

PREPARING ALL LEARNERS TO EXCEL IN A CHANGING WORLD

Morris Plains Board of Education Special Meeting – Board Retreat – October 8, 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 7:30pm 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. Scott Bober (via Skype), Mrs. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Ms. Lucia Galdi, Mrs. Terri Kaag and Ms. Denise Rawding

Absent: Mr. Alan Albin, Mrs. Maria Manley and Mr. Douglas McCabe

Also present: Mr. Mark Maire and Dr. Warren Ceurvels

Number of public attending: 2

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Board of Education Retreat: Board of Education/District Goals

The Board is using the Strategic Plan as a roadmap for setting goals.

Mr. Mark Maire spoke about the School Choice program. The district received 24 applications and 11 dropped out this year. The district is scheduled for 15 (13 +2) for next year. Expect a 5% growth factor. Mark will discuss with Superintendents from Morris County. We will be evaluating the progress of Choice students. Mrs. Terri Kaag asked what the district is doing to attract students for the three open seats. We will be sending out communications to local communities.

Board Goals:

1. Student Goals/Student Growth Objectives
2. The Board Self-improvement – Mrs. Terri Kaag suggested that the Board attend workshops. The Board needs to make a commitment to improve and sharpen themselves. Mr. Scott Bober pointed out that the Board needs an understanding of what is going on in our district vs. what is going on in the County and State. Mrs. Lee Connor discussed that detailed written committee reports are needed (ie. Finance). Dr. Warren Ceurvels stated that at the last three meetings, the Finance Committee notes were reported and incorporated into the regular Board meetings. Ms. Lee Connor wants more detail perhaps from the committee chairperson. The activities of Board members should be towards professional growth tied to the goals of the district.

Mr. Mark Maire questioned the Board concerning whether the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm would be a good time for the Finance Committee to meet. In addition, would 4:30pm be okay for the Education Committee. The Board agreed.

3. Student Achievement – What role does the Board play? Are there any gaps in the data? What can the Board do to close that gap? Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston stated that the entire Board should be aware of the data. Mrs. Fetherston further stated that the Board needs to be looking ahead 1 to 2 years. Mr. Mark Maire stated that learning to analyze student data helps to make better decisions.
4. The Board needs to create or find more sources or opportunities to bring in revenue to support programs.

Next step: Each Committee should address and establish a list of priorities by the end of November.

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Adjournment

On the motion of Ms. Lee Connor, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Warren S. Ceurvels
Board Secretary