

Transcript for the 12.12.23 BOE Meeting

4:40

all right just turned seven o'clock so let's get going um we'll open the regular public meeting

4:48

for the Moorestown Township Board of Education this meeting was properly noticed as set forth in the agenda uh it

4:55

was originally noticed to take place next week uh but we had some items

5:01

particularly the qac review that we needed to approve before December 15 and

5:06

so that's why we moved the meeting a week earlier so thanks everybody for

5:13

your flexibility uh also thank you for flexibility in terms of change of venue

5:18

uh we are typically in the middle school but uh there's a musical there tonight

5:23

and so we have come to the high school for tonight's meeting so thank you everybody for your flexibility

5:30

uh may I please get a moment of

5:38

silence please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance the flag is in the

5:45

rear actually it's right here I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic

5:52

for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for

5:58

all could you take roll call please James

6:05

Mrs arera Burns president Mrs FS Macaluso Dr mayatt here Mrs Miller here

6:12

Mrs Morano here miss Romano here Mr weeks present Mrs mopis here Mr V NOA

6:19

here thank you and may I please get a motion for the approval of the November

6:24

21st 2023 minutes for the executive session as well as the regular public

6:29

Board of Education meeting at that date any comments or questions all in

6:36

favor hi thank you uh and we're gonna switch it up a

6:42

little bit and we're g to start with our student board representative so thank

6:54

you two weeks ago on November 29th the high school sent 12 students two staff
7:00

members and vice principal kunard uh to the Anti-Defamation League student
leadership conference at the Philly

7:06

Convention Center our delegation represented a diverse group of students consisting of
six Juniors including

7:13

myself and six sophomores and also Sophia um uh when we got there we listened to a
holocaust Survivor tell

7:20

her story to all of us I thought it was important to listen to her story because it warned us
of the devastating effects

7:25

of hate gone rampant from the start the convention sent us a clear message to spread
to our fellow students and I

7:31

thought that speaker did a really good job of establishing that next we all got into
breakout groups with people that we

7:37

did not know in these breakout groups we discussed the effect that bullying had on
people's lives we began to think

7:43

about what seemingly harmless words could do to a person after that we moved to
discuss our findings with people from

7:49

our school we talked about ways that we could help stop buling discourage bystanding
and convince more people to

7:55

stand up for their fellow students we focused on the fact that our school is so divided
into their own separate

8:01

groups uh we noticed that most of our school spirit events the events that are supposed
to unify really just involve

8:08

competitions that divide um we thought that we could Foster a sense of

8:14

community and create up standards by having more events to unify the school this
would allow people to meet new

8:20

students outside of their circles um unify the different groups in

8:26

school and by having a sense of community get more people stand up to bullying even
when it's someone that

8:31

they just don't know overall I think it was a really valuable experience for me and everyone else on the trip and I

8:38

think we learned lessons that we just can't wait to share with our school

8:45

Community great thank you hi I'm Sophia baram and I am the

8:52

sophomore class liaison but I'll also be speaking for the freshman and senior class liaison so em MHS we have a really

9:00

good arts program and this winter we're having all our winter concerts last week was the chorus concert featuring concert

9:08

choir and just regular Ensemble and then next week we have our combined Orchestra and band Winter concert featuring

9:15

orchestra band and then jazz band and then one thing that our school has

9:20

coming up after break is our love fair this fair is during 14th period after school and was a huge success last year

9:28

which was also our first you're doing it the Love Fair is a community service fair in the cafeteria that connects

9:34

students to local nonprofits where they can do community service for clubs can also in the school

9:42

also come to the fair to share ways to get involved it also helps people get excited for the upcoming Martin Luther

9:48

King Day assembly and this year's Love Fair is scheduled to be January 17th after break and planning for it has

9:54

started this week and then in terms of the mlks assembly our Martin Luther King

10:00

Day assembly is to celebrate and honor Dr King as a great leader in the Civil Rights Movement leading up to the

10:07

assembly the video production Club works with student council to make a video for the assembly about Dr King's life which

10:14

also is helped by a research committee that spends a bunch of time right here in the library researching things for

10:20

his life to put in the video there's also PR committee which helps publicize the the assembly in love fair to get

10:26

students excited about it and for the assembly themselves the choir usually sings songs that are magical and last year we

10:34

also had representatives from unity in their Community to speak thank

10:44

you great thank you both for joining us tonight you're certainly welcome to stay if you'd like but please don't feel

10:49

obligated and you can take off whenever you'd like and uh with that I will pass

10:54

it off to Mr. Bando for the superintendent report

11:19

all right so the one night I have to get up and speak gotta be trapped behind here so it's all good but I'm out um I

11:26

have a couple of things that I want to review tonight I'll start with the heavy thing first and then uh something very special second um I

11:33

wanted to review for the purpose of the community uh our events of Last Friday I know I sent a letter to the community

11:39

and I know the letters don't answer all the questions and quite frankly some of the questions that needed to be answered weren't answered

11:45

yet when that letter went out the most important message that we wanted to send it was everything was okay and I can't

11:51

tell you what a relief those things are know you're sitting in your office and you're hearing the worst case scenario

11:59

um you immediately leap into action um and essentially what we're dealing with is we found out that our alarm

12:07

company had been testing our alarms at about 12 o'clock every single day and

12:13

the alarms are not on Wi-Fi they're running on copper old copper telephone wire and there was a cross in the signal

12:20

and it produced an error message that then produced a text message that went

12:25

out to a lot of people in the community including our police force and many members of our administrative team that

12:32

there was an active shooter at an address which was 210 South Valley I

12:39

mean not South Valley 210 South Stanwick I apologize um now for somebody like me who is not that familiar with the

12:45

dresses in town I didn't know off the top of my head where 210 um Stanwick was

12:51

and it occurred to me that this is not a good thing that we should have an address and we should have the name of a

12:56

school it's the reason why the high school went into a lock down because upon seeing Stanwick on the messages

13:01

that they got we have two buildings connected to them on this campus that have Stanwick addresses so they not

13:08

knowing did the right thing and went into a lockdown but other buildings didn't get the message at all so we

13:15

learned a lot that day about things that need to be corrected um that are being

13:21

corrected we're working very actively we had it diagnosed that day by that company and uh we are as in any it's

13:29

been my experience that whenever an emergency of any sort occurs whether it's a you know a threat a bomb scare a

13:35

fire whatever it may be something always comes out of those events that helps us do better what I would what I did try to

13:43

convey in that letter and I did not want that to be mistaken in any way shape or form that we were making um happiness

13:51

out of that event to say that um the actions of people were absolutely

13:57

appropriate and on point what the staff did down at South Valley with their kids

14:02

and how they handled that scenario was amazing the most important thing I know the kids really didn't know as most

14:09

people didn't know what the alert was about so they were just following the fact that we drill and we do all these

14:15

things they were doing exactly what they've been trained to do and they did it exceptionally well the other great

14:20

piece that came out of that is the police response was enormous and quick and they were ready to go and do their

14:27

jobs that was an amazing thing to see and as somebody who thinks about these things all the time as the worst case

14:33

scenario um it was comforting to know that our people of action are going to

14:39

be there when we need them they were very complimentary as well as to how it was handled by the staff and the things

14:45

that were done that day um but please rest assured in this community we are taking it very seriously we are looking

14:51

at it I consider myself very much a security-minded superintendent uh we've already done

14:58

much in that area and continue to do more and uh you know we will uh correct

15:04

those mistakes that occurred on that day we will move forward and we will be better for it so I wanted to assure

15:10

people and naturally if you have questions when the open public comment comes and you want to ask anything more that I didn't cover please do so I'm

15:16

obviously doing this off the top of my head but I appreciate the support I got some really nice emails from our parents

15:22

in the community which I appreciate it uh but know that we're working every day to continue to make things safe for our

15:27

kids and for our staff and for our community so with that I want to follow that up with something very positive

15:34

Lauren can you join

15:41

me now before I spoke speak specifically about you I want to say a few things so tonight is uh Lauren

15:49

Romano's last board meeting she's been serving the board for six years I think that's pretty amazing considering the

15:55

fact that she ran for re-election at a period in time of all of our lives that may have been the most challenging

16:01

difficult time particularly in education some might have considered the fact that she finished her term just as the um

16:09

pandemic was getting underway uh would have been every reason in the world to say I'm out I'm not doing this no she

16:15

put her hat back in the ring and said she wanted to stay and I I make that analogy it's like you know being the

16:21

captain of the boat and you're out on Rocky seas and you're trying to pull the boat in the port and you're almost there

16:26

but you're not quite there yet you don't for the dingy to come to take you off the boat because you're retiring you stay on the boat and you bring it in and

16:33

that's what Lauren did I have immense respect not just for Lauren but for all board members uh a lot of people don't

16:41

understand the immense time and effort that it goes into being a board member our country is founded on people willing

16:50

to step up and act as representatives in their community in their states in their

16:56

County and in their country to represent the people in those communities of all

17:01

of those there's only one that doesn't pay a dime and that's the Board of Education the amount of money that these

17:08

people amount of money the amount of time that these people spend engaging

17:13

themselves and doing right by their Community doing right by their kids doing the very best that they can to

17:18

ensure that our school system is the very best that it can be is is lost because most people who watch from afar

17:26

see a board meeting once a month and sing and think that's the end of it the amount of committee meetings the time

17:32

spent the emails the telephone conversations budget season when it's ongoing all the time two meetings were

17:39

set up next week for 7:30 in the morning over something that we're dealing with is enormous so the sacrifice and the

17:46

commitment that these people have shown for their Community is the embodiment of what our country has been founded upon

17:52

at a very basic level school boards are the microcosm of what makes the engine

17:58

of America run and Lauren you have done an exceptional job the fact that you are a fellow educator brings a unique

18:05

perspective to what it is that we do here you've always been the calm voice of reason you've always asked the right

18:11

questions and as a fellow educator you're going to be missed and I wish you nothing but success moving forward and

18:17

with that I say congratulations thank you and good luck and the mic is yours if You' like to say a few

18:26

words I've really appreciate that and most of you who know that I've served on

18:31

the board know that I don't necessarily love grabbing the mic but I do just want to say um this has you know been such an

18:39

honor to serve um on the board it it really has been amazing to me to be part

18:44

of the mtps community and really knowing that everyone that associated with the

18:51

mtps community is really always working um with the students best interest in

18:56

mind and really working with that as our goal is to make this the best school district for our students so it's been a

19:03

privilege thank

19:09

you all right Mark back to you well that's tough Joe it's I can't

19:15

follow up Joe's remarks um because they're so they were so beautifully made but thank you maren it's I six years is

19:22

a is a long time to serve on the board and uh you've always offered uh help F

19:28

and unique perspective on things and as Joe had mentioned there was certainly some rocky points uh around the pandemic

19:35

that uh you you were there with us up uh on those Zoom calls uh that went long

19:42

into the night um so thank you thank you you will be missed um and thank you Joe

19:48

for your remarks about the incident at South Valley that turned out not to be a

19:53

serious incident but uh an incident that dealt with in in a long armarm issue um

20:00

when I received the text that you know before it was clear that it was just um

20:06

an alarm issue certainly you know the feelings are are very unique and some

20:12

that I'm sure sure nobody wants to to have um but but within a very short time

20:19

there was an update that all was okay and that it was um it there there was no

20:25

serious uh incident underway and I think that the way that the administration and the principles handled it was uh was

20:33

very well done and so I appreciate uh all of your work and everybody's work

20:38

during a very stressful time that thankfully turned out to um be a drill

20:44

for lack of a better word and it it gave us notice of things that we can improve

20:49

upon but also um give us confidence that the response was appropriate and thank you to the township uh and the police

20:55

department for their prompt response because as I understand they were they were there and our SOS were there um on

21:01

a moment's notice um so that can give us some confidence that in the event that there is a need that that we are

21:09

prepared to respond um moving on to the board

21:14

committee reports um I'll start off with the ad hoc committee on on new housing

21:21

developments we did not formally meet uh in the last 30 days although I I can say

21:27

that um these issues are ongoing discussions and I think in probably all of our committee meetings but I do

21:33

expect to have uh a meeting with this committee within the first couple of

21:39

weeks in January um Communications uh Miss

21:44

Macaluso had a conflict this evening and was unable to join us uh although the

21:51

communications committee met the day of our last board meeting and hasn't met yet

21:57

since and I also anticipate that we'll be meeting early in the the next calendar year um curriculum Lauren if

22:06

you wouldn't mind giving your final curriculum report my pleasure um curriculum met on December 7th and

22:12

attendance was uh Joe bandorf Dr Karen Benton Mick weeks uh Michelle uh

22:18

Danielle Miller Cheryl mcoplus and myself um first item was the review of

22:24

um qac information that's an action item for approval tonight um Dr Benton also

22:32

presented a proposed staff research project um that was informational um

22:37

more information about that will be coming in uh the next few months um and

22:42

then lastly uh Dr Benton gave an overview um of the budget development um

22:50

focus um for in uh Focus areas for curriculum and instruction for 2024

22:55

budget um the main goals will be the k through eight math curriculum implementation that will be a big ticket

23:03

item um that as we're piloting um the programs for this year um that will need

23:08

to uh be budgeted for future um implementation um also then

23:15

continued as we've looked at quite a bit in curriculum uh multi-tiered systems of support um implementation for support

23:23

for our struggling Learners so how we're going to continue to provide the budget report for that um is a goal and then

23:30

lastly there was as I mentioned at last month's meeting a new set of 2023 Ela

23:36

and math standards and some of the supplemental curriculum adjustments that will need to be um purchased to meet

23:43

those standards in the New Year and that was our

23:48

meeting thank you any questions for Lauren all right next finance and

23:55

operations Mick sure thank you Mark so uh we met December 5th earlier this week

24:03

so I attended along with Cheryl mccoist Daniel Miller Claudia Moreno from the board Administration included Joe

24:09

Bendorf James Heiser Haron Benton Jeff Ary and Carol Butler we started off uh

24:16

similarly to curriculum with a discussion about our section of

24:22

qac uh that also included an update to the standard operating procedure document that needs to be there as part

24:28

of qac we reviewed uh the matrices for the review of rfps that were submitted

24:35

for architect auditor broker of record and bond counsel so James shared those

24:43

matrices with us and uh gave us the recommendations the results of that

24:48

would be shared uh at each committee meeting there's also an ongoing process that Carol Butler is leading that is

24:56

revising all of the job descriptions to make sure they adhere to a set of Standards U and also updating them to

25:02

make sure that they're aligned with what those positions are currently doing so we reviewed three six nine 12 of those

25:12

um and then talked specifically about how some of those will be implemented a few changes in the IT department that Mr AR walked us through talking about um

25:20

replacing uh people that are retiring with potentially uh shift in in

25:26

responsibilities um and just how that will all line up and

25:31

then um we'll continue to review job descriptions at committee meetings over

25:37

the next several months to ensure that they've all been reviewed by the Board of Education by June of 2024 we actually

25:43

didn't have any uh items under the discussion or miscellaneous business or future items so that was a relatively

25:51

short meeting for finance and operations so any

25:56

questions no the mic so all right next up policy Claudine yes

26:04

uh policy committee met on December 8th in attendance from the board was myself

26:09

Melissa AR Burns Joe fellos Macaluso and mark banua from the administration was Mr bandorf and Dr Benton um you'll see

26:18

on first reading uh for this board meeting we have a package of policies that address our interaction with um the

26:26

independent and community-based organizations and boosters um that interact with the district uh this has

26:33

been a long process that predates many of us on the board and includes probably

26:38

Lauren over the years uh these policies are very important because they involve

26:43

valued entities that are important to the district um we've seen uh these

26:49

policies evolve over time and be amended to the point where you know compliance

26:55

and understanding of them um needed to to be um they need to be cleaned up

27:00

basically so we took that on earlier this year it's been about a year-long process we put the necessary time and

27:07

attention into it because this these are these are quite important um to the district none of these are mandatory

27:13

we're choosing to obviously maintain these policies but I did want to just run through um some of them briefly so

27:21

policy number 9190 which is on first reading is uh would involve our

27:26

community organizations it is an amendment to an existing policy this

27:32

policy previously was a catchall section which captured pretty much every type of

27:37

organization that we interacted with from school clubs to booster clubs to Township clubs um so we've reduced this

27:45

community organization to really what it was intended to was engaging and giving Authority and permission and direction

27:51

to our superintendent to voluntarily engage with the community um any

27:57

organization that he feels would enhance the educational and experience of the of the district um the 91 90.1 is a brand

28:07

new policy and it is called educational foundations so we do not currently have

28:13

a policy um that something like MEF or more Arts would fall into to know how to

28:19

interact with the district so 91 90.1 will take care of that

28:26

9191 is our booster policy and while boosters were already falling under the

28:32

original Community organization um we moved it into its own unique policy um we captured a lot of

28:39

the original language in here but made some some tweaks as well and 9210 is our

28:45

parent organization this is just also an amended version um this is kind of where

28:51

uh home and school um uh would would fall under as well as um just just home

28:57

school will probably likely fall under here sorry um in doing this it really would give

29:06

the these organizations more Direction and how to interact with the district um whether it's use of our facilities uh

29:13

volunteering donations um asking for permissions to use our logos um getting endorsements or

29:21

sponsorship um with the district it gives a little bit more Comfort on the organization's part that they're doing

29:27

the right thing and it gives the superintendent and the administration the ability to monitor the activities

29:33

you know happening within the the district so with that said on second

29:39

reading we have our school thread assessment teams which is a new policy it's mandatory um it was approved on

29:45

first reading last month and items for discussion we also had our qac presentation um and we also had a very

29:54

brief discussion on our next Frontier which would be be tackling our um high school and um substance abuse policies

30:02

uh very long uh involved policy with a lot of statutory requirements so we're going to take some time to review that

30:08

and uh make some changes Mark all right um I'll only note I think

30:16

uh for those that may not be familiar the way that our policy approval process works is uh we have two readings so um

30:25

at tonight's meeting there are this Suite of community organization policies that are on for first reading that

30:31

doesn't mean that they are effective um yet and so there's an opportunity to

30:36

review get community feedback on these policies um and looking at them earlier I've noticed that there's a couple

30:42

tweaks um like typo type of things uh that certainly need will be addressed before uh the policies are put up for

30:50

second reading but um reach out to us if there is any feedback on these policies

30:56

they will be up for second reading uh most likely at our first formal board

31:03

meeting in January which I believe is January 16th but don't quote me on that

31:08

um but after second reading is when the policies become effective um so thank

31:13

you Claudine I know that as you'd mentioned these policies have been uh the subject of discussion for as long as

31:21

I've been on the board um and I'm glad that we are very close to get getting

31:27

them you know finally revised and effective so uh thank you to you and everybody else that uh had a hand in

31:35

revising any other questions for claudian about policy all

31:41

right uh are there any offboard committee reports from

31:48

anyone just me um the special education advocacy Council uh met last month um

31:55

for otherwise known to speak they are um a parent Organization for um anyone who

32:02

has um students in District Who currently has um special needs and get

32:08

Services through the school or uh for parents of children who may need those Services

um it's a great organization

32:15

you get a lot of information great resources and uh parental Support also

32:21

uh the next meeting is January 25th at 9:30 in the Star Center right here at the high school

32:27

and be on the lookout in January uh the date is to be determined but our one of

32:33

our district psychologists Anthony Rizo will be speaking about executive functioning and then in February we are

32:40

going to have a um presentation on guardianship so uh reach out on the

32:46

Facebook page or on the website and um let Angie sver know if you have any

32:51

questions she is the current president thanks thanks thanks Melissa anyone

32:59

else okay uh moving on in our agenda this is

33:05

our first public comment section so during this part of public comment we

33:10

are uh welcoming any comments on items that are listed in our agenda the ground

33:17

roles are set forth in the in the written agenda if you happen to pick it up but briefly uh we'd ask that you

33:23

limit your comment to three minutes roughly uh open your comment by stating your name

33:29

and address um and with that may I please

33:35

get a motion to open public comment second all in favor I all right so if

33:42

you'd like to give a comment on agenda items uh now is your time and the

33:47

microphone is right over

33:55

here hi Daniela Reagan 620 North Washington

34:02

Avenue um this is about the policy updates or changes so I noticed that um

34:09

this is the statement that was read on three of that was part of three of the policies discussed um the superintendent

34:15

or board reserves the right to withdraw any approval sponsorship or endorsements

34:21

involving the either the parental organization or the Educational Foundation Foundation or the booster

34:26

club or its activities so according to the policies

34:32

it's in the past it's been the superintendent and and these policies too it's been the superintendent who

34:37

reviews and app approves the events so it me makes sense to me that the superintendent is the person who has

34:44

the right or the power to withdraw this approval and it just seems notable that this new this is new um that gives the

34:53

uh the board the right to take those withdraw those those uh things so I

34:59

don't know for me it feels a little bit like an overreach but maybe there's reasoning behind this that I don't understand so um you know I would

35:06

appreciate uh any more thought or consideration about that or communication between now and you know

35:12

the next time when you guys vote on this and then um additionally should anyone

35:17

like the superintendent or the board have the right to withdraw the approval um should they are they allow

35:25

are they supposed to give a reason for this um you know should they have communication about this or is there

35:32

some sort of formal hearing or due process I did notice in the the prior one I think for booster clubs there was

35:39

like a hearing process for this kind of thing so I just thought it was notable that that wasn't part of it so I don't

35:45

know if that's something um you'll give consideration to as well before the vote

35:50

next month thank you thank

35:55

you hi Sarah Gerber at West Maple app I have the first grade flu sorry um I'm

36:03

concerned that the language used in the first reading of the swed the community org policies allows the Board of Education a position of potential

36:10

Arbiter rather than deferential collaborator I look forward to revised language in the policy's next reading

36:15

that can more accurately reflect what the Public's been told to expect from this elected body that the superintendent will be the decision

36:21

maker rather than the board I'd like to repeat publicly what I've consistently heard and many private conversations

36:28

with this Township's parents and taxpayers that there's a perception that the board conducts business with a lack

36:33

of transparency as the district moves towards a much needed referendum I implore the board and its members to do

36:39

everything in its power to operate in the open as currently written I'm concerned the policies I already mentioned or that were already mentioned

36:47

could allow the final decision making to be made unilaterally and without formal process for appeal or public comment while I

36:53

respectfully acknowledge that there are matters that must be kept confidential to to protect privacy of individuals any

36:59

opportunity the board has to work openly and in full public view would be a terrific signal to your constituents

37:04

that you hear them you value their opinion and that you're trustworthy when guiding this towards this next chapter

37:10

thanks thank

37:16

you hi um cely Coleman 215 East Main Street um I'm GNA probably repeat and

37:23

Echo a lot of what was already um stated I you know have been trying to make

37:29

sense of the policy revisions um I think that's just I don't know if it's

37:35

unfortunate or what because we're trying to work on communication and transparency and been working on this

37:41

for a year now and when it came out for review it is very confusing um it

37:48

appears that policies are you know just being wiped out but not abolished then

37:54

reframed um new wording that isn't exactly um clear or concise new

38:03

organizations um categories that just I think leave a lot

38:10

to interpretation and one of my main questions was whether or not these

38:17

organizations were um like tapped in talked to asked whether or not these new

38:25

revisions to the policy would be supportive of their organizations or if it's going to become

38:31

a roadblock for them there's a lot of approvals a lot of

38:37

um like it feels like a lot of Hoops but I'm not those organizations so I don't know if they are aware home um in school

38:47

if speak if um all the boosters for the

38:52

sporting clubs if they look at get this and say oh my gosh I can't look this is ridiculous it's

38:59

going to be hard for us to uh plan our events and with the aster

39:04

that maybe something will be canceled because the board doesn't like it or the superintendent doesn't like it and

39:12

it's we are saying the reserved right for it to be um

39:17

revoked I again I think there was a process in place I'm wondering why that

39:23

was taken away um as opposed to making it uniform that was just for the booster clubs why it wasn't made uniform through

39:29

all the different categories now um

39:35

and I think everything else was asked so thank you thank

39:43

you anyone else all right may I get a motion to

39:49

close public comment all in

39:55

favor thank you um I'll just say this thank you I appreciate the comments from from

40:01

everybody they're obviously all related to the policies and I'm happy to speak with um with any of you uh about it I

40:10

could all it would take um hours and hours and hours uh to walk through sort

40:16

of how we went about drafting these policies um and I certainly as I had

40:23

mentioned earlier recognize that there are things to tweak uh uh

40:29

but re I'll hang around after this meeting um if you'd like to talk because I do also want to hear um some of the

40:36

specifics that you've got concerns about um as before we we take it to Second reading so appreciate the comments

40:48

um next moving on to the reports to the board which is

40:55

article eight in our agenda uh may I please get a motion for the

41:00

approval of the items from the business administrator board

41:05

secretary uh which is items one through four under article 8A of the

41:13

agenda any comments or questions all in favor I any NOS or

41:21

abstentions thank you article nine recommendations of the superintend

41:26

attendant may I please get a motion for the approval of letter A the biannual

41:32

affirmation of the 2023 24 safe return remote learning

41:38

plan any comments or questions all in favor any knows or

41:44

abstentions thank you uh letter B policies and procedures

41:51

may I please get a motion for the approval of the items for first and second

41:58

reading second any comments or questions all in

42:04

favor any knows or extensions thank you letter

42:11

C educational program may I please get a motion for approval of items one through

42:17

three under that section of the agenda any comments or questions all in

42:24

favor who knows extensions thank you letter D finance and

42:33

business um may I please get a motion for the approval of items one through

42:40

seven under the finance and business section of the

42:46

agenda any comments or questions all in

42:52

favor any NOS or extensions thank you thank

42:59

you letter e employee relations may I please get a motion for the approval of

43:06

items 1 through 17 please second uh this is a roll call

43:11

vote Mr Heiser Mrs R Cara Burns yes Mrs FS

43:18

Macaluso Dr M yes Mrs Miller yes Mrs Morano yes Miss Romano yes Mr weeks yes

43:26

Mrs mopis yes Mr V NOA yes thank you thank you article 10

43:33

suspensions uh which are listed in exhibit 24-180 and the superintendent's Hib

43:41

report may I please get a motion for approval of the hi

43:48

report any comments or questions all in favor any knows or

43:55

extensions okay you got that James thank

44:03

you article 11 is informational only uh is there any old

44:11

business any new business all right thank you and now

44:17

this is the second opportunity for public comment this this time uh we

44:23

welcome public comment on anything on off the agenda that is school related

44:29

same rules apply um and if you uh wish

44:34

to make a public comment now is your opportunity so please take the microphone state your name and that address oh first thank you can I get a

44:42

motion second all in favor thank

44:49

you hi Christina migan I live on Apple Road tonight I'm representing home and school as their first president Helman

44:57

school has been busy for the last few weeks with our winter break who recently hosted The Secret Lives of team and Ts

45:02

for our high school and RAM we'd like to thank cat dandle from the guidance office and Dan Miller Elis from the home

45:10

school for organizing this last week at our three elementary schools we hosted author a with Daniel Kirk author of the

45:16

library NS for our high schoolers we set up an opportunity for them to take a practice sat through the consant review

45:23

before their new online test format comes out we actually had 43 students sign up for this opportunity we had a successful

45:31

apparel sale with orders being made available for pickup at our schools this week we do have a few last minute

45:36

holiday items available at Showcase Graphics we'd like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who sorted packed

45:42

and delivered everything especially Amanda Hill us Jersey mik has offered us a fundraising opportunity for all of our

45:49

schools they'll be Distributing Guard Cards at each of the schools that give you a free sages to \$3 donation to home

45:55

school as with all of our fundraisers this will help home and school continue to support our students and our schools

46:02

as always you can stay up to date with us by visiting our website or following us on Facebook or Instagram and contact

46:08

us at any time Jo school or get one of our famous cers one last note I'd like

46:14

to thank the principles of all of our schools they are wonderful to work with and can to everything that we do about

46:19

their support on behalf of school thank you thank you

46:31

good evening everybody hello I'm Dan Miller I work here at the high school and I would like

46:37

to commend my colleagues at the high school for the following uh Brian orak

46:42

took nine high school students to the Widner University for the 16th annual programming competition held at the

46:49

University for high school students there were eight difficult

46:54

questions posed to all the groups and the students were judged based on correctness and time we sent three teams

47:01

of three and our top group completed all eight questions correctly they finished fifth place out of 50 teams thank you Mr

47:08

oric for all of his work and dedication to this program on Saturday Mr Jad took

47:15

14 members of the international Affairs Club to compete at the model un conference sponsored by Camden County uh

47:22

Technical School 17 schools from South and Central Jersey as well as the school from

Pennsylvania participated several students received recognition and honors thank you to Mr Jad for all of his work

47:36

and dedication to this program over the weekend MHS had 11 students successfully

47:41

auditioned for the all South Jersey symphonic band and Wind Ensemble this is

47:48

a tremendous accomplishment there are many high schools Double R size who do not have as many students earn this

47:54

honor thank you to the entire music program in the district for teaching our students and specifically to the high school teachers Chris wel David Schmidt

48:02

and Regina Kerney thank you have a nice night thank

48:11

you good evening my name is Patrick Mooney I also teach here at the high school and I'd like to First add a

48:17

couple of bits of good news that weren't shared by Mr Miller which is that over the past month um I had the opportunity

48:24

the privilege of take taking some 70 students of ours to uh Washington DC and

48:30

then to Yale model Congress up in New Haven Princeton model Congress down in Washington DC um and of those 70

48:38

students we brought home I think 17 Awards which is a pretty good affirmation that um public schools here

48:45

in mortown can still compete with the most elite Public Schools or private schools excuse me of New York and other

48:52

schools up and down the East Coast which I think speaks very well of our student body and the staff that is guiding them

48:59

I also coached 13 years at whams seventh grade baseball which

49:04

qualifies me to share some whams good news on December 7th whams held its

49:10

annual holidays te which is a holiday get together for the senior citizens of our community with the help of Oasis

49:16

Club Band and Orchestra the students and staff donated their time to prepare and host it was such a pleasure inviting all

49:22

our local seniors and teacher retirees back to whams last week Wham celebrated inclusive schools week the unified Club

49:29

organized activities for Home Room each day which culminated in a school mural to decorate the hallways Oasis Club is

49:36

running a coat and sock drive to help those in need through the Jersey cares organization this initiative makes a

49:42

significant impact on the community by providing warmth and support to individuals facing hardships Wham

49:48

student council is running a toy drive this week to not donate new toys to the Toys for Tots organization last year

49:54

whams donated 854 toys and is looking to break that record this year student

50:00

council is also having a holiday outfit competition this Friday where winners will be featured in the yearbook and

50:06

receive a gift card thank you thank

50:15

you hi good evening my name is Michelle mcclanan and I teach at Roberts Elementary

50:21

School I would like to commend my colleagues at Roberts for the following event

50:26

the second grade show called seasons change was presented on December 7th at

50:32

Roberts Elementary School it used arts integration to create the show the show

50:37

Incorporated poetry about the seasons written by famous authors along with original poetry written by the students

50:44

their poetry was inspired by seasonal art pieces that the students created the show was filled with fun

50:51

music about the seasons and some colorful puppets the third grade mini

50:57

concert called What a Wonderful World is being presented on December 21st at

51:02

Robert's School the students will be singing music to celebrate the holidays Christmas Hanukkah Eid Iaspadas and

51:10

Quanza there will be singing dancing and even sign language the students are also

51:16

working on developing their two-part harmonic singing skills the mini concert will help us to

51:23

prepare for our big third grade concert happening Wednesday June 12th

51:29

2024 hope to see you then thank you thank

51:39

you short so um hello I'm Amy mey and I teach at South Valley Elementary School

51:46

and I would like to commend my colleagues at South Valley 4 the first graders at South Valley are hard at work

51:54

researching a favorite animal to create a writer's Workshop book the animal research book will serve as a

52:00

culminating activity for their Integrated Science and reading unit each student chose their own animal read

52:06

books and chose several eBooks on Epic to research their individual animal they

52:11

will illustrate publish and share their books at the end of the unit the first grade is proud to become published

52:17

authors and illustrators this fall and then I apologize I didn't know when I

52:22

wrote this that I was going to be reading it but um Mrs Warner and Mrs mey wrapped up the first unit of our

52:28

challenge module we taught the students about mindset and about how to utilize many different strategies when stuck in

52:34

the middle of a problem we also taught them about adding many different tools to their growth mindset toolbox to help

52:41

them work through situations that call for Creative problem solving thank you

52:46

thank you hi I'm Katherine Mills I work at

52:53

South Valley I would like to commend my colleagues at Baker for the following Mrs yar's K to3 classroom participated

53:00

in making mini Donuts we had a visit from our a AAC specialist Miss Renee during which we read if you give a dog a

53:06

donut by Laura numerov we showed off our skills in the areas of listening reading
Direction following sequencing labeling

53:14

measuring bilateral coordination turn taking and requesting we used our voices

53:19

and our talkers to practice core vocabulary we enjoyed engaging in joint attention and
reciprocal communication

53:25

most of all we enjoyed our donuts with chocolate or vanilla Funfetti frosting in honor of
kindness day which was on

53:32

November 1th the second graders at Baker and Roberts combine their technology skills
with artistic talent to create

53:38

positive messages using digital Tools in Mr ambrosino's technology class students

53:44

manipulated and combined shapes to create images and formatted type in a variety of
ways to make uplifting

53:50

digital posters these amazing messages will be displayed on the hallways hallway
monitors

53:55

to help students and staff of Baker and Roberts have a better day see that computers
aren't just for watching

54:01

videos and playing games we can use them to make the world a better place because
when we make our schools better we do

54:07

our part to make the world better Baker Bears celebrated the books and illustrations of
Daniel Kirk on December

54:13

6 for our annual author day the children study the works of Daniel Kirk who was known
for creating the library Mouse

54:19

series Daniel delighted the children with songs stories and drawings we thank home
and school for funding this lit

54:25

event thank you thank

54:31

you hello I Bianca mafa and I teach at the ues and I would like to commend my

54:37

colleagues at the ues for the following the U had auditions for the musical this

54:43

month Matilda with a record number of students auditioning we also had the magicals
visit for an assembly thank you

54:50

to all of the staff involved in the planning and preparation for the ues musical The ues celebrated inclusive

54:56

schools week last week by creating Home Room banners created by students each with a slogan related to inclusion we

55:03

also had spirit days to follow quotes that go along with inclusion Monday was wear bright color wear bright clothes to

55:11

fit the quote don't blend in when you were made to stand out Tuesday was wear a hat for hats off to equity Wednesday

55:18

was wear mortown or U swag for we are all on the same team Thursday was where

55:24

your paj dramas for dream of ways to include everyone Friday was wear orange to unite against bullying thank you to

55:32

all of the staff involved in the planning and preparation of inclusive schools week thank you thank

55:43

you uh cely Coleman 215 East Main Street I um just had another uh question about

55:50

the superintendent search I know um Mark that you spoke about it last meeting um and I'm thankful for Mr bandorf um

55:58

continuing with us um I ju I was I

56:03

missed it I wasn't here um but it sounded as though Mr Bendorf can stay

56:10

through the end of 20124 which is I'm assuming December right like it's

56:16

not so it's not a whole school year also not likely that a referendum

56:22

will come to fruition or be voted me that's still a short period That's one year to you know we're looking at

56:29

policies taking a year to uh review so I was just trying to gain some

56:38

long-term um timeline of whether you're able to stay longer is that the

56:44

long-term plan is that absolutely out of the picture

56:49

and how we are looking at handing that off in a year because as we all know

56:55

that comes very quickly I'll just pause for a second

57:01

does anybody else have any public comment that's yeah so can I get a

57:08

motion to close all in favor right thank you um Miss Coleman to

57:19

um address at least in part your question yes uh we haven't yet formally

57:24

extended Mr wendorf's contract um it is currently set to expire in June of 2024

57:32

Our intention is to extend it um through uh December of 2024 um our

57:40

understanding is that under the current laws regulations in New Jersey an in a retired superintendent can serve

57:48

as an interim superintendent for a maximum of two years um so we EX in intend to extend him for

57:56

that maximum period um all I'll say is that I I there may be some exceptions to

58:03

that um and but Our intention is to extend him to

58:09

2024 which we are um obviously in need of finding a permanent superintendent

58:16

upon Mr bandorf departure um and so while we

58:21

had started that um back in now I'm forgetting the timeline

58:29

but we had started it um o October um and and paused it um you're right I

58:38

think within you know the next few months we'll have to start seriously putting pen to paper again on

58:45

on re reigniting the superintendent search so that we've got somebody in place upon his departure

58:52

so um is there anything else for the good of

58:58

the order anyone

59:03

anyone I just wanted oh I don't I don't need the mic you

59:08

don't need the mic well they need the mic we need it we got in trouble for not using the mic no I I didn't want to

59:14

start like a a line down but I did want to thank Lauren for her engagement over the years and and uh she was

59:21

instrumental and introduced me some of the Burlington County School Board meetings and I appreciated that as well

59:27

so good luck to you and thank you so along those same lines I couldn't

59:35

let the meeting end without saying how grateful I am that I was able to serve

59:41

with you that I was persuaded to run Because of You by

59:48

you I am grateful for all that I'm grateful for the dedication that you've shown over the years and your persp

59:54

perspective and it will definitely be missed next year we will all feel that

59:59

thank

1:00:05

you all right uh in terms of our schedule so uh

1:00:11

this is our last meeting for uh 2023 this is our last uh public board meeting

1:00:16

we have committee meetings set through the end of the year um there's a reorganization meeting the first Tuesday

1:00:23

in January which I believe was the second and then uh our first and there

1:00:28

there will be uh some items that are approved at that meeting um as well as

1:00:34

kind of reorganizing this the board and appointing officers

1:00:41

um and then our next meeting with a more robust agenda is approximately two weeks

1:00:46

after that um so merry Christmas happy Hanukkah happy

1:00:51

K Quanza happy holidays if you celebrate if you don't cele celebrate hopefully you enjoy some time off with your

1:00:58

friends and family and happy New Year to everybody looking forward to wrapping up

1:01:03

2023 and starting 2024 on a good foot can I get a motion to

1:01:11

adjourn all in favor