

**Morris Plains Board of Education  
Public Meeting – January 24, 2012  
Borough School Learning Center**

**Call to Order and Reference to the Sunshine Law**

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), Mrs. Lee Connor, Board President, opened the meeting at 6:30pm and read the following: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Morris Plains School District Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Board Administrative Offices, sent to the Clerk of the Borough of Morris Plains, the Morris Plains Library, the Daily Record, the Star Ledger, and the Morris News Bee.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Mr. Alan Albin, Mr. Scott Bober, Mrs. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mrs. Maria Manley (arrived at 7:00pm), Mr. Wayne Marek, Mr. Douglas McCabe and Ms. Denise Rawding

**Also present:** Dr. Ernie Palestis, Mrs. Alice E. Bresett and Mr. Sean Dolan

**Number of public attending:** 6

**Executive Session**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education to recess this public meeting and enter into closed session at 6:33pm, where the public will be excluded, for the purpose of discussing personnel items which come within the provisions of NJSA 10:4-12, Chap. 231 of P.L. 1975. The matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public when circumstances permit.

**Return to Regular Session from Closed Session**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education to return to the regular session of the Board of Education meeting from the closed session at 7:30pm

**Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - None**

**Superintendent's Report – Dr. Ernest Palestis –**

Dr. Palestis reported Strategic Planning is off to a good start. Joanne Borin sent a sample of surveys to be reviewed. We have a mailing list thanks to Ms. Susan Vere. Committees are currently working on their own.

The Board of Education and Administration are working on a new program --proposing Integrated Pre-K (pamphlet attached). The Class size will be 12-13 children. There is a motion on agenda. Jennifer Simms will make presentation at the 2/28/2012 meeting. The cost will be \$450 per month including transportation and tuition for regular education. The plan is to implement this program in the September.

A draft of the 2012-2013 School Calendar was shared with the Board and the public.

Governor Christie signed into law a new bill authorizing elections to be moved to November if the Board of Education votes or the municipality votes or 15% of regular voters vote. There will be a discussion on moving elections at the February 14, 2012 meeting.

Dr. Palestis announced that Mrs. Bresett will be leaving the district, commended her for work done in the district and thanked her for her service. Mrs. Alice Bresett thanked the Board and the district for giving her the opportunity to work here and for their support.

Mr. McCabe advised that the Strategic Planning weekend of April 13 and 14, 2012 is in conflict with a major HSA Fundraiser and the Little League Opening Day. Dr. Palestis will look into the possibility of rescheduling this weekend meeting with Joanne Borin.

**MPHSA Beautification Committee – Spring Planting Project Proposal  
“Purchase a Plant”**

-- Amy Cunningham, Chair

--Maureen McEntee, Chair

Packets outlining the project were distributed to the Board of Education. This is an opportunity to purchase plants for Borough School. A request was made to the Board for an outside water faucet to be provided by the “garden” areas. The time frame for planting is Spring Break. The committee has raised \$900 to date. The Board of Education (Kenneth Woods) will remove current bushes and mulch. The upkeep will be done by the Beautification Committee. The Board of Education thanked the committee for their hard work.

**Board Committee Status Reports**

**Finance/Buildings and Grounds** – Mrs. Fetherston reported that the Finance Committee met on 1/4/2012, the minutes are attached. There was a discussion on QSAC and the lighting on the back parking lot. Mrs. Alice Bresett reviewed the list of identified capital projects.

**Curriculum and Instruction** – Mrs. Kaag reported that the committee met on 1/5/2012. A copy of the committee report is attached.

**Legislative** –Mrs. Connor reported that MCSBA is meeting on 2/26/2012 in Montville. There will be a panel on school funding. Mr. Wayne Marek will be going to Washington DC for the Federal meeting on 2/6/2012-2/8/2012.

**Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC)** – Mrs. Fetherston reported that the committee met on 1/4/2012. The audit was also approved. ESC is looking for a bus depot. The lease was reviewed for the offices. Enrollment is declining at Regional Day School and Park Lake School.

**Morris School District** – Mr. Alan Albin reported on the meeting. There was a HIB appeal by a student. There was a discussion of issues regarding bullying via Facebook. A new Board of Education member will be replacing Sandra O’Neill. Also discussed were the Send-Receive Agreement, lighting the turf field, the Board Retreat on 1/30/2012 and tickets on sale for Morristown’s Got Talent.

**Personnel** – Mrs. Lee Connor reported that the committee discussed Evaluation tools and the Board of Education self-evaluations.

**Policy Updates** – Mr. Marek reported that the committee met on 1/10/2012. The Board is currently up to date with State mandated policies. Mrs. Lee Connor thanked the committee and Ms. Denise Rawding for their efforts.

**Liaison Committees –**

--**Morris Plains Home and School Association (MPHSA)** – Mrs. Teri Belles reported that Helping Hand applications are being accepted. The Mandala Project is doing well. The Science Fair is being planned. The Bowling Night Fundraiser is being planned for 4/13/2012 at 7:00pm. Additional funding is being looked at for the Sound System. The committee is very close to having all the funds needed to proceed with this project. An Earth Day project is being planned for April. It will be a Disney Movie event. Mr. Dolan further explained to the Board of Education.

--**Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Committee (MPMAC)** – No report

-- **Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP)** – The Foundation is regrouping on 2/8/2012.

**Approval of the Board of Education Minutes**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the following Minutes:

- January 10, 2012 – Executive Session
- January 10, 2012 – Public Meeting

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**Business Items Prepared for Official Action on January 24, 2012:**

**A. Personnel (upon the recommendation of the Superintendent)**

**Approve Family Leave Replacement (Mrs. Michelle Leibrecht)**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, the Board appoints Ms. Shannon Prisco as First Grade Teacher (family leave replacement for Mrs. Leibrecht) effective March 5, 2012 through June 1, 2012 at a per diem rate of \$247.16 (BA Step 1 - \$49,431\* to be prorated). There are no benefits included with this replacement position. (\*pending negotiations settlement).

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**2. Accept Resignation – School Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, the Board accepts with regret the resignation of Mrs. Alice E. Bresett, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective March 24, 2012 or sooner.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**3. Approve Movement on the Guide**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, the Board approves movement on the guide, effective February 1, 2012, for the following staff:

Staff Member	Current Column/Step	Salary	New Column/Step February 1, 2012	Salary
Alissa Schonmann	MA+15, Step 8	\$57,492*	MA+30, Step 8	\$59,644*

\*pending negotiations settlement

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**4. Approve Memorandum of Agreement**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, the Board approves the attached memorandum of agreement between the Board and the Association regarding compensation of additional teaching time for Denise Zalis in the amount of \$1,682. This memorandum of agreement has been signed by the Association.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**B. Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Purchasing/Contracts**

**1. Approve Line Item Transfers**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves line item transfers dated January 24, 2012 in the amount of \$3,500.00.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**2. Approve Bills and Claims Report**

On the motion of Scott Bober seconded by Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report dated January 24, 2012 in the amount of \$610,550.31.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**3. Approve Payroll Distribution**

Motion by Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the payroll distribution summarized below and directs that the payroll distribution be attached to and be made part of these Minutes.

Payroll Date	Fund	Amount
January 15, 2012	General Fund	\$245,146.39
	Special Revenue	\$ 244.20

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**4. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports For The Period Ending December 31, 2011**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the Certification from the Board Secretary that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAS 18A:17-9, further that District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial reports upon consultation with the appropriate district personnel, certifies that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of NJAS 18A:17-36, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District Board of Education’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and that therefore it is recommended that the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for the period ending December 31, 2011 to be approved.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**5. Approve to approve MPHSA Beautification Committee Proposal**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston the Board approves the “Purchase a Plant” MPHSA Beautification Committee Spring Planting Project Proposal as per the attached.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not

		present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **C. School Board Recognition Month – January, 2012**

#### **1. Adopt Resolution Proclaiming January 2012 as School Board Recognition Month**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board adopts the attached resolution proclaiming January, 2012 as School Board Recognition Month.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **D. Special Education**

#### **1. Approve Integrated Preschool Program – 2012-2013 School Year**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves an Integrated Preschool Program at the Mountain Way School for the 2012-2013 school year from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at a per pupil cost of \$450.00 per month; \$4,500 per year. Transportation will be provided by the district bus.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

#### **2. Approve Level 1 Services – Out of District Student**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves Level 1 Services for Student 001185, effective November, 2011 through June, 2012. Services will be provided by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired at the student's school (PG Chambers School), at an annual cost of \$1,700.00.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **E. Superintendent's Anti-Bullying Report**

#### **1. Accept and Affirm the Superintendent's Anti-Bullying Report**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board accepts and affirms the Superintendent's monthly report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

## **F. Policy**

### **1. Approve Policies for First Reading**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mrs. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the following policies for first reading:

1120	Board of Education Meetings
1140	Distribution of Materials by Pupils and Staff
1250	Visitors
2000/2010	Concepts and Roles in Administration: Goals and Objectives
2121	Line of Responsibility
2131	Chief School Administrator
2210	Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board Policy
2224	Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action
3160	Transfer of Funds Between Line Items/Amendments/Purchases Not
Budgeted	
3250	Income from Fees, Fine, Charges
3260/3270	Sale and Disposal of Books, Equipment and supplies
3280	Gifts, Grants and Bequests
3320	Purchasing Procedures
3400	Accounts
3440	Inventories
3450	Money in School Buildings
3453	School Activity Funds
3514	Equipment
3515	Smoking Prohibition
3541.3	Non-school Use of District Vehicles
3541.31	Privately Owned Vehicles
3541.32	District Owned Vehicles
3510	District Records and Reports
4111.1	Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action
4115	Supervision
4119.22/4219.22	Conduct and Dress
4138	Non-school Equipment
4138.2	Private Tutoring
4147	Employee Safety
4151	Attendance Patterns
4151.1	Personnel Illness and Injury/Health and Hardship
4213/4214	Assignment Transfers
4215	Supervision
4219.21	Conflict of Interest
4222	Noninstructional Aides
4231/4231.1	Staff Development; In-service Education/Visitation/Conferences
4238	Non-school Employment
4247	Employees Safety
4251	Attendance Patterns
4251.1	Personal Illness and Injury/Health and Hardship
5124	Reporting to Parents/Guardians
5131.7	Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
5134	Married/Pregnant Pupils
5141.1	Accidents
5141.6	Suicide Prevention

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

Ms. Denise Rawding read every word.

### **G. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences**

#### **1. Approve Professional Development**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the attached list of requests for professional development and corresponding costs.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **H. Fundraiser – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip**

#### **1. Approve Talent Show Fundraiser for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves a talent show fundraiser for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade camping trip. Talent show auditions will take place on Monday February, 6<sup>th</sup>. Acts will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis. There will be approximately 20-24 acts. The acts will be reviewed on Monday and Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and the rehearsal will take place on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> with the show date on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door and refreshments will be sold in the lobby. All profits will go toward expenses for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade camping trip. Mr. Hilton, Ms. Romano, and Ms. Greik will assist Mrs. Terri Belles and Mrs. Michelle Lynch.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley –not present for vote
Mr. Wayne Marek - no	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **A. New Business**

**--Morris County School Boards Meeting – School Funding – 2.16.2012**

#### **B. Old Business - Candidate Kit for the Board of Education Election available in the Board of Education Office.**

### **Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations**

Mrs. Terri Belles – 24 Glenbrook Road, Morris Plains – How are we addressing the recent situation that occurred in town. Dr. Palestis advised we are in touch with the police and giving support to the family.



**Executive Session**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mr. Alan Albin, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of education to recess this public meeting and enter into closed session at 8:30pm, where the public will be excluded, for the purpose of discussing MPEA negotiations and the January 31, 2012 PERC hearing which come within the provisions of NJSA 10:4-12, Chap. 231 of P.L. 1975. The matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public when circumstances permit.

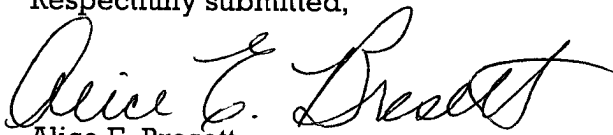
**Return to Regular Session from Closed Session (if necessary)**

On the motion of Ms. Denise Rawding seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of education to return to the regular session of the Board of Education meeting from the closed session at 9:56pm.

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Ms. Denise Rawding, seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Alice E. Bresett  
Board Secretary

