

**Morris Plains Board of Education  
Public Meeting Agenda  
March 19, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.  
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. Cynthia Fetherston, Board President, opened the meeting at 7:35pm 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. Scott Bober, Ms. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Ms. Lucia Galdi, Mrs. Terri Kaag (arrive at 7:45pm), Mrs. Maria Manley (arrive at 7:40pm) and Ms. Denise Rawding  
*Absent:* Mr. Alan Albin and Mr. Douglas McCabe  
*Also present:* Dr. Ernest Palestis, Mrs. Kristin Kosky and Ms. Lindsay Vieira  
*Number of public attending:* 6

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

**Superintendent's Report – Dr. Ernest Palestis –** Dr. Palestis reported to the Board that the Morris Plains School District will be donating textbooks to Seaside Heights School District through the efforts of a Morris Plains Education Association teacher. He commented on how wonderful it is to assist another district in need.

Dr. Palestis also reported that the New Jersey Performance Report is being revised. We will be able to compare how our kids are doing with similar schools.

Lastly, Dr. Palestis stated that there were no bullying incidents to report at this meeting.

**Business Administrator's Report –** Mrs. Kristin Kosky reported that she met with the Board to review projects budgeted in capital outlay. The district is working on the telephone installation implementation with Light Path which will take place this spring. The Business Administrator has been working with the County to clarify the budget supplementary detail submitted. In addition, a review of all the copiers in the district in comparison to cost efficiency and needs has been completed.

**Budget Hearing – Preliminary School Budget 2013-2014**

**Board Committee Status Reports:**

**Finance/Buildings and Grounds – none**

**Curriculum and Instruction** – Ms. Denise Rawding reported that the committee met on March 19, 2013 and discussed the following topics: Extended school year for Special Education, Teacher NJ, observations, Measuring Up, Gifted and Talented and Professional Development.

**Legislative** – Ms. Lee Connor mentioned to the Board that there was a new bill for outsourcing contracted services being discussed. The bill had already gone through the Assembly that would restrict outsourcing. Ms. Connor also stated that there is a send/receive school district bill that could provide relief for the schools. In addition, some districts are reviewing full day Kindergarten and Superintendent contract caps.

**Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC)** – none

**Morris School District** – none

**Personnel** – Ms. Lee Connor reported that the committee met on March 5, 2013 to review budget staffing, the Affordable Health Care Act and retirements.

**Policy Updates** – none

**Liaison Committees (Reports if Available):**

--Morris Plains Home and School Association (MPHSA) – Mrs. Sheryl McNichol reported to the Board the HSA has provided funding for Drug Free School Week, Notes from Home pads, Teacher Appreciation luncheon, etc. The HSA is currently raising funds for a Shade Structure at Mt. Way and new signs at both schools. The HSA also continues to support school activities for art, science and graduation. The recent Family Art Night was a huge success for the school district on March 7, 2013 and everyone is looking forward to Science Night on March 20, 2013. The HSA will be holding their annual fundraiser on April 19, 2013 with the theme – A Night in Margaritaville. The group continues to encourage collecting Box Tops for the district. The total raised this year so far from Box Tops is \$2800.

--Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Committee (MPMAC) – none

--Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP) – none

--Strategic Planning Committees – The Committee will be reporting at the April 23, 2013 meeting with a status update.

**Correspondence** - none

### **Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Ms. Lee Connor, seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves the following Minutes:

March 5, 2013 – Public and Executive Session

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

### **Business Items Prepared for Official Action on March 19, 2013:**

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

##### **1. Approval of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher - (Family Leave)**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves Dawn Bruhn as Fourth Grade teacher at the Borough School (family leave replacement) effective April 2, 2013

through June 30, 2013 at a per diem rate of \$249.60 (BA, Step 1 - \$49,920). There are no benefits with this position.

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

**2. Approval of Chaperones – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the following chaperones for the sixth grade camping trip on April 4, and 5, 2013 to Fairview Lakes YMCA. A stipend of \$350.00 for each chaperone will be paid by the parents of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Ed Frankosky  
Debbie Greik  
Art Phillips  
Ashley Morris  
Joyce Peslak

Casey Devlin  
Alison Porter  
Caitlin Hamill  
Lauren Helfrich  
Phyllis McGeehan

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

**3. Approval of Chaperones – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the following chaperones for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Washington, D.C. on April 10, 11, and 12, 2013. A stipend of \$498.00 will be paid for each chaperone.

Ed Frankosky  
Marcia Goldberg  
Barbara Grames  
Scott Curcio  
Brian Wilson

Casey Devlin  
Denise Zalis  
Mary Ellen Sullivan  
Wayne Looney

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

The Board commented on the great loss to the Morris Plains School District of the retirements of Mrs. Mary Lou Bellomo and Mrs. Donna Lanktree. They will be missed.

**4. Retirement**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the resignation due to retirement for Mrs. Mary Lou Bellomo, Fourth Grade teacher at Borough School effective July 1, 2013.

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

**5. Retirement**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the resignation due to retirement for Mrs. Donna Lanktree Fifth Grade teacher at Borough School effective July 1, 2013.

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

## 6. Approval of Referees

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the following referees for baseball/softball at a rate of \$55.00/game:

Willie Floyd  
Peter Khan

Edward Murphy  
Brenda Payne

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

## 7. Approval of Assigner – Baseball/Softball

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves Lee Hendrix as the Assigner for baseball/softball at a cost of \$110.00.

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

## 8. Approval of Substitute

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the following substitute teacher:

Amy Robinsky

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

## 9. Approval of Pianist – Spring Concert

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves Doug "Skip" Yingling as pianist to assist with the Spring Concert at a cost of \$250.00 (\$50.00/hour x 5 hours) as follows:

Three (3) hours of dress rehearsal time

One (1) hour - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert on June 6, 2013

One (1) hour - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Select Chorus Spring Concert on June 13, 2013.

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

## 10. Approval of One(1) Unpaid Sick Day – Classroom Aide

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves one (1) unpaid sick day on March 15, 2013 for Caitlin Cosgrove, classroom aide at Mountain Way School.

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

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

### 1. Approve Bills and Claims Report/Disbursement Journal

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report/disbursement journal dated March 19, 2013 in the amount of \$1,037,084.98.

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

**2. Approve Payroll Distribution**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding 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
2.28.2013	General Fund	\$261,494.88

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

**3. Accept Donation from the Borough School Class of 2015 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board accepts a donation from the Borough School Class of 2015 in the amount of \$6,870.00. Funds to be used for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip.

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

**4. Approve Textbook Donation and Disposal**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the donation and disposal of the following textbooks to Seaside Heights School District:

**Houghton Mifflin 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Series: Expeditions**

Book	ISBN	Quantity
Textbook	0-618-01236-2	106
Teacher's Edition (T.E.) Theme 1	0-618-06542-3	6
T.E. Theme 2	0-618-06543-1	5
T.E. Theme 3	0-618-06544-X	4
T.E. Theme 4	0-618-06545-8	5
T.E. Theme 5	0-618-06546-6	5
T.E. Theme 6	0-618-06547-4	3
T.E. Theme Skills Tests	0-618-08992-6	3
	0-618-12656-2	4
T.E. Integrated Theme Tests	0-618-08466-5	2
Integrated Theme Tests (student)	0-618-09298-6	38
Box of Transparencies	0-618-07515-1	3
Set of Audio Tapes		2
Reader's Library	0-618-08273-5	2
Reader's Library Blackline Masters	0-618-06714-0	6
Lesson Planning Support	0-618-16519-3	4
Teacher's Resource Blackline Masters	0-618-07531-3	7
T.E. Practice Book	0-618-38490-1	4
Practice Book	0-618-06456-7	20
Miscellaneous Support Books		10 +

**Houghton Mifflin 3rd Grade Math Series:**

Book	ISBN	Quantity
Textbook	0-618-27720-X	86 copies
Teacher Edition		12 copies

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

**C. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences**

**1. Approval of Professional Development**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the attached list of requests for professional development and corresponding costs.

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

**D. Resolution – Superintendent Salary Caps**

**1. Adoption of Resolution – Superintendent Salary Caps**

On the motion of Ms. Denise Rawding seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board adopts the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION Regarding Superintendent Salary Caps Amending  
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that as part of his Reform Agenda “Cutting Costs and Directing Dollars to the Classroom,” New Jersey Governor Christie proposed capping education administrator pay to bring superintendent salaries in line with district needs;”

**WHEREAS**, the salary caps have had a chilling effect on the statutory authority of Boards of Education to fix salaries of their Superintendents (N.J.S.A 18A:17-19) as well as on nearly 70% of Superintendents in this State whose existing contracts were negatively affected by the CAP;

**WHEREAS**, the signatories to this Resolution urge the Governor and County Superintendents to increase regulatory flexibility to ensure that our districts continue to be led by highly competent administrators;

**WHEREAS**; the current Superintendent Salary CAP regulations are currently set to sunset on November 25, 2016;

**WHEREAS**; the current CAP structure does not account for legitimate cost savings such as position consolidation and shared services and an increasingly number of statutorily tenured school employees will be less inclined to assume Superintendent vacancies at salary CAP;

**WHEREAS**; school board budgets are already capped at 2% of the local tax levy and caps on salaries are an unnecessary restriction and further erosion of local control as Superintendent contracts are already highly restricted and subject to County review and approval;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**; in light of recent Superintendent searches resulting in a demonstrated field of less experienced applicants, the signatories to this Resolution urge the Executive Branch to amend the Accountability Regulations and allow local school boards flexibility to design compensation packages for their Superintendents that attract the best talent and experience; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**; local school boards should be permitted to exceed the salary CAP structure to account for added responsibilities, position consolidation/sharing and legitimate cost of living increases similar to other public entities whose leaders are not affected by such limiting salary CAPS.

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

## E. Superintendent's Anti-Bullying Report

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

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board accepts and affirms the Superintendent's monthly report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.

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

## F. Special Education

### 1. Approval of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Support

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Support for student 000875, effective March, 2013 through June, 2013 at the Mountain Way School at a total cost of \$131.25 (\$17.50/hour x 30 minutes/week x 15 weeks). Services provided by Theresa Udall.

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

### Discussion Items:

- A. **New Business** – The Board discussed the proposal of 8 Professional Development half days.
- B. **Old Business** - none

### Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** The Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** The Board of Education adjourns to closed session at 9:20pm to discuss: (select one or more)

- 1) a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law;
- 2) a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds;
- 3) material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;
- 4) a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it;
- 5) a matter involved the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds;
- 6) protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law;
- 7) pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege;
- 8) specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session;
- 9) deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss;

**RESOLVED,** the Board may take action at the conclusion of executive session, and be it further, **Resolved,** The minutes of this closed session will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

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

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

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of education to return to the regular session of the Board of Education meeting from the closed session 10:30pm.

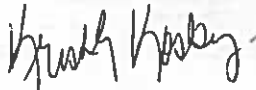
Mr. Alan Albin – absent	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Ms. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Ms. Lucia Galdi - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe – absent	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

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

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 10:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Kosky  
Board Secretary