

# **Morris Plains Board of Education Public Meeting – March 13, 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 6:37pm 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** – Led by Ms. Maria Diaz

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** Mr. Alan Albin (arrived 6:46pm), Mr. Scott Bober, Mrs. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mrs. Maria Manley (arrived 6:40pm), Mr. Douglas McCabe (arrived 6:40pm) and Ms. Denise Rawding

**Absent:** Mr. Wayne Marek

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

**Number of public attending:** 14

## **Executive Session**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education to recess this public meeting and enter into closed session at 6:38pm, 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 (if necessary)**

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag 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 7:33pm.

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

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

Dr. Palestis thanked all of the volunteers that came forward for Strategic Planning. The Survey Monkey survey is on the district website. Paper copies are available at the Morris Plains Library, Morris Plains Municipal Building and both schools. QSAC monitoring was held today. Dr. Palestis thanked the Board, Ms. Alice Bresett, Mr. Sean Dolan, Ms. Lindsay Nahm, Ms. Susan Vere and rest of the staff for their efforts. The feedback was very favorable. Borough School has been entered in the Cartridge World \$15,000 Technology contest. Voting is to be held from March 15-31, 2012.

Mr. Scott Bober thanked Ms. Alice Bresett for her service as the Business Administrator and Board Secretary. The Board is donating a bench to the school garden in Ms. Bresett's name. Dr. Palestis also thanked Ms. Bresett for her service to the district.

## **Garden State Green Award – Ms. Maria Diaz –**

Dr. Palestis introduced Mr. Sean Dolan to talk about Sustainable NJ. Mr. Dolan explained the projects that Ms. Maria Diaz did with her students with the help of Mr. Ed Frankosky and Ms. Casey Devlin. Mr. Dolan announced that Ms. Diaz was awarded K-8 Garden State Green Award and named Teacher of the Year. Ms. Diaz explained the program and students (Fiona Palumbo, Dominic Palumbo, Meghan Crowley, Susie LaMonica, Kayla Fitzgerald, Kelly Phelan, Amy Albin, Cara DelGaudio and Sofia DelGaudio) gave examples of themes and energy initiatives for example, every Wednesday is “Waste Free Lunch Day”. Ms. Diaz is looking to get a permanent compost bin. Dr. Palestis thanked the students, Ms. Diaz and the staff.

## **School Choice – Dr. Ernest Palestis**

Dr. Palestis did a presentation on School Choice (power point presentation attached). The following are questions and answers raised during the discussion:

Q: What is the application process? Do you need to accept every student?

A: No. Application is checked including discipline records and IEPs. Application is available on the DOE Website. Applications are due by mid- November.

Q: What is the risk and safeguards?

A: Once we accept a student, we are obligated to allow them to complete their education in our district.

Q: Is the program capped at 27 students?

A: Dr. Palestis advised this number was based on one student per homeroom. The number can be determined by the Board.

Q: Does anyone know what the school population from the 70 townhouses being built in Morris Plains?

A: Dr. Palestis advised we have a demographic study which indicates enrollment 10 years out.

Comment: Sounds like a good plan but we need to define parameters.

Q: Why aren't more schools doing this?

A: More are choosing this option. It's a newer concept but more will join. It depends on the room available in each district.

Q: Who would administer the program in Morris Plains?

A: The Business Administrator would handle the finances, the Building Administrator would be responsible to review the discipline records and the CST reviews the IEP's. The superintendent would oversee the whole program.

Q: With related services for students with IEP's, who pays?

A: We would pay.

Q: Can we apply and then decide not to move forward?

A: Yes. That is what Mt. Arlington has done.

A comment was made to move forward so that we are able to take advantage of this opportunity if we choose to. Mrs. Connor asked what the Board's preference was tonight – continue discussion or vote to have Dr. Palestis move forward with the application.

Board members expressed their thoughts as well as Mr. Dolan. The consensus of the Board is to move forward with the application.

Mrs. Connor thanked Dr. Palestis and thanked the community for their input (Mrs. Jill Cecere, Mr. Shane Phelan, Mrs. Karen Dovano and Mrs. Maryclaire Procanik).

### **Approval of the Board of Education Minutes**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board of Education approves the following minutes: February 28, 2012– Public and February 28, 2012 – Executive Session.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **Business Items Prepared for Official Action on March 13, 2012:**

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

##### **1. Approval of Substitute Teachers**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the following substitute teachers for the 2011-2012 school year:

Stephanie Brito  
Michele Hoffman

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

##### **2. Approval of Set Design Club Director and Stage Crew Advisor and Stipends**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe the Board Ms. Laura Quinn as Borough School Set Design Club Director and Stage Crew Advisor for the Spring Musical at the Borough School for the 2011-2012 school year in the amount of \$271.00 for each position (2), total cost \$542.00.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

##### **3. Approval of Baseball/ Softball Officials**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the following baseball/softball officials for the 2011/2012 school year:

Vincent Galgano  
Peter Khan  
Willie Floyd  
Shawn Thomas  
Brenda Payne  
Eddie Murphy

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

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

### **1. Approval of Line Item Transfers**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves line item transfers dated March 13, 2012 in the amount of \$11,184.60.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **2. Approval of Bills and Claims Report**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report dated March 13, 2012 in the amount of \$176,559.78.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

### **3. Approval to Void Checks**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves to void checks from the school fund account as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1/24/2011	2226	Sara Goglia	Return \$ paid for lost book	Lost Book	\$-9.16
5/2/2011	2249	John Tonini	Overpayment for activity fund	Band	\$-5.00
7/27/2011	2291	Pam Johnson	Reimbursement for Drama Club Expenses	Drama	\$-13.46

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

## **C. Special Education**

### **1. Approval of Assistive Technology Evaluation**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves an Assistive Technology Evaluation for student 000044, effective March, 2012 at a cost of \$1,000. Services to be provided by Dr. Brian Friedlander, 174 Stephensburg Road, Port Jervis, NJ 07865.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

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

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

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, 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 – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

One incident of bullying related to Facebook. Four incidents in school and three off campus.

## E. Programs

### 1. Approval of Speaker and Fee for Holocaust Program at Borough School

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe the Board approves compensation for Mrs. Maude Dahme, guest speaker at the Borough School on March 16, 2012, in the amount of \$50.00. Mrs. Dahme will be speaking to the Borough School students on her experience as a survivor of the Holocaust. Mrs. Dahme presented her program last year to the Borough School students and they benefitted tremendously from hearing her extraordinary story.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

## F. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences

### 1. Approval of Professional Development

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, 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 – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

## G. Policy

### 1. Approval of Policies for Second Reading

Motion by Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board adopts, on second reading, the following policies:

3570                      District Records and Reports  
6171.2                    Gifted and Talented

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

## H. Tools

### 1. Approval to Sell or Dispose of Wood Working Tools

Motion by Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the sale or disposal of the following wood working tools:

Name	Serial Number	Cost/Value
Tilting Arbor Saw (Table Saw) Delta Rockwell	#00107-01396	\$2,000 (estimated value)
Drill Press – Delta Rockwell	#001100-01394	\$1,500 (estimated value)

Band Saw – Delta Rockwell	#01151-01395	\$3,900 (original cost)
Wood Lathe – Delta Rockwell	#01152-01399	\$4,700 (original cost)

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - absent	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

**Discussion Items:**

**A. New Business** – Correspondence was received from a local developer. He would like to propose moving Borough School to a building on American Way. A response is needed to the originator. Questions raised included: What would be the value?, Traffic concerns? and Capital Cost?. In addition, could we request a feasibility study by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party financed by the realtor. The public in attendance was not in favor.

Mr. Scott Bober reported that Mrs. Michelle Leibrecht had a baby boy today, Ryan Leibrecht.

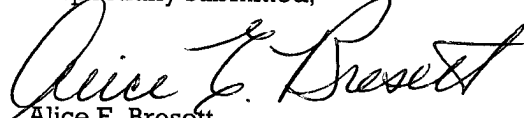
**B. Old Business** - none

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

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe, seconded by Mrs. Terri Kaag, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Alice E. Bresett  
 Board Secretary