winter do not have  
1:04:24  
the ability to do that because without a winter track program we're not eligible this policy changes heartbreaking news  
1:04:30  
for our athletes and all other sports at our high school have the ability to advance number three we're ready we have  
1:04:36  
a track we have uniforms we have equipment from Spring Track the expenses that need to be covered are two coaches  
1:04:43  
salaries bus transportation of four meets and meat entry fees I've outlined  
1:04:48  
the cost in the email I sent to the Board of Education members it's in a handout the audience has number two we're the only Public School  
1:04:56  
I'm sorry but we do need to keep be consistent sorry applications that's okay I see I  
1:05:02  
see people in the back and maybe he can finish it  
1:05:09  
thank you and just I just want to say it again we we have  
1:05:17  
we have our ground rules and um we have to be consistent in how we apply them because we don't want to  
1:05:24  
allow certain subjects to be discussed over the timeline but not others so uh  
1:05:29  
thank you again for for all your comments but I just want to make clear that we're not trying to be difficult  
1:05:35  
but um we do have to keep it to three minutes  
1:05:40  
hello I'm Kelly Gartland I'm at 350 Bridgeboro Road I teach at the high school and I would like to commend Laura  
1:05:47  
Deshong at Roberts for her sweetheart Singh first grade concert love was in the air the children sang and danced to  
1:05:53  
songs about friendship love and joy I'd also like to commend the Roberts staff and kindergartners for celebrating their  
1:05:59  
first hundred days of learning they wore shirts with 100 items on them and they brought in jars and bottles filled with  
1:06:05  
a hundred items to practice counting to 100. I'd lastly like to comment or to  
1:06:10  
commend the Roberts staff for their work throughout the month having different classes and students do research and  
1:06:17  
present their black history reports it's been very informative and inspirational thank you thank you  
1:06:27  
hi Bridget Potts I work at 290 Crescent Avenue Roberts School I'm here uh to  
1:06:35  
command of the Wham staff update good news from Lambs here's the bulletin throughout the month of February  
1:06:41  
teachers are building in mini lessons to highlight the impact African Americans have had on our content areas we are  
1:06:50  
emphasizing that there is a voice and a role model for each of us to follow into our futures Wham staff is also looking  
1:06:58  
forward to The Adams Family musical which will be March 16th to the 19th thank you  
1:07:03  
thank you hello I'm Kim Martin and I teach here at  
1:07:10  
WAMS and I want to commend and thank the South Valley staff for collecting food and donations for  
1:07:16  
the local food pantry and the Burlington County Animal Shelter they also donated  
1:07:22  
to mothers matters organizing toiletry drives for this charity that supports  
1:07:27  
Ronald McDonald houses and the local women's shelters additionally I want to thank  
1:07:33  
um the art teacher who teamed up with the third grade team for an art science integration project the students  
1:07:39  
explored with Magnetic forces and to paint masterpieces thank you thank you  
1:07:48  
hello my name is Peter Simpson 132 Chestnut Street to finish on my mom's points number two we are the only Public  
1:07:55  
School in our Athletic Conference the Olympic conference that does not have a winter track and field team additionally  
1:08:00  
at least 50 Public Schools in South Jersey have a winter track program the list is provided in handout and the  
1:08:07

number one reason to bring back winter track and field is the student athletes there are many in this room tonight and  
1:08:13  
we hope that you find the stories as inspiring as we do and I encourage you to take action action and bring winter  
1:08:18  
track and field back to Morristown High School all right  
1:08:25  
hi my name is Peter Simpson [Laughter] I was privileged enough to run in  
1:08:31  
sectionals this winter alongside several of my teammates many of which are standing in this room I'm speaking on  
1:08:37  
behalf of everyone when I say we were disappointed by the level of competition Morristown High School allowed athletes  
1:08:43  
to run it this winter without a winter track program we were left at huge disadvantage  
1:08:49  
as track athletes in Moorestown we are relying on schools program when the school falls short our athletes  
1:08:55  
are left behind with it many of us are competitive as athletes but cannot compete at all within new nj sia  
1:09:03  
unattached running policy we as athletes would like to see an official winter track program where we are given a fair  
1:09:10  
opportunity to compete we're not asking for a lie as many of you would be surprised to know  
1:09:15  
Morristown High School is the only School in the Olympic conference out of 53 schools that have won a track  
1:09:23  
um we'd like to see I want to track team next year thank you  
1:09:36  
very lawyer I'm a junior at Morristown high school and I live on 109 South Stanwick Road thank you so much for this  
1:09:42  
opportunity to speak today I'm here because I realize not having a winter track team is putting us at a  
1:09:47  
disadvantage compared to our peers at other schools I'm extremely lucky that my parents were able to get me a trainer  
1:09:52  
this year and that I was able to compete in Winter sectionals but next year this won't be the case because we won't have  
1:09:58  
a team and see times to be eligible in previous years me and my teammates have been going up against girls in the  
1:10:04  
spring who have been training year round and are months ahead of us since we are the only School in our conference  
1:10:09  
without a winter team after taking the winter off we are starting from the beginning and only reaching our Peak at  
1:10:15  
the very end of spring season I feel like winter track is a necessity for all Runners especially those who want to  
1:10:22  
obtain scholarships or financial aid for colleges another benefit is that it keeps anyone who wants to be in shape  
1:10:27  
for other spring Sports such as LaCrosse or baseball this is also important during the winter months when seasonal depression is in  
1:10:34  
full swing for many and running with a team provides both the physical and mental Outlet Plus it keeps us off our  
1:10:40  
phones other winter sports are very specialized yet anyone can run  
1:10:45  
I want to take this time to thank the board of education for considering this and thank you for all that you did for  
1:10:51  
us  
1:10:56  
hi my name is Julia Brock and I live at 617 South Saratoga Drive I'm a junior at  
1:11:02  
Morristown high school and I'm involved with the track and cross-country teams this past when our training season has  
1:11:08  
been rough especially training by myself without my team um it was um so hard mentally comparing myself  
1:11:14  
with comparing my running times with other girls my age who had winter track programs and trained with a coach and a  
1:11:20  
team six days a week originally me and some of the other girls weren't allowed to compete in the winter track sectionals but after looking over  
rules  
1:11:27  
and regulations and talking to the ad we were allowed to compete but without seed times this put us at a huge  
1:11:34  
disadvantage and it made it almost impossible for us to make it to States at sectionals no more sunrunners with  
1:11:40  
the exception of our one pole vulture um qualified for States but we all knew that if we had a winter track program c  
1:11:46  
times and proper training we all would have had a strong chance of qualifying personally I'm looking to further my  
1:11:52  
career at running and compete competitively in college having winter track program will help not only me but  
1:11:58

others progress further and prepare us even more for the outdoor season and for future College  
1:12:04  
I believe that a winter chat program is a necessity not only for the times and for the training but the community all  
1:12:11  
the girls that compete in more soundtrack are amazing and it is such a supportive environment that I wish I had during my winter training this  
this this  
1:12:17  
winter overall I just want to thank the school board for listening to us tonight and hopefully giving us your support for  
1:12:23  
a high school winter chat program thank you  
1:12:31  
hi I'm raghavakula uh at two Melissa Court Morristown New Jersey I'm a senior  
1:12:37  
over at MHS and about to enter into my fourth year fourth and final year as part of the track and field program as a  
1:12:44  
sprinter and high jumper um now yes I am too short to be a high jumper but I am pretty stubborn  
1:12:50  
um people have also told me that my gate is more akin to a distance Runner but I try sprinting anyway and I always thought that you know  
me trying to force  
1:12:56  
myself to do all these things that I probably shouldn't makes me more prone to injuries uh I haven't gone a single  
1:13:02  
year in track and field without a debilitating shin splints on top of other things um but then I start looking around and I  
1:13:09  
realize I'm not alone at one point last year on the boys drinking team over half  
1:13:14  
of our sprinting team has to be sitting out because of various types of injuries there are all sorts of ticks and minor  
1:13:20  
ailments that's a flipping our track team from uh muscle cramps to shin splints to pull joints and the thing  
1:13:27  
with all of these injuries is their stress injuries right let's especially with shin splints we're putting a lot of  
1:13:33  
stress on our bodies in a very short period of time and if you look at our schedule you see why between our first  
1:13:38  
practice and our first scrimmage we have about two weeks to prepare compare that to every single one of our competitors  
1:13:44  
they all have well over two months to prepare that's because they have their own winter track programs and that's  
1:13:50  
something that we lack they start their practice in December and they are  
1:13:55  
entering into the first Big Spring season track meets in March we have our first practice in March and we're  
1:14:01  
entering into our first meets in March that's putting us at a very very big disadvantage every single year against  
1:14:07  
every team we face all season long now with a winter track program there is  
1:14:12  
more than enough enthusiasm um for that program to be uh successful  
1:14:17  
um uh like previous speakers said there are hundreds of athletes in the women's track and field program that are ready  
1:14:23  
to fill in and more Stone MHS students are ready to uh uh make the the winter  
1:14:28  
track and field program successful as well we just need that enthusiasm to be mutual  
1:14:34  
um and there are essentially two two things right now that can help with our scourge of of minor injuries and  
1:14:41  
unpreparedness for the season one is hydration I don't think we drink enough I really think that's an issue I think  
1:14:46  
we need to drink more but that's on us the second thing is is uh something we need to do together is we need to  
1:14:52  
re-establish that winter track and field program that was cut uh almost two decades ago  
1:14:58  
um that's something that can really help us in terms of preparing this help us be able to compete against all the  
1:15:03  
competitors because as a team there's so much potential on their team both as individuals and as a team as a whole but  
1:15:10  
without uh adequate preparedness where we're desiccating our potential and working training our possibilities so to  
1:15:17  
to deal with with the scourge we need that winter track program that's something you can and should do because more sun students are are  
ready and  
1:15:24  
willing to make it worth it thank you  
1:15:33  
hi everyone my name is Evan Schaefer I'm at a Windermere Drive in Morristown and  
1:15:38

I'm a senior at Morningside High School this year I had the privilege of being a  
1:15:44  
team captain of the cross country team in the fall season and I just like to present and ask you to consider a few  
1:15:51  
more subjective benefits of having a winter track and field program  
1:15:57  
um quite frankly in the past uh few years between the fall cross-country season and the Spring Track season I  
1:16:04  
slack off the winter is it's hard without a systemic incentive to go out  
1:16:10  
there and run in the cold by yourself without any races that you're looking forward to  
1:16:16  
and often I was faced with a when I got to track season like an academic sorry  
1:16:23  
not academic athletic dip off as soon as I started so one thing that uh this sort of idea sort  
1:16:30  
of led me to was um an overall idea of the  
1:16:38  
essence of running and the essence of running with the sport and being on a team  
1:16:43  
um running for me personally has put a lot of has allowed me to gain a  
1:16:50  
deeper understanding of what it means to have a strong mental fortitude it has allowed me to rise above my own personal  
1:16:56  
interests to um care for something greater than myself whether it's a cross-country team or a  
1:17:04  
track team and um one thing that I noticed that I was personally affected by and I felt within the community of  
1:17:10  
the high school was uh just a a simple Desire with the coveted  
1:17:15  
pandemic to just take the easy way out and what cross country really did for me  
1:17:20  
and track did for me was show me that I don't always have to take the easy way out it encouraged me to take  
1:17:28  
to do things that are a little more difficult a little out of my comfort zone and I was fortunate enough to be  
1:17:34  
able to see that effect within my colleagues on the cross country team and  
1:17:39  
it was truly fulfilling and empowering to see just how much they had changed so  
1:17:45  
I just ask you to consider um I'm going to track and field program would be incredibly beneficial  
1:17:51  
apart from the objective benefits but also subjectively for the character and  
1:17:56  
student life of our committee thank you for your time  
1:18:06  
um Colin Shan 752 Paddock path um I'm a senior at MHS and I'm a captain  
1:18:12  
of both across country and track and field team I've been competing on the teams for the past four years at MHS and  
1:18:19  
I'm now committed to run division one across country at Fairfield University and um the absence of a winter track program  
1:18:26  
really put us at a disadvantage over every other school and team we have less times races  
1:18:32  
um training and just a harder time during the recruiting process than every other school so therefore a winter track  
1:18:39  
program would significantly benefit us at MHS  
1:18:50  
uh my name is Nathan Rivera and I'm an eighth grader here at William Allen I currently participate in a club winter  
1:18:57  
track program with some of these amazing high school athletes and I've learned so much from them they've helped me become a better  
Runner  
1:19:04  
and teammate and I really look up to them although it doesn't impact me yet I've witnessed firsthand the struggles  
1:19:09  
they have endured to make it to sectionals earlier this year it's really discouraging to think that  
1:19:15  
all their hard work and dedication was almost irrelevant due to the rules and regulations associated with competing at  
1:19:21  
sectionals a school-sponsored winter track program will provide our students with a fair opportunity for competition  
1:19:29  
our current eighth grade class also has some really talented Runners who will surely be contributing to a bright  
1:19:34  
future for Moorestown track and field thank you  
1:19:43

thanks good evening Sarah Rivera 105 Smith Court um as you can tell I'm here to speak on  
1:19:49  
behalf of the winter track program um as well um I'm going to focus on the mental health aspect of this we've all  
1:19:56  
experienced some form of seasonal depression in our lives we go to work when it's dark we get home when it's  
1:20:02  
dark and in between we spend those hours stressed about the work we need to accomplish our students are no different  
1:20:07  
seasonal depression or a lesser form called the winter Blues affects your daily life  
1:20:13  
I'm certainly not a doctor in fact I don't even think I have Band-Aids at my house right now um but according to the Cleveland Clinic  
1:20:19  
symptoms include sadness anxiety weight gain fatigue trouble concentrating feelings of hopelessness uh sleep  
1:20:26  
problems and in extreme cases thoughts of suicide also according to the Cleveland Clinic  
1:20:33  
there are a few ways to prevent seasonal depression the three main preventative techniques are spending time outside  
1:20:38  
every day even if it's cloudy daylight has proven to help you feel better number two is exercise try to get 30  
1:20:44  
minutes of exercise at least three times a week exercise is proven to reduce stress and anxiety and number three to  
1:20:51  
see friends staying involved with a Social Circle and participating in regular activities can provide support  
1:20:58  
during the winter months as amazing as it would be for our athletes to win state track championships I think would  
1:21:03  
be even more amazing to have an activity that would improve the mental health of students during their most vulnerable  
1:21:09  
time of year um and I think I have another second or two and I just want to give a shout out to Mrs uh Ginter from the ues who is the  
1:21:16  
director of Seussical JR and I know everybody's talking about theater and my  
1:21:21  
middle son is in the musical and it's amazing so come see that as well at the end of March thanks  
1:21:32  
hi everyone my name is Ava I live on Oak Street and I'm a sophomore at MHS  
1:21:38  
I ran Spring Track last year and will continue again in around three weeks at the start of our next season  
1:21:44  
to add on to my teammates I want to point out the positive impact that track has made in our high school experiences  
1:21:51  
we have heavy workloads and can all say that track has allowed us to de-stress and has brought a group of dedicated  
1:21:57  
athletes together along with some teammates I've been running this winter without coaching a  
1:22:02  
sharp contrast to other schools in our Olympic conference we want the opportunity to progress as  
1:22:09  
an organized team during the winter and we really appreciate your dedication to our town and school and thank you for  
1:22:15  
your time  
1:22:21  
excuse me Aaron birdleitner 816 North Stanwick Road right across the street  
1:22:27  
um I'll just be walking home after this um can we first please give a round of applause to all the students and student  
1:22:33  
athletes for taking their time to be here and having  
1:22:39  
and having the fortitude to speak in front of all these adults and express themselves and really uh try to bring  
1:22:46  
light to something that believe it or not affects many many folks in  
1:22:52  
Morristown Morristown has a history of uh sports  
1:22:57  
that weren't there that eventually had a big impact boys lacrosse has won uh When  
1:23:03  
will American founded boys lacrosse uh in 1987 in Morristown it created  
1:23:10  
opportunities for for literally hundreds of hundreds of of boys and young men in  
1:23:17  
Morristown that did not exist before and it's just an incredible history there  
1:23:22  
um uh but it wasn't easy right it took cooperation from those who were  
1:23:27  
empowered to provide opportunities so these folks are coming to you to ask you  
1:23:32  
to please consider their their thoughts and consider their interests and please act upon them to return When track the

1:23:40  
two Morristown for both boys and girls I wanted to mention that um the class of  
1:23:46  
1973 was mentioned earlier 50th reunion we wanted to give them a tour and really  
1:23:52  
recognize them I'll note for you that the class of 1973 had a winter track program at Morristown High School  
1:23:59  
in addition I would just like to say that what would be ideal in the spirit  
1:24:05  
of what Mr bondorf mentioned earlier about collaboration in Morristown which can be such a wonderful and powerful  
1:24:10  
thing is that the board think about not whether or not uh winter track can be  
1:24:16  
reinstated but just simply how can it be reinstated okay just think of not uh should we do  
1:24:24  
this should we not let's think about doing it and how we can constructively  
1:24:29  
do it you have a lot of supporters whether it's Financial whatever the interest uh or or shortfalls are uh the  
1:24:36  
town has a lot of folks that would love to help out and and you know make things work here so please return winter track  
1:24:43  
to Morristown High School  
1:24:50  
hi Dave Simpson 132 Chestnut Street I'm coming here today speaking to you as a  
1:24:56  
person entering their 28th year in the field of Education over the last seven or eight years I've seen a sharp decline in the mental  
1:25:03  
well-being of my students and I've worked as a teacher a coach  
1:25:08  
administrator and I can say that winter track provides a tremendous opportunity to overcome those hurdles there's  
1:25:14  
nothing worse than losing a kid to depression losing a kid to anxiety and we know that the winter track  
1:25:20  
program will help with that most importantly when these kids are competing in track their phones are away  
1:25:26  
they're out there running long distances with each other forging forging meaningful relationships with each other  
1:25:32  
we know that many of our young folks think that they have a lot of friends but unfortunately a lot of these are shallow online connections and  
1:25:38  
friendships they're lacking deep substantial connection providing a track program in the winter  
1:25:44  
is going to allow those kids to forge those deeper relationships that will help solidify their mental health and I ask you to reinstate this  
program for  
1:25:51  
the mental well-being of our students thank you  
1:25:58  
all right another track guy uh I'm Bert Tetro I'm uh in Morristown I've got three kids  
1:26:05  
still in District uh two who have gone all the way through college and they've been able to successfully  
1:26:13  
compete for college spots and uh I've  
1:26:18  
learned life lessons along the way thanks in large part to uh strong and  
1:26:23  
robust winter uh track programs uh that's how we myself and my uh my two  
1:26:30  
oldest uh children were all introduced to uh track for winter track  
1:26:35  
um so over there over those 40 years of experience either as an athlete myself  
1:26:40  
or as a parent or simply as a spectator um I've spent a lot of time around track  
1:26:47  
athletes and it uh the the advantages of uh of Athletics there's there's no  
1:26:54  
question a lot of studies that support the uh uh document studies documenting the  
1:27:00  
benefits of Athletics for students uh winter track in particular  
1:27:05  
um provides a gateway to Athletics that wouldn't be available to a lot of uh  
1:27:11  
kids who might not otherwise um  
1:27:16  
find their way onto a basketball team or a wrestling team or a gymnastics team  
1:27:21  
um so this is a way for them to to fall in love with Athletics and reap those

1:27:26  
benefits the NCAA reports that there are more  
1:27:31  
women participating in track than by far than any other NCAA Sport with men  
1:27:41  
it's close uh football believe it or not and baseball it's neck and neck but  
1:27:48  
track is right up there um let's see with the high rates of  
1:27:54  
participation and morristown's historically Rich uh history of track uh  
1:28:00  
it it and the fact that all the the schools in our conference with whom our  
1:28:07  
students are competing for college spots uh our students are disadvantaged by not  
1:28:13  
being able to include their performances from winter track on their college applications so I'd like to see that  
1:28:19  
happen um let's see uh we have the infrastructure in place uh I think what  
1:28:26  
we need to consider is really uh the the relatively small investment that the  
1:28:32  
winter track program would would take uh would reap enormous benefits with lots of participation  
1:28:38  
uh and uh lastly uh  
1:28:44  
with my uh kids still in the pipeline I'd like them to have the opportunity to  
1:28:50  
uh participate in winter track as well thank you  
1:28:58  
hi I'm Jaya stockham I love my Canterbury Court and I'm a sophomore at MHS even though I was not able to  
1:29:05  
compete in Winter sectionals this year obviously I participated in Spring Track as a pole vaulter during this time in  
1:29:11  
between spring and up to my injury I was looking to improve my skills as an athlete I had to travel over three hours  
1:29:16  
every weekend to get a high intensity training that I was getting at MHS during the Spring other athletes at so  
1:29:23  
many schools around us got the training and coaching that they deserve during the winter me and the other athletes that compete in Spring  
are up against  
1:29:29  
some of the best best athletes in South Jersey that have been preparing for the season all winter  
1:29:34  
this puts us at a strong disadvantage because we are lacking this training this is why I think that at Morristown  
1:29:41  
we should be on a Level Playing Field to other schools in this area thank you for listening to me and the other athletes  
1:29:47  
and parents advocating for winter track and field program  
1:29:57  
anyone else have any public comment okay thank you can I get a motion to close  
1:30:03  
public comment please you know all in favor  
1:30:10  
aye opposer extensions thank you next uh is the good of the  
1:30:15  
order thank you Mark uh first let me start by uh you know you've heard me say tonight  
1:30:21  
you know how impressed I've been having been here in the district for a month um tonight it's just even more evidence  
1:30:28  
uh the kids uh the way you handled yourself and you know came up and and  
1:30:34  
the eloquence particularly the two gentlemen they're seniors that didn't even have any notes I was just super  
1:30:39  
impressed but I was even more impressed by the fact that they were seniors and they had nothing to gain by coming  
1:30:45  
here and making their their feelings known I don't think there's anybody on the board that could debate any of the  
1:30:50  
points that were made here tonight uh me personally I've dedicated my life to Athletics and I understand and agree  
1:30:56  
with the value of Scholastic Sports there's a reason why communities and schools have invested in Scholastic  
1:31:02  
Sports of All Kinds because we all know that they help teach life lessons to our  
1:31:08  
kids the vast majority of our kids to participate don't go on go on to make careers in athletics but it teaches them  
1:31:15  
the very things that they need to be do that they need to do to be successful so for all the reasons that you stated

1:31:20  
tonight there's nobody that can disagree with with the need to continue to support Scholastic programming for our  
1:31:27  
kids in the way of Athletics so I know that the board has things to think about it's really more of an exercise of the  
1:31:33  
budget which is the reason why I know it came out in the first place a long time ago and none of the folks up here have  
1:31:39  
any any historical reference or part of that because none of them were here doing this work when that occurred  
1:31:44  
you've given everybody here tremendous things to think about and and I know your timing's good because the budget  
1:31:50  
process is upon us so thank you for all your words and and I know you've made a very big impression on all of us here  
1:31:57  
tonight so thank you  
1:32:04  
anyone else have anything for the good of the order Yeah just something really quick  
1:32:10  
um I just wanted to say that I attended a few events and I just wanted to share a few of them are mentioned I just want  
1:32:15  
to give a huge congratulations to the MHS interact Club they did a wonderful  
1:32:20  
Community event for those of you that are out the Soup for the Soul event it was absolutely beautiful to see the community come out and all  
the local  
1:32:28  
sponsors and partners and collaborating with Phil abundance um  
1:32:33  
the fexpo and Greg harr's MHS staff did a phenomenal job partnering with other  
1:32:39  
local high schools and our own ues to put on Amazing performances if those of you that I would urge you to go see  
1:32:46  
mhs's Cinderella and also next month ues's Seussical junior my son is in  
1:32:52  
Seussical junior so we're very excited in our household um and last but not least I had the honor of attending the New Jersey school  
1:32:58  
boards association's training session in Plainsboro New Jersey and I met a lot of  
1:33:04  
other local board members across New Jersey it was great session deep conversations and brainstorming sessions  
1:33:10  
with other districts and I learned a lot of really great robust information and it was a very very intensive training it  
1:33:17  
was very exciting and I just want to thank the njsb for the retreat and that is all I have so thank you so much  
1:33:25  
anyone else nope just me um I just wanted to take a second to  
1:33:30  
thank everybody for coming out and uh sharing your views with us and offering  
1:33:36  
perspectives that we may not have otherwise had tonight um I think that there was a lot to  
1:33:42  
unpack at this particular board meeting and I  
1:33:47  
just for myself I want the public to understand that  
1:33:53  
um we feel a burden to as we should to make  
1:33:59  
um all of this right to unpack all of this to look at Dr Benton's report and  
1:34:04  
really consider that and to really consider uh reinstating track and field and I think  
1:34:10  
to this uh in this regard I think I could speak on behalf of the board and say that we are a very dedicated to  
1:34:16  
doing the best for the community that we can and um thank you again for coming  
1:34:21  
out and spending your night with us anyone else  
1:34:29  
I see your green light on Mac or you good yeah I don't want to just I did  
1:34:35  
write uh back to one of the people supporting the um the track and field Miss Simpson Allison  
1:34:42  
good to see you um and I participated in winter track uh  
1:34:48  
other board members here participated in winter track here more sound and to the person who mentioned that it was here in 73 was here in  
88 when I graduated uh  
1:34:56  
and Lauren graduated afterwards so I'll let her tell you what year that was if she wants to  
1:35:02



um [Laughter] but uh yeah it definitely is something I  
1:35:08  
know how much I got out of it uh we were reminiscing a little bit before about our coach uh Mr Nikki uh who was not  
1:35:14  
only a stellar math teacher but a great mentor and Advocate when we were participating as athletes so you know as  
1:35:21  
Mr balendar said it's certainly not an issue of not having the desire to want it to have  
1:35:28  
it it's a matter of figuring out how to do it and certainly I know as a board we'll definitely take a look at that and  
1:35:35  
I know I can speak for myself I I would love to be able to find a way to do it and um certainly thank everybody for  
1:35:41  
coming out and uh not only reminding us of of the importance of it and and the  
1:35:46  
effect it has because that's really the key thing is the effective has on our students uh but also giving us a chance  
1:35:51  
to remember what it was like for us so um those of us who were students here before so thanks for that  
1:35:58  
foreign I don't see any other green lights on so  
1:36:06  
I assume nobody else has any more comments for the good of the order so I Echo everybody's thanks I'm not gonna  
1:36:11  
gonna repeat what's been set up here thank you all for showing up it's been great to hear your perspectives and  
1:36:18  
certainly lots to think about so uh thank you for your advocacy and all your constructive comments and so with that  
1:36:24  
I'll make a motion to close or adjourn I'm sorry a motion to adjourn  
1:36:31  
all in favor aye