

PREPARING ALL LEARNERS TO EXCEL IN A CHANGING WORLD

Morris Plains Board of Education Special Meeting – Board Retreat January 12, 2013

The Morris Plains Community Center, Jim Fear Drive, Morris Plains, NJ 07950

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 9:00am 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, Ms. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Ms. Lucia Galdi, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mrs. Maria Manley, Mr. Douglas McCabe and Ms. Denise Rawding
Also present: Dr. Ernest Palestis and Mrs. Kristin Kosky

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Board of Education Retreat

1. Strategic Plan as a Living Document – The Board began the retreat by reviewing the Minutes of September 17, 2011. Dr. Palestis highlighted all of the accomplishments from the last year. He summarized how the district is moving in the correct direction. It was mentioned that the impact of development affects the schools both in the short term and the long term. It was emphasized how the meeting minutes will become a living document for the district as it continues to grow.

2. New Evaluation Process in New Jersey – Dr. Palestis briefly summarized the new teacher evaluation model for next year. The evaluation will include student achievement and test scores. The district has chosen the Silver Strong evaluation which uses corner stones and building blocks. The Board reviewed the handouts with sample documents used for the evaluation process.

3. Professional Growth as Board Members – Dr. Palestis discussed with the Board that the New Jersey School Board offers a certification for Board Members to become either Certified Board Members or Master Board Members. The Board discussed how they could utilize the strengths of the Board Members without everyone getting these certifications. New Jersey School Boards will be offering the County Meeting as an opportunity for Professional Growth for Board Members as well as workshops.

4. Board Goals – The Board Members reviewed the Strategic Planning Goals as follows:

1. To maximize individual student achievement.
2. Increase revenue and decrease costs in order to reduce burden on

- local taxpayers and maximize educational funding.
3. Broaden stakeholder's knowledge of our vision and increase their personal investment in our vision.
 4. Improve the use of technology in the district.

5. Our District "Brand" – Past Board President, Ms. Lee Connor presented to the Board Our District "Brand". Ms. Connor shared with the Board information that had been reviewed at the New Jersey School Boards Convention.

The Board listed all of the district's current "Brands" for review and discussion as follows:

- Partnership
- Administration and Staff
- Intergenerational
- Family oriented /Professional
- Take Care of the kids
- High test scores/ small class sizes
- Friendly
- Hometown school/ clean wholesome and safe
- Safe nurturing environment to grow
- Private School Education/ Public School Setting
- High Achieving
- Mutual Respect
- Willing to look forward/ make changes.
- School District of Caring

6. Board Self-Evaluation Process – The Board reviewed the attached handout.

The Board reviewed the Strategic Planning Process status; discussed the action plans and reached a consensus for Board goals as follows:

1. Complete Strategic Plan document
2. Complete 5 Year Plan with reserve calculations and demographics
3. Evaluate Choice Program
4. Brand Work and Communication
5. No back sliding- ensuring a smooth transition of administration, staff and programs.

Adjournment

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe, seconded by Ms. Lee Connor, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at noon.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Kosky
Board Secretary