

Transcript – 10/17/23 BOE Meeting

0:58

he

1:09

right good evening welcome to the October 17th public Board of Education

1:17

meeting for the moristown Township Public Schools this meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with the open public meetings Act is set forth in

1:24

the agenda to open the meeting May I please get a moment of silence particularly for

1:30

those victims in Israel as well as all

1:35

innocent uh innocent people in Israel

1:40

and in Gaza that are suffering in Are In Harm's Way can I please get a

1:45

moment of

1:54

silence please rise for the pledge

2:00

iance to the of the United States of America and to the for stands na God

2:10

indivisible with liy and justice for

2:16

all Mr Heiser can I get a roll call please Mrs arera Burns present Mrs F

2:23

Macaluso Dr M here Mrs Miller here Mrs Morano here Mr Romano Mr weeks presid

2:32

Mrs mcos here Mr V NOA here thank you thank you Mr Heiser and again welcome

2:40

everyone to our October meeting we have a packed agenda so I'll be very brief uh

2:46

this evening um I did want to note uh the the sad and unfortunate passing of

2:54

one of our staff members um Colleen hion was uh a staff member here in mortown

3:01

for I believe about eight years um who uh unfortunately succumbed to her battle

3:07

with breast cancer after a long battle um she worked as a teacher at Baker

3:14

Roberts and UE and um we wanted to extend our condolences to her family and

3:20

we're thinking about her her family as well as as all the staff that that knew her um it's always obviously very sad to

3:28

lose a member of our community so we wanted to recognize her

3:33

um with that uh as I said we have a a packed agenda and uh I wanted to thank

3:40

you Mr bandorf for um your communication to the public last week concerning uh

3:47

the security measures that we have in place in light of the the the troubling and concerning events happening

3:54

worldwide um so I I I appreciated that and uh I just wanted to turn it over to

3:59

you so we can get our meeting

4:06

going I'll hit it

4:12

afterwards thank you Mark um just a couple of uh notes and I and I will

4:17

touch on Mark's comments as it relates to the letter that went out just to give just a little bit more understanding for

4:24

folks to perhaps create even a better uh ease of Mind as we move forward in time

4:29

first of all the school year aside has has been off to a great start I think our kids are are are doing wonderful

4:34

things I've Had The Good Fortune of being able to attend uh almost all of home school meetings at the different uh

4:41

buildings I will eventually get to all of them and continue to attend them during the course of the year I say it

4:46

many times but it doesn't really get old in my mind is the uh the gratefulness that I that I have and I think that our

4:54

our community should have for those parents who do really go above and beyond uh to step up and help our kids

4:59
and extraordinarily ways in each of our schools through home and school having said that I also want to extend a gr
5:06
extend a debt of gratitude to the MEF the Morristown Education Foundation who recently held their annual golf outing
5:12
the amount of dollars that they raise uh that really really trickles down to our kids through grants uh for
5:19
our teachers and our classrooms and also the money that they help uh our our folks that are doing Project Graduation
5:26
raise to you know provide that very important night uh for our kids after their graduation ceremony is incredibly
5:33
important and and much appreciated um so I I didn't want to go without stating
5:38
those things and so on to the things that you know were utmost in everyone's mind you know interestingly enough as
5:45
important as those things are that they're they're utmost in our mind every single day every single day taking care
5:51
of our kids making sure that they're they're looked after that their needs are being met and that we're providing a
5:57
safe and secure environment really has to be the Hallmark Mark of what we do because in the absence of those things
6:02
real teaching and learning becomes a real challenge if kids don't feel safe if kids don't feel like they're a part
6:09
of the culture that we're providing in our buildings their ability to focus and really attain the kind of learning that
6:14
we hope that they're going to attain becomes more challenging for them so I think it's really important for us to focus our attention on these
areas and
6:21
and they should happen ways that quite frankly our kids don't need to be terribly involved with or know about but
6:27
they're there and present for them to help protect them help protect our schools and help protect our staff and
6:34
so my letter on on Friday in in light of the things that were happening around us in the world and communities around us I
6:41
wanted to give people a sense of peace of mind that you know we're very much engaged in that work paying attention to
6:47
the things that we're seeing on social media paying attention to the things that we're seeing in communities going on around us we have a
very open
6:54
dialogue and ongoing dialogue and strong working uh network with uh our local police force Pat Riley who's now your
7:02
director of Public Safety has been really a tremendous asset to this community and it's been very helpful in
7:08
US strengthening what it is that we're able to provide for our kids in our schools um there is ongoing
7:14
communication from the state level from the homeland security and I I can I can tell you that if there's concerns issues
7:21
at front we are provided that information always uh and and last week
7:27
in spite of those things that were happening around around us uh you know we we we internalize fear for the things
7:34
that we do see and other people are saying or hearing and that's okay because as I stated in my letter if you
7:41
hear something if you see something you should say something you should never feel the the part like I don't know if I
7:47
want to go forward with that or tell somebody the worst thing that can happen is nothing all right and that's okay so
7:53
it's important for us collectively as a community to share information and concerns with one another never feel
7:59
like you're bothering contact my office I'm very responsive you're going to hear back from me and if there's something
8:06
that we need to know please share it it really is our best defense against so much of what we may have to deal with in
8:13
this world today is our ability to communicate with what it is that we know is going on around us so um I just
8:19
wanted to follow up and and say those things people can hear them I think sometimes when you put things in writing
8:25
uh there's a part of communication that's missing and and that is the ity with which the words are coming to you
8:31
and the belief that we have here in ourselves to be able to do the work that we need to do in order to do exactly
8:39
that thing and that is to keep our kids as safe as humanly possible so I know that you join me in that effort so to
8:46
help move things along and to not keep our students here longer than they need to be we'll come back to some of my
8:51

superintendent updates but can we turn things over to our student leaders for their their reports at this time this is
8:57
uh my always my favorite part of the meeting
9:21
anyway hello everybody hello everybody I'm Bava the senior class liaison and it's so great
9:28
to be back here for another school year it's my last first board meeting and I
9:34
still remember my first first board meeting it was 20120 and we were all virtual and I remember Mr Ary had to
9:40
screen share a picture of the flag for us to do the pledge so I'm glad to be here in person doing the pledge in
9:47
person and here with you all so I'm here to talk about a bunch of things but first starting off we are in the middle
9:53
of our college application season so it's a busy time for seniors since the
9:59
the beginning of the school year we've been writing our Common App essays supplementals for each School asking our
10:04
teachers for letters of recommendation and busying our counselors with a lot of questions so
10:11
early application deadlines are usually October to November the one that
10:17
recently just passed was October 15th and for most colleges they are November 1st decisions for early application come
10:24
out around mid to late December and for regular decision
10:29
um the they're usually due around the first week of January so January 1st to January 7th so it's a great way to start
10:37
off the new year and decisions for that kind of trickle in around April and May
10:42
so during this college application season please keep us seniors in your thoughts and pray that the trifecta of
10:49
navat college board and common app websites don't shut down on November 1st
10:54
from the sheer volume of students using them so on to a happier subject we are also right in the middle of Spirit Week
11:02
our other Liaisons will speak a bit more to that in a minute but homecoming kicked off Spirit Week this Saturday and
11:08
pep rally will close off Spirit Week this Friday the senior student body has
11:13
chosen Roman Empire for our theme and not to give away too much of our entrance to the entrance to Spirit Week
11:20
to our underclassman but it will involve fake fighting fake swords fake Shields
11:26
Lights music and all of the drama so we're looking forward to that looking
11:31
ahead into November our Veterans Day assembly will be November 14th and we have started planning for it usually
11:38
veterans who have been alumni of morison high school or veterans who are relatives of students and staff at
11:44
High School attend the assembly we also usually have a keynote speaker and my favorite part of the assembly which I
11:51
look forward to every year is when us the student council has a chance to talk with the veterans and really get to know
11:57
them hear their story and bond with them so I'll be looking forward to that again this year so that's all I have for this
12:04
meeting again keep us in your prayers this college application season and I hope everyone has a happy Halloween and
12:10
a great evening thank you I'll now pass it off to Avet our junior class Leon thank you
12:27
Bika hi every that's low hi everyone my name
12:35
is AET wal and I am the junior class president but today I'm filling in as
12:40
your junior class board of education liaison today I'm going to talk to you guys about spirit week and our daily
12:46
competitions that take place each day this week now before I get started some
12:52
of you may find my face similar to a nervous freshman from a couple years ago
12:57
well that freshman was me I had a great time doing this my freshman year so when AR aison called
13:03
and sick I knew I had to take the chance to come back and talk to you guys one more time just like back then our spear
13:10
week has stayed just as exciting throughout the years and this year we even came up with all new spirit Day

13:15
themes to try to get more people involved and feeling the spirit of MHS we started our week yesterday with
13:21
country versus Country Club where people could either dress up preppy for country country club or Western for country
13:29
today was Adam Sandler day so everyone dressed up in outfits that Adam Sandler typically wears which include oversized
13:36
t-shirts baggie shorts backwards hats and sunglasses so that was awesome to see tomorrow we have Barbie versus
13:43
Oppenheimer day where students will either dress up in pink or black and Thursday features salad dressing day
13:49
where each class dresses up as a different salad dressing so seniors will be Caesar as Bika mentioned their theme
13:55
is Roman juniors are Thousand Island which just entails a tropical shirt tropical shirt um J uh sophomores will
14:03
be French which is I guess Beret and they can come in with baguettes if they want to and freshman are blue cheese so
14:10
blue they got the the short end of the stick there and of course Friday will be pep
14:17
rally so everyone will wear their class shirt and have a great afternoon and night full of fun and class Spirit each
14:24
day we also have daily competitions that take place during lunch in order to get each class more points for pep rally so
14:30
today we had a competition where teams from each grade threw marshmallows into each other's mouth mouths and tried to
14:35
catch the most marshmallows possible and we also had another competition where people sucked up M&M's in straws and
14:40
dropped them in cups so overall everyone at the high school is excited for a fun-filled week of activities and
14:47
competition as we head towards another hopefully amazing pep rally thank you everyone and have a good evening Magie
14:57
B
15:07
hello everyone and good evening my name is Sophia baram and I am your sophomore class liaison I would just like to say
15:14
I'm super happy to be back and excited I remember how excited I was this time
15:19
last year with my first Board of Education meeting and I am just as excited tonight uh this Saturday night
15:26
this past one MHS had our annual homecoming dance where the students will
15:31
just celebrate Spirit Week in the school through a fun dance and it was held in
15:36
our Mac gym on Saturday morning student council got there right and early to set
15:42
up all the decorations and all the snacks and Waters and refreshments the dance itself was at
15:48
night and had a good turnout from all the grades with over 700 people in total
15:54
there were Refreshments snacks in a very popular photo booth with a very long
16:00
line and overall and then student council stayed afterwards to take down
16:07
all the decorations and clean up which was very messy and overall the dance was
16:13
a success with lots of people lots of music and lots of dancing so it was super fun thank you very much thank you
16:20
shopia and this is your freshman class liaison
16:27
Aon
16:37
hi my name is iani Dalal I'm a freshman student council officer filling in for our
16:42
Liaisons I would like to take a few moments to talk to you about everything going on with spear week this week
16:48
themes have been very fun for everyone to participate in and many students have told me that they are excited for the
16:54
upcoming days another major event happening throughout this week is our penny drop Drive the penny Drive is a
17:00
super fun way to have everyone come together to earn Spirit weak points while also raising money for a good
17:06
cause all of the money collected from the penny Drive will be going to the newly established Adam Furlong Memorial
17:12
Scholarship fund to honor Miss Furlong son who passed away this summer lastly
17:17

each grade is collecting a specific item for the Thanksgiving drive to earn points per Spirit Week all of the food
17:23
collected this week will benefit families in most town the food will be put together to create Thanksgiving Day
17:29
baskets thank you so much for listening have a great night thank you
17:36
Vonnie it just puts a smile on your face don't it it's awesome I'll turn things
17:41
back to Mark thanks Joe uh I neglected to put
17:47
one of our routine matters up for a vote May I please get uh a motion for the approval of the September 19th 2023
17:55
executive session minutes and the September 19th 20 23 regular session
18:01
minutes any comments or questions all in favor any NOS or
18:07
extensions thank you and next we'll continue your
18:13
superintendent update all right we're going to go just a little out of order because the first one's brief and the second one's a little longer so uh
if we
18:20
could have Sher carvano is going to come up into our ssds biannual District Hib report
18:27
Sher hi good evening my name is Sher caravano I'm the principal here at whams and I'm
18:33
also the district's anti-bullying coordinator we need to report twice a year on we call it ssds the student
18:40
safety data system this is a way for us to report a few key things to the state of New Jersey each
18:51
year there we go we're required to report all uh alleged and confirmed hibs
18:57
as well as any incidents of violence and vandalism any type of suspension any type of substance abuse and also the
19:04
trainings and programs that we have in our buildings to prevent harassment intimidation and
19:12
bullying this is a summary of the total incidents in each building this report is from January 2023 to the end of last
19:19
school year you'll see me again in the spring to report on the fall of this school year so we're always looking back
19:26
to the previous six months we have a total incidents the incidents leading to removal are essentially any type of
19:33
suspension that doesn't align to a Hib alleged or
19:40
confirmed what we really focus on throughout our buildings is anything preventative things that we can build
19:46
into the day-to-day operations of the school to help students show a caring atmosphere
19:54
demonstrate kindness and really all of the things that it takes to prevent any type of harassment intimidation and bullying this is just an
example of some
20:01
of the things that the elementary schools did in the second half of the year to promote kindness and empathy
20:06
across their buildings the rocky socks was an event that all three schools um
20:11
held and that's actually something that we're going to be doing this year at whams um small group instruction for social emotional learning uh
counselor
20:18
check-ins consistently some of these events if you look up on the screen are onetime events where it might have just
20:24
aligned with a day others were consistent so while the jump rope for the heart might have been a an event we
20:30
also would have meetings and Lunch Bunch groups all year
20:37
long this doesn't like me tonight oh and I went too
20:42
far there we go sorry I'm trying to go back to
20:50
us one more sorry just doesn't want to listen Upper Elementary School had quite
20:57
a few events going on in their building again things like random acts of kindness week you will see across the
21:02
district uh Field Day tends to happen in a lot of the buildings and some of the consistent things you'll see also
21:08
counselors quarterly lessons any type of a program they did rent character strong at the U for the second year last
21:15

year and that is something that we brought to whams this
21:22
year at whams we celebrated Martin Luther King junior Day by um building in
21:28
Week full of activities that we had in the cafeteria during student lunches that was the first time we did that last
21:33
year and it's something that we're going to continue we did have a guest speaker last year for iro Internet safety
21:40
assembly we are looking into a different program this year but especially at the middle school level we see the value in
21:46
having students understand cyber bullying and the things that are taking place online we do have a mentor program
21:52
in our school that is held for staff and students where they connect and that is something that happens all year long in
21:58
addition we have our Quaker Spotlight student recognition which is a ful year program but it looks very different this
22:05
year so we'll talk about that in the spring and at the high school as you can
22:10
see other events that were one day but other um activities such as pride month
22:16
activities or even the Teen Mental Health Training that spend significant chunks of time throughout the school
22:21
year these are really the things that we focus on as a building rather than only addressing the incidents of harassment
22:28
intimidation and bullying that have occurred we really try to focus on the preventative measures that we can do to
22:33
make our building a happier place for all
22:41
students we are also required to um provide information on the district
22:47
trainings and programs that we offer to staff this is just an example of some of the trainings that we had embedded into
22:53
our professional development day in March in May and also the swap day at the end of the school year for all
22:59
student uh all staff to participate
23:04
in and the last thing I'm going to share with you we are required every year to
23:09
grade ourselves on how we are implementing the uh anti-bullying Bill of Rights there is a rubric that we're
23:15
provided we actually have to present it before October 31st so that is being presented tonight once I certify all of
23:23
this information the state of New Jersey will provide us with a score which I am going to present to you in the spring
23:29
once it's approved so this is just an example of some of the scores that you see across the district one thing to
23:36
note MHS saw a huge increase in their overall score just based on some of the elements of the rubric and something
23:42
I'll also note at whams we did see a little bit of a decline in our number and we because we were reflecting on all
23:48
last year we took last year as an opportunity to train on the character strong program with the with the intent
23:55
of rolling it out this year so some of the reasons the rationale for a change in numbers year-to year really is the
24:02
programming that we're doing and just the changes within our building but this is something that allows us to reflect
24:07
on the entire year and because it's done early enough in the school year we can really plan things for the current year
24:14
so that we're meeting um the needs of this rubric next
24:20
year any
24:25
questions okay thank you
24:30
thank you Sherry my battery died on uh my microphone I appreciate it very much
24:36
and the and the work that you do in addition to uh now being the new principal at whams carrying on this very
24:42
important work is much appreciated so thank you for your report at this time it's my pleasure to turn the meeting
24:47
over to our assistant superintendent of curriculum instruction Dr Karen Benton who will give her annual stateof the
24:54
district report good evening so I'm the longer
25:01
presentation for the night um but I'm here tonight to share our state of the district presentation I

25:08
came to you uh last month and we shared uh the results of our New Jersey graduation proficiency assessment as
25:16
well as our access data for our multilingual Learners tonight's presentation uh we'll share out our um
25:23
grades three through nine um State Testing results as well as a broader update of our students performance on
25:30
not only our state assessments but college entry assessments as well as some highlights of our students achievements um over last
25:38
year Colleen I'm not even going to try with this I'm just gonna ask you to to turn um uh just a quick
25:47
introduction of our curriculum and instruction staff our content area supervisors uh in our different content
25:54
areas we have two new additions to our team this year Mr Joe Mogan is our new
25:59
assistant principal of of Athletics at the high school as well he also served as our K to2 supervisor of physical
26:07
education and health and Mr Mogan sorry Mr Mogan joined us this
26:13
month um so we do welcome him aboard um also a new edition who has been here for
26:19
a little bit but I did not have a chance to introduce was Mr Francisco Santiago who joined us last year in February as
26:26
our grade seven through 12 special education and kada 12 multilingual learner uh
26:33
supervisor and you can access information about our curriculum at the website page listed uh
26:42
below so we've had a successful start to our teaching and learning year thus far
26:48
and our staff and administration welcome students back within our buildings and classroom communities um through
26:54
different activities um and we're now in full swing for our daily uh learning routines many of our students also
27:01
extended their learning throughout the summer um in different uh participating in different uh summer programming
27:07
including our Essa summer programming for Roberts U whams and the high school
27:12
our special education esy and supplemental reading and math programs as well as the summer Multicultural arts
27:19
program and we have some pictures of our teaching and learning that occurred uh over the summer and last year as
27:26
well so we'll move first to our state testing um as well as some updates on our
27:32
graduation assessment requirements this fall uh any senior who
27:39
still needs to meet a graduation assessment requirement will have the opportunity to take the NJ GPA as needed
27:47
as well as any candidates for early graduation and then in the spring uh
27:52
this year we are returning to our full um plate of State assess ments the NJ
27:58
GPA will be given each year to our grade uh 11 students as part of their
28:03
graduation requirement one thing to note here um in the last two years the NJ GPA
28:10
has been a fill test only um however the class of 2024 are current seniors it is
28:16
now a graduation requirement um that has not been waved um and uh students must
28:24
sit for the initial njpa in order to qualify for the two alternative Pathways
28:29
which I'll cover in our next slide so this um chart has the three
28:38
different Pathways that our students can um meet their graduation assessment requirement for the first pathway I
28:44
mentioned is the NJ GPA um one note there is that the passing score um was
28:50
lowered by the state from 750 to 7:25 in both Ela and math in order to be
28:56
considered uh graduation ready um as I said all students must sit for that assessment in their junior year in order
29:03
to be eligible for the other two Pathways um and the second pathway uh
29:09
consists of a plethora of alternative assessments that are mostly college entrance exams however it is important
29:16

to note that this year they have taken away some of the options including the ASVAB um which is the military entrance
29:23
exam and the njla 9 and 10 no longer count towards um meeting the graduation
29:30
requirement the third pathway for students who um have not met the first or second pathway is to complete the uh
29:38
State portfolio appeal process which is something that we walk our students through for the few students that we
29:44
have in that in that scenario um we walk them through that uh at the high school
29:50
um as part of our um instruction
29:56
programming so we'll move on to our New Jersey student learning assessment data
30:01
starting uh with our Ela um data um as I've noted in on my previous
30:07
presentations the testing was suspended during uh throughout the pandemic and so we're now in our second year of testing
30:15
post pandemic um we looked at our last year's data as sort of a baseline to
30:21
understand where our students were and the um the amount of learning um
30:27
Interruption that they experienced throughout the three years of the um pandemic so this year as we start to
30:34
look at this um we've taken a very continuous and deliberate approach um in
30:39
how we are looking at our data both our state data but also the internal progress monitoring data that we've
30:45
collected over the past three years and we're using that to inform our instruction and make adjustments in
30:51
terms of the interventions and supports that we provide to students
30:58
so in our youngest grade band grades three through five you can see the percentage of our students who received
31:03
a level four or a level five on the assessment which is considered to be meeting or exceeding the grade level
31:10
expectation um and we compare uh our our mors toown performance to the average
31:15
for the state when looking at the state data which is in Black for third through fifth graders in ela we see that these
31:22
grades have shown the greatest drops in performance pre and po between the pre and post uh pandemic so I believe that
31:29
it is significant when we look at our district data at how many of our Morristown students are meeting and
31:35
exceeding the grade level expectation in literacy similarly in grades six to n a
31:42
greater number of students are meeting expectations but like I said the grade
31:47
three to five we see the most significant drop across the state and then you can go to the next
31:54
one and then this is a little hard to see but this slide is meant to show
32:00
where we are compared to where we were um just before the uh pandemic so if you
32:05
focus on the yellow bar graphs for third fourth and fifth grade the lightest
32:10
yellow is the 2019 school year um before the pandemic and you can see where we
32:17
performed in terms of our um meeting an exceeding great level expectations the next year or next darker color yellow is
32:26
2022 and the darkest is uh this past spring in 2023 and so what we see is that in most
32:33
grade levels this year we see a steady performance um or improvement over our
32:38
2022 data and we see that in literacy both for grades three to five and six to
32:45
n um as well um and the goal for us obviously is to return to our pre
32:50
pandemic levels in the next couple of years and and beyond that performance as I mentioned earlier across District in
32:57
the state we anticipated a decrease in performance and understanding that addressing the impacts to learning would
33:03
not be a quick fix with immediate outcomes however these results and our other internal measures give us
33:09
confidence that our support and intervention plans are working um as well as some initial confidence um as we

33:16
evaluate our new Ela programming for grades K to five into reading um that it
33:21
is meeting our students needs and if you go to the next one you'll see similar
33:26
trend this is grade 6 to9 data and again we're comparing uh the 1819 school year
33:33
to the last two years of data post
33:43
pandemic now we'll look at our disaggregated group across our different uh student subgroups last year we did
33:50
see a significant disproportionate performance outcome for our black and Latino students as well uh as CA all
33:57
great levels as well as our economically disadvantaged students and special education populations coming out of the
34:03
pandemic while these disproportionalities persist what you can see here is that every subgroup has
34:10
demonstrated an increase in their performance over last year so again when we look at our interventions and
34:16
supports and we're using targeted instruction to look at the students that we've identified are most at risk and
34:22
had the greatest impact um um and learning losses this is promising data
34:28
for us and if you go to the next slide um this is across our racial groups and then here is our economically
34:34
disadvantaged and then our students who have IEPs and
34:42
504s so moving forward in ela what are we looking to do we will continue with
34:48
uh the supports and interventions that we have been providing with regular regular progress monitoring of students
34:53
to ensure the supports are working continue to work for stud students many of these supports are embedded within
34:59
our new literacy uh programming and delivered through small group instruction and guided reading and
35:04
writing support in the classroom so that every student has access to um these
35:09
supports um as I mentioned we're also now in our second year of implementation
35:16
in our Ela program for K to 5 and our first year of implementing the new Ela
35:22
program um in grade 6 to8 which is called into literature from the same um publishing resource and we're beginning
35:29
to revise our high school English curricula as well um we also use a
35:35
number of Diagnostic and progress monitoring assessments uh internally including the map growth and we're
35:40
piloting a reading fluency and dyslexia screener that again will help us to better identify students earlier who are
35:47
experiencing uh reading challenges so now we'll take a look at
35:54
our um math data go to next
35:59
one so same as what we saw in English language arts this shows the percentage of our students who are meeting or
36:05
exceeding the grade level expectation compared to the average uh for the state in mathematics overall across the state
36:13
um what we have seen is that the performance in math across all grade levels has seen a more significant
36:20
impact than English Language Art and while we do outperform the state we see the same Trend with our students for
36:26
math as compared to uh Ela performance in math in grades 6 through
36:33
eight both here in morest toown and across the state is where we've seen the most significant decreases in our on
36:39
great level performance and so you can see certainly while these numbers are lower than Ela the gap between where we
36:47
are and where the average for the state is is there's a greater grb meaning
36:52
we're we have not experienced as great of a decrease um here in moristown um
36:58
and again that is largely I believe due to um the intense effort that our staff
37:04
um and our supervisors have put into putting in intervention um and support programming um we are in a new in a
37:12

pilot year for a new math curriculum uh for grades K to 8 so that's a total of nine grade levels that we're looking at
37:19
and we're using a similar process to what we use to select pilot and implement our ELA programming across
37:25
those same grade levels um the selection of the resources is we're looking to
37:31
incorporate both the learning needs of our students as well as looking to make sure that whatever program we choose um
37:37
provides strong instructional resources for our staff to use um so that we can
37:43
both provide rigorous grade level instruction that addresses all of the five domains math domains as well as a
37:50
program that will embed supports and intervention resources for our teachers to use during Core math instruction as
37:57
as well as during um additional uh supplemental intervention programming
38:03
that we delivered during our reading and math support and basic skills instructions across these
38:11
grades at the high school um we test still in Algebra 1 Algebra 2 and
38:17
geometry and you can see here that performance is at or above where our pre
38:22
pandemic levels are um again another Trend that we have noticed um not just
38:28
here in Morristown but across the state is that our older students the students
38:33
who were middle school and older during the pandemic and I see a lot of shaking heads um because oftentimes they're more
38:40
independent Learners and it was easier to deliver uh virtual and hybrid
38:46
instruction to those students across the state we have not seen the this the significant you know decreases that we
38:52
see in our younger grade levels what similarly what we did in ELA we did look
39:00
at our three-year uh comparison um and compared that to the state um and so
39:07
similar trends that you can see is that um in all or most grade levels um we are
39:14
trending um upward however um you can see that while we see those overall
39:20
improvements from last year we're still targeting and making instructional adjustments at certain grade levels so
39:25
you can go to the next one um not shown here um but is important to note and it is something that our
39:32
supervisors and our teacher groups are looking at um is the cohort data um
39:39
cohort data would be as an example looking at students who were third
39:45
graders in 2022 who are now fourth graders in 2023 and then this year in
39:51
2024 looking to see how is that same group of students performing as we look
39:56
across several grades um and again as I said we know that our approach uh to
40:03
addressing our the learning um disruptions that we had was was deliberate and it wasn't something that
40:08
was going to happen so I think it very quickly so it's very um important I believe to look at how the same group of
40:15
students are performing over uh several years um for instance if we had a fourth
40:21
grade student um at the end of the 212 22 school year who was performing at a
40:26
level three which is just under great level expectation in let's say algebra
40:32
thinking we would want to look at that student's performance in 2023 in the same domain to as well as look at the
40:39
progress monitoring data that we collect along the way in order to support his growth toward a level four by the end of
40:46
fifth grade uh and this is again same Trend
40:52
that we're seeing this is now our high school data and you can see that we are
40:57
actually performing um above a grade level in those um I mean I'm sorry above
41:03
our um pre pandemic rates in those um subject areas for the next

41:12
one again similar to ELA when we look at our disaggregated data for math um we
41:18
did identify over the last two years the same subgroups are black latino student black and Latino students economically
41:25
disadvantaged students special education students um as performing disproportionately lower uh than their
41:32
peers but we see the same promising growth that we saw in ela for each of those subgroups you can see um that the
41:40
uh darker yellow orange is above um or at or above where we were last year to
41:46
the next one and we see that for our economically disadvantaged and our special education
41:53
students so in math as I I said we have a large math pilot um that we are
42:01
looking at for this year at the elementary level um the pilot is focusing on building students number
42:07
sense and growing their ability to think flexibly about numbers it includes stem projects to help students see and use
42:14
math in the real world and we are also looking for programming that will include multiple opportunities uh in a
42:21
lesson for students to engage with mathematical modeling and reasoning which are the two prac IES that in are
42:27
Incorporated in our standards um to help build deeper student understanding of the standards we're also looking for
42:34
additional resources um in this math pilot um that include both uh enrichment
42:41
materials reteaching and extra practice materials as well as uh supports for multilingual Learners and at the middle
42:48
grade levels um we're looking for a program that will help students to think more deeply about the standards uh
42:55
through a focus on rigor and coherence students continue to have access to the stem projects as well as looking for
43:02
those same kind of supports for intervention and support for different student
43:08
groups for our science results almost done with the data um uh just a quick
43:14
highlight here uh this past uh spring science fair uh was the largest number
43:20
we had the largest number of student entries into the fair um over the largest numbers of categories um in the
43:27
fair's history so you can see this brought a huge smile to our science supervisor G uh Gavin Quinn space um and
43:35
he's showing you a picture um of the fair that we hold uh at
43:43
ues uh for science we have a little less data um so we have the comparison um to
43:49
the state um where we test in fifth eighth grade and 11th grade
43:55
only um
44:00
and in science we do continue um to move toward our three uh dimensional uh
44:06
learning and assessments um and making sure that we are um align to the way
44:13
that students are going to be assessed because that was the biggest change that we saw when we adopted the new science
44:18
standards um in our Elementary grades one of the things that we've been focused on over the last couple of years
44:25
is making me meaningful Integrations between science Ela and math um lessons
44:30
for instance um when we think about modeling and reasoning those practices appear in all three sets of Standards so
44:38
finding opportunities to have for instance students um reading um an
44:44
informational text about science right and then being able to write about that or to write a claim evidence reasoning
44:51
statement um as part of a lab experim experiment um shows the overlap between
44:57
um Ela science and math and in grades 6 to 12 um um our science supervisor along
45:05
with the teachers has been working to revise our curriculum at these levels to make sure that we are doing more inquiry
45:13
based learning um engaging students in natural phenomenon things that they would experience in the real
45:21

world okay and for a small subset of our special education students um where it's
45:27
determined that the njsla would not be an appropriate tool to measure their learning we used an alternative
45:34
assessment called Dynamic learning Maps um only a very small subset of our students take this and because of that
45:40
we typically do not meet the threshold to publicly report this data um by grade
45:46
or grade or even grade band so as you can see here we've reported the combined performance of all of our test takers in
45:52
grades 3 through 12 and the majority of our students who take this um assessment are at emerging or approaching their
46:02
targets so some of our academic achieve achievements this year as we take a look at some of this is mostly going to be
46:08
our secondary data and specifically the high school um I think it is
46:14
important to note that it really begins to reflect the culmination of learning that happens uh for our students um that
46:21
begins at kindergart and and ends at the senior year so here are a few highlights
46:26
uh as you can see uh we continue to have um students who qualify for our National
46:32
Merit program uh who qualify for our AP scholar program we have students who are
46:39
meeting the gold level uh standard in our world language National exams uh in
46:45
French and Latin and Spanish um as well as we continue to have students who
46:51
truly dedicate their time to community service um and are achieving
46:56
um upwards of 250 Plus hours and some cases of community service hours um over
47:02
the course of their four years in high school um we also have students that each year um are recognized um at the
47:09
state and the regional level um across several different um content areas uh
47:15
and uh Community um participation
47:20
events next one so another thing that we looked at
47:26
in order to have an understanding of our students uh college readiness is our college entry and placement assessment
47:33
results all of our students in their junior year and sophomore year take the
47:39
PSAT and as you can see our performance on the um on the really the the full
47:46
Suite of exams for college board PSAT sat as well as AP um continues to show
47:52
that our students are performing at high levels well above the national um averages uh the PSAT 10 and 11 as well
48:02
as the SAT and the ACT will continue to be acceptable alternative assessments to meet graduation requirements uh for this
48:09
senior year class and Beyond and this is our sophomore data
48:17
and go next and then for the SAT one important
48:22
thing to note here is that beginning in the the um uh 2024 administration of the
48:30
sap is it March in March um that the SAT will move to a digital format so if you
48:38
have a child who has taken a paper test uh previously and will also take a
48:43
digital test the College Board has announced that they will not be able to supercore where they combine scores
48:49
across math and the English uh the reading and writing um because of the two different testing methods
48:56
and you can get more information about that through the High School counseling office next over the last three years um
49:04
we have had more students who are opting to take the ACT um either that they're taking both the SAT and the act or the
49:11
act by itself as their college entry exam um the ACT does not offer comparison scores to state or national
49:18
test takers but we can note that our scores within the district um have improved over the last several years in
49:24
alignment with the increase recent SAT scores that we're

49:29
seeing and next we'll look at some of our AP uh performance uh AP exam
49:36
performance over the last five years uh over the last five years we have seen an increase in the number of students
49:42
taking AP course work and sitting for the exam uh the high school currently offers 27 AP course offerings with
49:50
students being able to take some courses beginning as early as the 10th grade we saw an anticipated decrease in the
49:57
number of students receiving a three or higher uh in exams in 2021 due to the
50:02
pandemic related learning interruptions as well as several changes in the AP testing format um over the last couple
50:09
of years the College Board started with the AP test in terms of moving to a digital platform um and so currently um
50:17
we offer some of those tests as AP and then some of our AP exams are still paper B based uh paper based over the
50:25
last years we have returned to percentages around 85% in terms of the number of students scoring a three or
50:30
higher and as the College Board continues his transition to digital platforms both for the AP exams as well
50:37
as their learning platform this year our teachers are ensuring that the digital platform plat platforms and learning
50:43
features are incorporated into the daily instruction in order to ensure our students are prepared to sit for the
50:49
exam both in terms of the test format as well as the rigor of the content
50:57
uh in recognition of the instructional work of our staff and our students performance the high school received a
51:03
silver level designation from the AP School honor role um this is significant
51:08
because the AP honor role changed uh and revamped its criteria for school selection so the three categories that
51:15
they have are College culture college credit and college optimization with College culture being the most heavily
51:22
weighted category and so I'll take a second just to explain uh a little bit
51:27
about each of those categories for College culture it is the percent of students in the graduating class who
51:33
took an AP exam at any point in high school regardless of the score and to
51:39
avoid pressure on students to take a large number of APs only one AP exam per
51:44
student contributes to this indicator so it's really looking at access to AP
51:50
scores um and how many students or what percentage of students within your building are engaging in these higher
51:56
level rigor uh rigorous courses um that are um suited to to uh translate to
52:03
college readiness uh college credit was the second category which is the percent
52:08
of students in the graduating who class who scored a three or better on any AP exam and again to avoid pressure on
52:15
students to take large numbers of APs only one AP exam score of three or higher per student contributes to this
52:22
uh to this indicator so this is not only um in my opinion a measure of the students performant but it's also a good
52:29
measure for us to look at the quality of our instruction across all of our AP programming and as I said our uh
52:36
teachers work this summer uh during summer curriculum to adjust their um
52:42
course curricula to onto those digital learning platforms um as well as making
52:48
the revisions that the uh college board had made in order to ensure that we continue to deliver high quality
52:54
instruction the last one uh category is college optimization can switch to the next one
53:01
uh which is the percent of students in the graduating class who took five or more AP exams in high school where at
53:06
least one exam was taken in ninth or 10th grade so this is kind of a two-fold one um what the College Board has um
53:15
shown is that um taking more than five courses six or seven courses actually
53:22
the research has shown does not increase student uh Readiness for college nor does it
53:27

improve college graduation rate so their matriculation so part of the revamping
53:32
of this was to um be able to communicate to high schools and high school programming uh AP programming about
53:40
where they're finding the value for the AP exams and so our silver designation
53:47
if uh if we were to go back to that you don't have to go back to that slide um we received our highest SC in College
53:54
culture which which was also the most highest weighted score head to the next one so this is
54:01
some data looking at our three-year trend for after uh High School uh or postsecondary outcomes um we look at
54:09
two-year colleges four-year colleges as well as apprenticeship programs um
54:15
students that go directly into careers um for certifications we look at the
54:20
military um as well as looking at um students who may be undecided
54:25
or unknown um and what we find is that um the overwhelming majority of our
54:31
students are going on to two-year and four-year colleges um and but we take note of the
54:39
the note that I have at the bottom which is that it's a deeply personal process for our students um one of the things
54:45
that we saw immediately um or during the pandemic is that many students um were
54:51
not choosing to go to away for a four-year college um because a lot
54:57
of times they were virtual um there was College cost and so our counselors work very closely with every student and
55:04
every family to make the best decisions about what their post-secondary plans um
55:09
should be and when we look at our College persistence this is always a really hard
55:16
slide uh to uh present because we have to steal it from the national student Clearing House at the PDF um but so I
55:23
always just like to say that what this represents is that uh about 95% of our
55:29
students um two years into their college careers are still persisting um to
55:35
matriculate through either a two-year or a four-year program so our students um
55:40
are college ready and they are persisting in their college um uh careers go ahead and I won't go through
55:48
these but just a quick list of some of our College acceptances the next one I will post
55:54
this entire presentation on our curriculum website so that you can see it so a few highlights uh for our Visual
56:01
and media arts you can see here that our students won several County um Awards um
56:09
we did showcases through More arts um and our national um art associations as
56:17
well as holiday and District art show the Burlington County Film Fest and the
56:22
Center for the Arts of Southern New Jersey these are some of the recognitions that
56:28
our students received again I won't read it to you but just to highlight some of
56:33
those keep going uh for Performing Arts you can see
56:39
some of our bands and our plays and Orchestra and vocal
56:46
concerts as well as our Musical and a few of our um recognitions for music
56:54
several of our students uh each year qualify for uh all uh Regional and all
57:00
state um in both uh Jazz Orchestra um
57:06
and um uh band Orchestra and our jazz band as well as chorus go to the next
57:13
one and both are fall play A Christmas Carol for last year and our spring
57:20
musical uh Cinderella received numerous Awards uh for their perform
57:26
performances in athletics we had sectional championships for boys swimming boys basketball boys Golf and

57:33 boys tennis and our unified basketball team were state champions I believe for
57:39 the second year at least the second
57:45 year so to end our presentation for tonight um I would like to just say
57:50 thank you thank you to our staff and our Administration who work tily to provide the highest quality education and school
57:57 experience for all of our students while this presentation uh gives a highlevel
58:02 overview of that work I have the pleasure to walk into as Mr bandorf said all of our schools on a regular basis to
58:09 witness the real magic that occurs uh in our classrooms and our schools we also thank the board of education for their
58:16 continued support of our teaching and learning initiatives as well as a thank you to the parents and our Community
58:21 Partners for partnering with our teachers um and principes to support and meet the needs of our children thank you
58:27 for your
58:34 patience thank you Don Dr Bon that was that was a great presentation and it condensed a tremendous amount of
58:41 information for us in a very digestible way so thank you I mean it highlights that there is so much to be proud of
58:48 here in warst toown and it's thanks to the efforts of of our entire Community
58:54 uh including you the supervisors Dr Tate every Miss Butler the principes the
59:01 teachers of course um the parents and families that support these students and
59:07 of course the students themselves that are are putting the work in uh to make
59:12 us proud so thank you to everybody that was involved in the last uh couple of
59:18 years since coming off the pandemic to to make sure that our our numbers are trending in the right direction it's
59:23 it's really great to see so thank you um I don't have any questions for Dr Benton
59:28 but wanted to open the floor if anybody else did okay well thank you you can take a
59:36 take a breath that that was a lot okay moving on to our board
59:44 committee reports we'll start with the ad hoc committee on Housing Development
59:51 uh which I run the committee met a few weeks ago to discuss uh this sort of our
59:59 continuing analysis of the new housing that is coming to mortown and its impact
1:00:06 on schools in in terms of additional students U so this month what we focused
1:00:13 on were sort of some of the potential Capital Improvements that can be made in
1:00:18 the district and Mr Heiser gave us a very thorough presentation on the work that's been done in the last few months
1:00:26 uh at the administrative level and working with building principes in terms of looking at our facilities where
1:00:33 there could be uh improvements made um both in terms of things
1:00:39 that we have to uh either replace or repair because they are at or approaching end of life as well as uh
1:00:47 things that that we would want to add if there is uh a referendum to expand our
1:00:53 spaces um and so a lot of work has been done at the administrative level in
1:00:59 evaluating and creating a list of items that uh that we would want to
1:01:05 potentially include in in a capital referendum um the analysis is obviously continuing
1:01:13 it's ongoing and the next step is to evaluate um sort of the programmatic
1:01:20 aspects uh of our of of our school district and things that um could be
1:01:27 included in a capital referendum to make sure that we are addressing the programmatic needs um of of our students
1:01:35

and so that process is under currently underway uh that the administrative team
1:01:42
and our building principals and staff and supervisors are all working on as well and so um once we have you know our
1:01:53
arms around sort of the the potential Capital Improvements that
1:01:59
could be made to buildings um as well as some of the potential programmatic
1:02:05
changes that we may uh that may be on the horizon uh I think at that point the
1:02:12
administration will will float various options through the various board
1:02:18
committees in terms of you know uh options for a capital referendum um so
1:02:24
everybody is aware of of the possibilities um I don't have a firm
1:02:30
timeline on that but that you know that will be discussed going through all of our committees going forward uh we also
1:02:38
briefly talked about um financing for for such a project uh and various State
1:02:46
assistance that we may be eligible for um as well as the way to potentially
1:02:53
structure uh bond repayments in a way that would minimize the tax burden on on Morristown
1:02:59
taxpayers but again this is this is all very preliminary and um we don't have
1:03:05
anything concrete to report on that front um so that is about it it was a
1:03:10
robust discussion on any any number of issues I'm happy to talk offline with with anybody up here so unless there's
1:03:17
any other questions we'll move on all right next is Communications uh
1:03:24
Jill was unable to join us tonight but I think someone else Brooke will give a report thank
1:03:30
you thanks Mark um the communications committee met on October 4th um myself
1:03:37
Mr villain NOA Melissa Burns Joe B Macaluso Mr bandorf and Dr Tate uh were
1:03:45
in um attendance um we spoke with Mr bandorf and Dr Tate about how uh the
1:03:52
administration is prioritizing our strategic goal which was to engage in more strategic Communications and
1:03:59
increased awareness about District initiatives and student uh achievements
1:04:04
um joining us was Karen me who's our part-time stipended uh PR and communication resource um and we met
1:04:12
with her and we were all in agreement with some of the recommendations we made
1:04:18
so uh one of the first recommendations was increase our social media presence so those of you that are on
1:04:25
uh District Facebook page or Instagram you should be seeing that uh moving along um improving the functionality of
1:04:32
the district website and um we really want to identify some opportunities to
1:04:37
celebrate student achievement so those are going to be our main strategic goals moving forward um right now with the
1:04:44
communications committee and with Karen um and uh Mr villain NOA and um with our
1:04:51
committee we are kind of reviewing the district website and looking uh to make uh recommendations to kind of up upgrade
1:04:58
and and update that um and our next committee meeting is going to be on November 15 and that's all I have to
1:05:05
report thank you any questions all right moving on to
1:05:11
curriculum Lauren sure um we met October 5th um in attendance was uh Karen Joe uh
1:05:19
Jackie Brunell Mick Brooke Cheryl and myself um inspiration um
1:05:25
informational um information I'm sorry no action to be taken was uh the field
1:05:33
trip information um information was provided regarding the high school students attending the Anti-Defamation
1:05:38
leagues 17th annual uh youth leadership conference in Philadelphia um also um we discussed um
1:05:48
for Action uh qac instruction and program update which included um all

1:05:53
grade for through it technology and Performing Arts curriculum um are completed as far as uh writing of that
1:05:59
curriculum and the media arts crosswalk for K through2 uh Visual and media arts
1:06:05
courses needed to be updated to be in compliance with qac so uh that's underway too to meet those requirements
1:06:12
um we had an informational discussion on uh considering new pilot um High School
1:06:19
novels um to be presented um late later half of this school year um
1:06:24
uh Karen went over the rationale for new um English novel selections um the need
1:06:31
for uh meeting the needs of all Learners and a more diverse um novel selection so
1:06:38
um the books uh plan to be piloted in the spring at the high school there's still a little um discussion and review
1:06:45
of what grade levels and and what book titles um will be presented so that'll come out um at a later date after the
1:06:52
committee reviews more recommendations next month there was also um discussion about
1:06:59
the reconsideration of instructional resources and Library materials again that was informational um based on
1:07:06
policy 9130 um the policy the board adopted but there was a need based on that policy to
1:07:13
develop a district procedure um and so that's what uh Karen and her team have
1:07:18
been working to do um is really kind of finalize what that procedure looks like um so reviewed the revised District
1:07:25
procedure based on prior committee feedback um and also took a look at the classroom instructional material form
1:07:32
and libr media material forms that would be presented um for parents or the community to
1:07:38
use um then we also had a discussion on the safety and inclusion of diverse
1:07:43
student subgroups within the district um we were taking a look at how we have um
1:07:50
an international curriculum uh intentional choices and special programming to address the needs of
1:07:55
certain cohorts highlighted um in our discussion along with Multicultural exposure events and the intention to
1:08:01
enhance student leadership um you know within our school district um we looked at the different uh groups needs as far
1:08:09
as special education black Latina Asian mixed social and economically disadvantaged students um students
1:08:16
identifying within the lgbtq community so taking a look at how our district was supporting their specific needs um and
1:08:23
then we also had a um very brief overview of
1:08:28
the um information that uh Karen presented in the very thorough um uh
1:08:35
presentation earlier when we took a look at the test scores and um Karen went over more specifically some of the um
1:08:43
strategies that we are using to support the Learners um within the district and
1:08:49
then lastly an overview of instructional support and interventions for the math and Ela which was also presented
1:08:57
there thank you Lauren any questions okay finance and operations Mick sure thank you so we met October 3
1:09:08
in addition to my attendance we had Mrs mopis Danielle Miller and CLA Morano Joe
1:09:16
bandorf Jim uh James Heiser and Jeff Harry were also there our action items
1:09:21
we started off with reviewing the multitude of rfps that we currently have
1:09:26
out on the street our business ad our business administrator Mr Heiser went through all of the applications that
1:09:33
we've received talked about which ones were complete which ones were incomplete
1:09:38
and then uh gave some gave an overview of what was included in each we then
1:09:44
talked about um each category those categories included our cyber security audit the Professional Services the
1:09:50
district engages including Bond Council AR architect auditor solicitor and then
1:09:56

also our health broker of record the committee along with Mr
1:10:01
Heiser uh decided that he would go through and give us rankings of all of
1:10:07
the submissions and bring recommendations of the top two or three in each of the category back to the committee each other committee
outside
1:10:15
of finance and operations will also get an opportunity to hear about those top two recommendations so that the whole
1:10:20
board is informed for when we uh move forward with those so that was the primary action
1:10:28
that was the only action item discussion items um we went through several thankfully pretty quickly uh talked
1:10:34
about the rod Grant approval that the audit for 2223 is beginning and then
1:10:39
also uh New Jersey husack at the time we understood that the deadline was being moved up so we were talking about moving
1:10:45
the board meeting now the deadline has changed and uh we have more time so November board meeting is back to where
1:10:51
it was but we're moving to December December's moving moving December's up
1:10:57
so um anyway just squaring the uh the circle there in terms of all the
1:11:03
movement so uh let's see where did I leave off uh that was New Jersey qac uh
1:11:10
we talked about facility rentals and the committee confirmed the requested hours were provided we had to table the
1:11:16
discussion of zeroi uh information and pricing a security solution for a future meeting we ran out of time to get to
1:11:23
that and we spent the bulk of our remaining time uh talking about the potential referendum coming up looked at
1:11:30
a timeline uh got a better understanding for the committee of of how that would roll out we moved forward with that and
1:11:37
then reviewed the goals of the referendum and talked about specific items there that were all listed in the
1:11:44
agenda for that and talked extensively about the
1:11:49
current debt that the district has and how that debt is structured and uh looking at that strategically as we move
1:11:55
forward considering a referendum so once the main items are
1:12:01
all determined from that we determined that there would probably be or likely be presentations to the other committees
1:12:08
to hear similar information so that we're all on the same page as we consider moving forward then there was
1:12:14
one walk-on item where Joe uh Mr bandorf
1:12:19
discussed uh changing around the the case load how case loads are handled for students at Baker due to a medical leave
1:12:26
and that should be on our October agenda for approval so that was the summary of our
1:12:35
meeting great thank you Mick next is
1:12:40
policy yep so actually the policy committee met twice since our last uh board meeting so we had September 21st
1:12:46
and October 12 um The Usual Suspects are there I won't name them all um so you'll
1:12:52
see on tonight's agenda uh for first reading we have four policies and one regulation that are up for um
1:13:00
consideration the only new policy is technically the Boe website accessibility policy which essentially
1:13:07
all the school districts are required to bring their website up to Ada Beyond Ada
1:13:12
standards essentially um so um Jeff Ary has been very very diligent in tearing
1:13:19
through this um draft policy and the statute requirements and making sure that we're um able to accomplish the
1:13:26
goals of that that policy so that's why it's on first reading today um the other policies are um very procedural changes
1:13:34
and um uh procedural modifications to existing policies that are mandate
1:13:39
mandated by the state um we have a policy on here that is um to abolish a
1:13:45
policy so that's policy 54 60.02 it was a bridge year pilot program
1:13:51

that was a result of covid um it only impacted U the graduating classes of 21
1:13:57
and 22 so the the three-year pilot is no longer necessary so it's uh procedural
1:14:02
to abolish it those are the action items um for discussion on both days we had um
1:14:09
Mr Cel from the high school come and make a presentation about some potential revisions to the substance abuse policy
1:14:15
which is policy number 5530 um uh he presented potential
1:14:21
changes and is it's still working progress for our committee to consider before it comes to the board and then
1:14:28
we've had our ongoing discussion of The Suite of policies that um guide our
1:14:33
community organizations our booster clubs uh and our parent organizations and that continues to be um something
1:14:40
that's on our discussion items of every committee so far hopefully we'll have something to
1:14:45
present in the coming months that's it thanks any questions for
1:14:51
Claudine all right uh next any off board committee reports just quickly speak will be um
1:15:00
meeting on October 26 and this time it'll be 9:30 and uh it'll be in the
1:15:07
Star Center um if you're unable to make it to the meetings it's still a great resource a great resource of people um
1:15:15
in that uh organization and uh if you go on their Facebook page you will
1:15:22
get so many um links and comments from parents it's very helpful so if you
1:15:27
can't make the meetings I encourage you to uh check out their Facebook page great thanks
1:15:34
Melissa anything else all right uh just wanted to give a quick shout out to home in school um
1:15:42
Nicole Dany the home school president is here in the audience but the um the
1:15:48
Wizards game last Friday was was just awesome it was great it was a really
1:15:54
like great Community family fun vibe uh the kids loved it hopefully it was a
1:15:59
great fundraiser for you so thank you I know a lot went into that so thanks uh to everybody at home in school and the
1:16:06
staff that was involved as well everybody came together and put that on an awesome event so thank you um next is
1:16:15
our first public comment section this is the section for your opportunity to
1:16:22
provide public comment on things that are listed in our agenda the rules are
1:16:28
set forth in the agenda um please keep your comment to three minutes make sure
1:16:34
it relates to something on the agenda and uh this isn't necessarily a question
1:16:39
and answer session but we'll receive your comment with respect to items that we're voting on tonight so may I please
1:16:44
get a uh motion to open public comment second all in favor I all right if you
1:16:52
want want to make a comment please take the microphone and state your name and
1:17:03
address hello I am cely Coleman I'm at 215 at East Main Street um I have a
1:17:11
comment about the ad hoc committee for um Housing Development referendum um I
1:17:17
want to first thank everyone who's involved in that because I know it's a big undertaking um a lot of moving parts
1:17:23
a lot of wh ifs um so really thank you um for putting time and energy into that
1:17:30
um and I just was hoping that we moving
1:17:36
forward we can have more specific information coming to the community um there's a lot of generalities that are
1:17:43
being discussed um and I actually found Haden
1:17:49
Fields um school district has created a separate website discussing their
1:17:54
referendum um it's looks awesome it has a lot of information timelines what's

1:18:00
been done what's still to do um ways to communicate if you have any questions um
1:18:06
so I just ask that everyone involved might look at that or look what other people are doing um so that there's one
1:18:13
place that people can go to to get the information instead of just like it being thrown at you know from different
1:18:19
people different places
1:18:25
anyone else all right seeing none may I get a
1:18:31
motion to close public comment all in
1:18:36
favor thank you and I uh I'll address that comment briefly so I agree with you
1:18:43
um in the in for me um in My Hope and interest in being
1:18:49
transparent um perhaps to a flaw I think we've I've been trying to get
1:18:55
information about where we are in evaluating it but we're not in a position to to
1:19:00
say exactly the direction we're going um but I do think it's important that people know that we are studying it very
1:19:07
closely um and we when we have a concrete direction to go I promise you
1:19:15
uh the information will be there it will be accessible um but quite frankly we
1:19:22
haven't yet yet developed exactly what that plan is going to be so we're just not at a spot where we could do it and
1:19:28
and I take the blame it's probably my fault for for giving sort of bits of
1:19:34
information um without it being fully baked and so um I apologize but that's
1:19:43
just that's just where we are in the process but I I can assure you that at the appropriate time uh there will be
1:19:50
you know plenty of information about the direction that we're going to ask the community to go with
1:19:58
us okay so now we are on to reports to
1:20:04
the board uh article eight of our agenda may please get a motion for approval of items one through three in article
1:20:14
8 uh any comments or questions all in
1:20:20
favor no or extensions next article nine may I please get a
1:20:26
motion for the approval of items
1:20:31
one uh I'm sorry A1 okay there's let's just do
1:20:39
should we split it I would okay may I get an approval
1:20:44
for the policies and procedures listed in article A1 and two
1:20:50
please second any comments or questions all in favor
1:20:56
any knows or extensions next letter B may I please get a motion for approvals
1:21:02
of items B1 in article nine
1:21:07
please second any comments or questions all in favor any knows or extensions
1:21:14
thank you stay in the
1:21:20
agenda which is finance and business may I please get a motion for
1:21:27
the approval of items 1 through
1:21:33
13 any comments or
1:21:39
questions uh all in favor any NOS or
1:21:44
extensions thank you I miss something on the uh just just
1:21:51
the on the educational program you had
1:21:57

originally stated that it was number one but I believe it was the motion was for
1:22:02
one through three everybody oh
1:22:07
okay let the record so reflect
1:22:17
um correct me if I'm wrong but we are now up to employee relations
1:22:23
thank you okay may I please get a motion for the approval of items 1 through 14
1:22:29
as amended uh per our discussion in executive session
1:22:36
please any comments or questions all in
1:22:42
favor roll call roll call Mrs AR Burns yes Mrs FS maaloa Dr M Mrs Miller yes
1:22:53
Mrs Morano M Romano Mr weeks yes Mrs mopis yes Mr V NOA yes thank
1:23:04
you uh next in the agenda is our
1:23:09
suspensions article 11 wait do do we need approval for suspensions no okay all right article 11
1:23:18
is informational only does anybody have anything for old business
1:23:24
okay we do have one item for new business and that is the settlement
1:23:30
agreement that our Council Mr Tuscano discussed with us in executive session
1:23:35
and because it's not written here good okay because it's not written
1:23:42
here uh I'll I'll read the full resolution so can I please get a motion
1:23:48
to approve the following resolution that it is hereby resolved by the mor down Township Board Board of Education to adopt and approve the
settlement
1:23:54
agreement between student 00253 and the moristown Township Board
1:24:00
of Education distributed during executive session any comments or questions all in
1:24:08
favor I no or extensions okay thank
1:24:16
you next is our second public comment section this is uh public comment on
1:24:22
anything on or off the agenda same rules apply with the exception that your comment doesn't have to relate to items
1:24:28
on the agenda can I please get a motion to open public comment second all in favor all right
1:24:36
you're H if you have a comment please approach the microphone state your name and
1:24:43
address and state your comment for three minutes
1:24:48
please up to three minutes
1:24:57
good evening everyone I'm Nicole Dany president of moristown hman school 16 East Clos our most recent news events
1:25:05
we've had successful Scholastic Book Fairs at all three lower elementary schools an article in the Morristown Sun
1:25:12
about home in school in the Harlem Wizards event the Harland wizard event was a soldout event thanks to the home
1:25:19
and school trustee board members wizard committee the many volunteers as well as
1:25:25
the families that attended all helped to make it a successful event autumn day
1:25:30
our booth was run by trustey board members they provided the community with information about past present and
1:25:37
future events how to join home in school sold apparel and sold home in school
1:25:44
calendars upcoming events Scholastic Book Fair at U on Thursday October 16th
1:25:50
evening hours 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. UE parent Internet safety session in
1:25:56
partnership with the district apparel sale is now going on one week left for
1:26:01
Miss Chocolate fundraiser meet the Boe candidates Forum on Monday October 23rd 7 to 8:30 p.m. in
1:26:10

the Williams Auditorium Halloween parties in partnership with the elementary schools we still have
1:26:16
calendars for sale at moristown Hardware or by contacting us at our information
1:26:21
email it's never too late to join home in school thank you for your continued support thank you hope you feel
1:26:41
better good evening my name is Susan Moore and I teach special education at
1:26:46
the high school I'm here to commend the baker staff for the following First the
1:26:52
Baker Bears thoroughly enjoyed the magic reading book fair a big thank you to all the wonderful home and school volunteers
1:26:59
who worked tiously to decorate the library plain evening shopping hours and
1:27:05
staff the fair Baker reading muscles are growing because of their hard work Baker
1:27:11
school's music teacher Kristen derine received a grant from Mo's Arts
1:27:17
to help expand her xylophone and metallophone collection more students
1:27:22
will now be given the chance to learn to improvise create their own Melodies and accompany songs and chants she would
1:27:30
like to thank the Moors arts for accepting her Grant application and lastly the baker staff Mourns the
1:27:37
passing of a beloved former colleague Colleen Han the baker staff sends their
1:27:43
deepest consols to their beautiful family that she left behind Colleen
1:27:48
fought very hard on cancer for the past five years with bravery and a boundless
1:27:53
Grace she will be missed by all who knew and loved her thank
1:28:08
you hi I'm Jessica Martin I'm an occupational therapist at the ues and I
1:28:14
would like to thank the US staff for organizing and facilitating their week of respect the guidance counselors or
1:28:22
organized the week and the staff helped to facilitate with the students each day
1:28:27
had a different theme one day was superhero day and all the students
1:28:33
designed their own capes the students enjoyed being superheroes for the day
1:28:39
well every day they are too but the capes were then sent to chop for the kids there with messages of Hope and
1:28:46
kindness on them it was very touching thank you
1:28:58
hi I'm Claire McBride I work at Roberts Elementary School and we recently also
1:29:04
hosted the book fair and we had a football theme and H school did a fabulous job tackling the books and
1:29:11
everybody had a great time we cheered uh for the Philadelphia Eagles and our home
1:29:16
and school volunteers created awesome fun games and crafts for the students m
1:29:22
a lot of parents came out for our family night and um I think the families really enjoyed everything that home school
1:29:28
provided that evening so thank
1:29:37
you hi um sorry I'm Ken Lynch and I
1:29:43
teach at whams uh I'd like to commend the Wham staff for our week of respect
1:29:48
from October 2nd to October 6th we recognize the week of respect aligning with our commitment to fostering a
1:29:54
respectful and inclusive School environment each day was marked by a different theme underscoring the importance of respect on Monday
we
1:30:01
kicked off the week by wearing blue a symbol of our Collective commitment to preventing bowling Tuesday we wore
1:30:07
sports gear to team up against bullying Wednesday we wore sweats because being respectful is no sweat Thursday we wore
1:30:15
crazy hats to tip your hat off for respect and Friday was blackout bullying
1:30:20
where we wore our whams gear additionally our staff recognized students who demonstrated respect with
1:30:25

respect tickets redeemable for prizes and finally students were presented with daily challenges for example students
1:30:32
were prompted to reflect on the essential value of teamwork and express their appreciation for the dedicated
1:30:37
team players in their lives thank you to both our guidance department for organizing our week of respect and to
1:30:43
all the students who demonstrated their commitment to fostering respect in our school Community thank
1:30:50
you
1:30:56
hello I'm Kim Warren and I teach at the high school and I would like to thank the high school staff that made the
1:31:01
administration of the PSATs a success in the face of multiple issues presented
1:31:07
that day mostly by the college board and their technology issues staff monitored
1:31:12
the nth 10th and 11th grade so that they had the experience with the SAT test and the process it was the first year that
1:31:19
it was in a digital format and all staff were helpful and patient a big thank you to the IT staff that worked in the high
1:31:26
school preparing for the test and then addressing the needs of the staff and the students we would also like to
1:31:32
recognize the Madrigal led by Miss Johnson who performed the national anthem at the Temple University football
1:31:38
game and at the Wizards game on Friday night thank
1:31:48
you hello my name's Liz mice I'm a speech language pathologist at South Valley and I want to share an exciting
1:31:56
uh project that our South Valley second graders did so second grade at South Valley had students create super
1:32:02
citizens Awards I have one to show um as a culminating activity for
1:32:08
their integrated social studies and reading unit on citizenship awards were created and delivered to teachers
1:32:15
classmates bus drivers crossing guards and the school resource resource officer
1:32:20
second graders proud to spread kindness while being good citizens thank
1:32:30
you hi my name is Rashida Khalifa 99 East Second Street this is just about
1:32:36
what we discuss and what was on the agenda the first thing that uh S I have
1:32:43
suggestions so the first suggestion for the communication Department in regards to diversity and inclusion um you did
1:32:50
mention that you were working on doing different events for uh Black History Month and making sure that the kids that
1:32:57
are the minority in this community have a a place to go and extra support um I
1:33:04
was uh my suggestion is that we could probably have more uh assemblies preco
1:33:12
we used to have assemblies at the uh lower elementary schools and we haven't
1:33:18
been doing them as much um since coid so I think that that's something that we
1:33:23
can consider in regards to Black History Month Hispanic Heritage Month and uh the
1:33:29
Asian-American population um the next thing that I was concerned about was the
1:33:34
bullying which I was listening to it on my way here um and I saw that the ues
1:33:40
had 30 the 35 incidents 25 of which uh kids were expelled so I am concerned
1:33:48
about that and I want to make sure that car solid is uh support and that it's
1:33:53
pushed I haven't really seen much of kosis information in regards to mental health support in regard between the
1:34:00
transition from South Valley to the upper elementary schools so I'm I'm really concerned about that I want to
1:34:06
thank I think it's Dr Bennett Bennett for the statistics that she provided for
1:34:12
the township overall in regards to pre-co and postco and the strides that
1:34:17
we made to make sure that the kids are on level and I just want to make sure as
1:34:23
well that the you minority population in morrist toown have access to the

1:34:29
guidance counselors and are uh well informed prior to going to the high school about their academic curriculum
1:34:37
and that's pretty much it for today
1:34:44
thanks I thank you for your comments I just want to uh just clarify one thing
1:34:49
um I know you were listening on the radio no students were expelled uh expulsion is something that really
1:34:55
doesn't occur expulsion means denial of educational services and that's not really something that we can or do do so
1:35:02
I'm not exactly sure what it is you heard or what the number you quoted but I'm happy to discuss it with you or put you in trust with Mrs
caravana so you
1:35:08
could actually see the numbers and what they actually really mean but I just want to make sure thank
1:35:20
you
1:35:25
Lisa trani um high school I just want to reiterate uh my concerns about
1:35:32
the referendum or the planning of it and just reiterate that as I've said before
1:35:38
we're willing to serve all in any committee to do any research to be a part of you know any plan that moves
1:35:46
forward and also we didn't really talk about the student student impact which
1:35:52
for those of us myself included live through the building of mortown hunt
1:35:58
when we really were not prepared in this District to accept those students so for
1:36:03
those of you who don't remember the sixth grade at whams was placed at the
1:36:08
high school for an entire year in a wing that we had which you know trickled over
1:36:15
into a lot of other issues so I just want to make sure any part of that planning includes actual
1:36:23
demographic studies that are accurate because one that was done way back when
1:36:30
we were planning the ues was not because the ues was filled immediately there was
1:36:35
no you know there's no there all those classes are filled so I think along with
1:36:40
all the research that's going on and I'm sure you're doing it on planning that we include the impact to the classroom and
1:36:50
the Staffing and the students and all the services that are going to you know
1:36:56
be affected by this not just you know what else the referenda money and all
1:37:02
that and I do think that if this does come to fruition I think having a
1:37:08
website is a good idea for communication purposes but again we're willing to serve on the committee I think the
1:37:14
impact instructionally I know what happened before when we had high school
1:37:20
teachers on call Arts going room to room the middle school was in the same situation obviously they couldn't even
1:37:26
fit three grades in this building that's how bad it got that's when we banned backpacks for the record it wasn't any
1:37:34
other reason it was because there was no room anywhere to have them so I think
1:37:40
that's a big factor in this whole process so thank you thank you any other
1:37:49
comments sorry um see C Coleman uh 215 East Main Street I know it's on um
1:37:56
hopefully on most people's minds but I just would be upset if I didn't say something about the superintendent search um we do need um to
have a
1:38:05
superintendent of schools um and I think months are passing quickly um just an
1:38:12
update of whether like a search for firm has been identified we're moving forward with any of those things um just for p
1:38:21
of mine for parents and community members thanks any other
1:38:29
comments motion to close public comment all in
1:38:35

favor uh anything for the good of the order okay I have something I know it's Philly's game so I'm gonna be as quick
1:38:41
as I can but I would be remiss if I did not say what I wanted to say since it's applicable to this month so October is
1:38:49
National bullying prevention month it's a very important topic to me I think it is important to many of us I
1:38:55
hope it's important to all of us Studies have repeatedly shown that bullying is detrimental to everyone involved even
1:39:03
those who simply witness it and the negative impacts often follow those involved into adulthood there was a
1:39:10
really informative article in the sun last week that cited statistics um
1:39:15
specifically related to a 2019 report by the national bullying prevention center
1:39:21
and one of the statistics was that one in five students reported being bullied and I believe that that number is
1:39:28
actually higher um we all know cyber bullying has been on the rise for some
1:39:34
time and it's especially difficult to manage with so many opportunities for our children to be plugged into one
1:39:40
electronic device or another related to that um Nicole mentioned the uh parent
1:39:46
Internet safety event sponsored by home and school in the ues cafeteria at 6:30
1:39:51
um that's a great place I think for us as parents to start to try to manage this the really the thing that got me
1:39:58
about the article in the sun is that it posed the question of what schools and parents can do to help prevent bullying
1:40:05
and according to the American Psychological Association reporting acts of bullying is Paramount to combating it
1:40:13
it seems obvious right but it really doesn't happen nearly as often as it should teachers and staff in our schools
1:40:20
place such an important role in this in that they're often the first line of defense for our students who are being
1:40:26
bullied and their Intervention when they witness such acts can be a genuine
1:40:32
life-changing event for those students that are involved there are useful laws in place specifically
1:40:39
Hib useful and I mean they are useful but they're complicated and difficult to
1:40:45
manage they try to help the schools navigate this world of bullying but I do
1:40:50
worry as a parent and as a board member that any school district ours included can
1:40:57
become so focused on the hibs that's possible to forget the obligation and
1:41:02
the need to thoughtfully consider the impact of the bullying that's going on that does not amount to a HB in the
1:41:10
spirit of national bullying prevention month I do want to thank our administrators teacher staff students
1:41:16
who strive really to create an inclusive and welcoming environment in our schools m 1 and I would like to encourage our
1:41:22
district our entire Community to do everything we can to prevent bullying to
1:41:28
report it to intervene when we see it and to appropriately handle the aftermath when it does occur bullying
1:41:36
has lifelong ramifications and if we collectively work together to combat it I think the
1:41:43
generations that come after us we'll be better off for it
1:41:48
thanks thank you anyone else for the good of the order okay I know everybody wants to jump but
1:41:55
I did want to respond to the last two comments um in Reverse chronological
1:42:01
order so uh Miss uh Coleman um thank you for prompting me on
1:42:08
the super status of the superintendent search um the board before this meeting had a two-hour meeting uh largely
1:42:15
dedicated to discussing that and uh I think we did come to a consensus on a
1:42:21
path forward in terms of utilizing um a company to help us with
1:42:28
the search um we haven't yet signed an agreement with that company yet so I'm I'm a little hesitant to disclose it but
1:42:36
um it's not the search firm that we used previously um and so I I would like

1:42:45
to give a concrete timeline but I think we need to talk to this uh this company that's going to help us first before I
1:42:50
can actually lay that out my goal and I think the board's goal is to get us set
1:42:56
up where uh we're receiving applications in the near term and positioned in
1:43:02
January uh and at the latest early February to start interviewing I think that timeline makes sense because the
1:43:10
the board for the 2024 uh uh calendar year will be in
1:43:17
place and we know that there's going to be at least one new member so that's roughly the timeline um again
1:43:24
unfortunately Joe his contract is is up by at the end of this academic year so
1:43:31
we are keenly aware of that and moving forward with it so thank you and then Mr Pon thank you for uh offering uh to to
1:43:39
assist and we we will certainly take you up on that um I can say you know this
1:43:45
has been a very very deliberate and very thoughtful analysis primarily by by uh
1:43:51
Administration and getting us the information that that we need and and giving us options um as we move forward
1:43:59
but uh I hear you and um the things and your the wealth of knowledge that you
1:44:05
bring concerning things that happened in the past particularly when the district moved in the direction of setting up ues
1:44:12
so thank you very much anything else with that can I get a motion to adjourn
1:44:19
oh go Phillies all in favor