

**Morris Plains Board of Education
Public Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2011
Borough School Learning Center**

I 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.

II Pledge of Allegiance

III Roll Call

Present: Mr. Alan Albin, Mrs. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Mrs. Maria Manley (arrived at 6:45 p.m., Mr. Wayne Marek, Mr. Douglas McCabe (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), and Ms. Denise Rawding.

Absent: Mr. Scott Bober and Mrs. Terri Kaag

Also present: Mrs. Alice Bresett

Number of Public Attending: 1

IV Executive Session

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of education to recess this public meeting and enter into closed session at 6:31pm, where the public will be excluded, for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters 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.

V Return to Regular Session from Closed Session

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, seconded by Wayne Marek, 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 7:30 p.m.

VI Superintendent's Report – Mr. Mack is on vacation. Mrs. Bresett reported on his behalf that the building summer clean-up is ahead of schedule; technology upgrades are underway; the boiler project should be underway early in August.

VII Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations – no public comment

VIII Board Committee Status Reports

Finance- Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston reported that the proposed MCEC contract for CST services is being revised. In addition, transfers, surplus, tuition, capital reserve and maintenance were discussed. Alice will follow up with Principals concerning student activities. In addition, she will follow up on insurance for the 6th Grade Camping Trip. New contracts are needed for YMCA and the Morris School District. A discussion was held on the Send/Receive formula. Dr. Palestis, present in the audience, believes a legislative action is needed. Three criteria for breaking a

Send/Receive Agreement are no negative financial impact; no negative educational impact and no negative racial impact. Discussion followed.

Buildings and Grounds – Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston reported that Cintas is working on the fire alarm system. The boiler system will be moved to Mountain Way. The Mountain Way kitchen upgrade may need to be done in stages. We are moving forward with the Borough School sign. Alice will check with Ken Woods about the lighting in the back parking lot of Borough School and signs for the parking lot. Summer projects at Mountain Way include the Belgian block repair and straightening of the railing.

Curriculum and Instruction - Ms. Denise Rawding reported that the next meeting will be August 25th. The next Morris School District curriculum meeting will be next Thursday and Mrs. Rawding will attend..

Legislative – no report

Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC) – Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston reported that the Commission met on July 6th. Dr. Vilardi assumed the position of Interim Principal of the Park Lake School due to a retirement. The ESC may be able to get funding for Cornerstone College program. Minutes from the ESC meeting are available in the Board Office.

Morris School District – Mr. Alan Albin reported that the Board met on July 11th. Nothing to report.

Personnel - The Personnel Committee met on June 21st. The committee discussed principal evaluations. There are now guidelines/contracts for aides' regarding benefits. The committee will be discussing non-union staff guidelines at a future meeting.

Policy Updates – Met July 12th. The committee will be looking at the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying policy. It needs to be in place by September 1st. Mr. Marek thanked Susan Vere for drafting the 9111 policy regarding reimbursement for fingerprinting.

Liaison Committee -

Shared Services – Mr. Alan Albin and Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – to be announced. Looking to set up a date soon.

Education Foundation – Mrs. Lee Connor reported that the Foundation is actively doing presentations to local businesses for grants to update the science labs. They are looking to purchase digital microscopes.

HSA – Mrs. Bresett reported that the Borough School Sign plans were presented to the Administration. The sign will be similar in size to the current sign but positioned closer to the center of the sidewalk. It will be two-sided and back lit. The HSA and the Beautification Committee will pay for the sign and the installation. The Board of Education and Administration will follow up with the Borough of Morris Plains concerning the electrical installation.

Administration will discuss the sign with the Buildings and Grounds committee and report back to the Board.

Mrs. Maria Manley spoke on behalf of Terri Belles concerning the sound system for Borough School. Mrs. Belles is looking to find out the amount of funding the Board is willing to put toward the sound system. Discussion followed. The sound system issue will be referred to the Finance Committee.

IX Approval of the Board of Education Minutes

On the motion of Mrs. Rawding seconded by Mrs. Manley, the Board of Education approves the following

Minutes:

June 21, 2011 – Executive Session

June 21, 2011 – Public Meeting

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

X Business Items Prepared for Official Action on July 19, 2011:

A. Personnel (upon the recommendation of the Superintendent)

1. Approval of Language Arts Literacy Curriculum Writer

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves Mrs. Denise Zalis as Language Arts Literacy Curriculum writer for the Summer 2011.

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

B. Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Purchasing/Contracts

1. Approve of Line Item Transfers

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves line item transfers dated July 19, 2011 in the amount of \$67,611.03.

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

2. Approve of Bills and Claims Report

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report dated June 27, 2011 in the amount of \$1,902,214.42.

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

3. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2011

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, 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 June 30, 2011 to be approved.

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

4. Approval of 2011-2012 Joint Transportation Agreement - ESC

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the 2011-2012 Joint Transportation Agreement between the Morris Plains Board of Education and Educational Services Commission of Morris County.

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

5. Approval to Dispose Out-Dated Textbooks

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the disposal of the following out-dated textbook which was replaced six years ago with the current textbook (7th and 8th grade social studies):

Title: *American Adventures – People Making History*
Publisher: Scholastic
Published Year: 1991
No. to be Discarded: 53

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

C. Special Education

1. Approval Out of District Placements – 2011-2012 School Year

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves out of district placements, effective September, 2011 through June, 2012 as per the attached list.

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

2. Approval of Neurological Evaluation

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a neurological evaluation for student 001048, effective June, 2011 at a total cost of \$635.00. Services will be provided by Dr. Marilyn Ruiz, 145 Washington Street, Morristown, NJ 07960.

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

3. Approval of Clinical Psychological Evaluation

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a clinical psychological evaluation for student 000319, effective June, 2011 at a total cost of \$1,000.00. Services will be provided by Dr. Steven Tobias, Center for Child and Family Development, 145 Washington Street, Morristown, NJ 07960.

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

4. Approval of One on One Instruction with Reading Specialist

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves one on one instruction with a Reading Specialist for student 000092 effective July, 2011 at the Mountain Way School, at a total cost not to exceed \$608.00 (\$38.00/hour not to exceed 16 hours.) Services to be provided by Mrs. Kim Scheffler.

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

5. Out of District 2011 Extended School Year Program

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a 2011 extended school year program for student 000174 effective July 5, 2011 – July 28, 2011 at the Banyon School, 12 Hollywood Avenue, Fairfield, NJ 07004, at a total program cost of \$3,210.00. Transportation to be bid by Educational Services Commission.

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

6. Out of District 2011 Extended School Year Program

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a 2011 extended year program for student 000643 effective July 5, 2011 - July 28, 2011 at the The Craig School, 10 Tower Hill Road, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046 at a total program cost of \$1,425.00. Transportation to be bid by Educational Services Commission.

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

D. Out of District Placement

1. Out of District Placement – February 15, 2011 – June 17, 2011

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a 2010-2011 out of district placement (February 15, 2011 – June 17, 2011) for a Morris Plains high school student at Red Bank Regional High School, 101 Ridge Road, Little Silver, NJ 07739 at a program cost of \$7,650.00.

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

E. Donation

1. Approval to Accept Donation for Supplies at the Mountain Way School

On the motion of Mr. Alan Albin seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board accepts a donation from the Carlson Family (June 23, 2011) in the amount of \$500.00 for the purchase of school supplies for the Mountain Way School.

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

F. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences

1. Professional Development

On the motion of Ms. Denise Rawding 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 – absent	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston - yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – absent	Mrs. Maria Manley –yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

G. Policy

1. Policy 9111 – Bylaws – Qualifications of BOE Members – First Reading

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves, on first reading, Policy 9111, Bylaws – Qualifications of Board of Education Members

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

Mr. Marek gave an explanation of the policy.

H. Reimbursements

1. Reimbursement of Board Members for Cost of Criminal History Background Check

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board adopts the following resolution pertaining to the reimbursement of Board of Education Members for Cost of Criminal Background Check as follows:

RESOLUTION

MORRIS PLAINS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Reimbursement of Board Members for Cost of Criminal History Background Check

- WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 444, signed into law on May 26, 2011, disqualifies members of boards of education or members of charter school boards of trustees from serving in office if they have been convicted of certain crimes; and
- WHEREAS, The statute also requires members to undergo criminal history background checks and to pay the cost of such investigations; and
- WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 444 permits local boards of education to reimburse individual members for the cost of criminal history background investigations; and
- WHEREAS, State law (N.J.S.A. 18A:12-4) prohibits the compensation of local board of education members; and
- WHEREAS, Members of the Morris Plains Board of Education devote significant time and substantial effort to the governance of the district's public schools; and
- WHEREAS, The Morris Plains Board of Education believes that individual school board members, who are uncompensated, should be reimbursed for the cost the criminal history background investigations, which are necessary to continue serving in office. So, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Morris Plains Board of Education authorizes reimbursement of individual members for the cost of the criminal history background investigations required by Assembly Bill 444; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Morris Plains Board of Education through its policy adoption process will add the following language to its Bylaws at File Code 9111, "Qualifications and Requirements of Board Members," Clause I:
- I. He/she has not been disqualified due to the conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1. In order to fulfill this requirement:
 1. Each member of the board of education, within 30 days of the election or appointment to the board shall undergo a criminal history background check investigation for the purpose of ensuring that the member is not disqualified for membership due to a conviction of a crime or offense pursuant to the statute listed above; and

2. The board shall reimburse the member for the cost of the criminal history record check, including all costs for administering and processing the check. And be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of Bylaws File Code 9111 as proposed for amendment be attached to this resolution.

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

Discussion was held on above. Fingerprint application must be done on-line. Mrs. Vere provided instructions to all Board members.

XI Discussion Items:

**A. New Business
--State Aid Update --**

Mrs. Bresett explained that we received additional state aid in the amount of \$144,000. She also explained the different options available for uses of the additional funds: tax relief for the current year; additional programs for the current year; tax relief for the 12-13 year; additional programs for the 12-13 school year; roll into surplus for tax relief during the 13-14 year.

Discussion followed regarding how to designate the funds. Suggestions including tax relief for current year; designate some for tax relief and some for surplus. Question regarding how much saving this would be to taxpayers. Savings would equate to approximately one cent per hundred dollars of assessed value. Another thought is to consider the “roller coaster” effect. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss further in next Finance meeting.

Mrs. Connor asked the Board if they read the documentation and would like to consider hosting State Senator Michael Doherty to hold a Town Hall meeting at Morris Plains. A discussion was held to determine if the Board is interested in hosting with the Morris Plains Town Council. Discussion also included the funding formula. Mrs. Lee Connor will contact Laurie Fu to see if the town is interested.

B. Old Business - none

XII Correspondence – Letter from Governor Chris Christie to Board Presidents on Pension and Benefit reform. Mrs. Connor will put a copy in the Drop Box.

XIII Executive Session

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of education to recess this public meeting and enter into closed session, where the public will be excluded, for the purpose of discussing personnel or legal matters 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. No action will be taken.

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

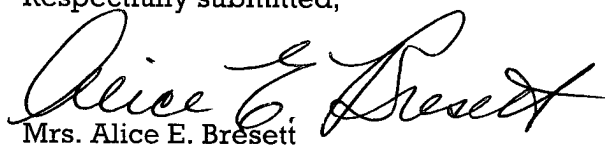
XIV Return to Regular Session from Closed Session

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek, 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 10 p.m.

XV Adjournment

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek, seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Alice E. Brésett
Business Administrator/Board Secretary