

**Morris Plains Board of Education Meeting
December 17, 2013
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 7:00pm 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, Mrs. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Ms. Lucia Galdi, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mrs. Maria Manley and Ms. Denise Rawding
Absent: Mr. Alan Albin and Mr. Douglas McCabe
Also present: Mr. Mark Maire and Dr. Warren Ceurvels
Number of public attending: 3

Executive Session

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag, seconded by Ms. Lee Connor, the Board approves 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 7:01pm to discuss a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it and specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session;

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

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag, 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 at 7:30pm.

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

Annual Audit – Presentation of the 2012-2013 Annual Audit by Nisivoccia LLP – Mr. Ray Sarinelli Sr. and Mr. Ray Sarinelli Jr.

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - Ms. Laurie Fu addressed the Board and congratulated them on the clean audit. She also thanked Ms. Lee Connor for her dedication and support for the district. Ms. Fu also suggested changing the Re-organization Meeting to Monday, January 6, 2014 so as not to conflict with the Swearing-in Ceremony for the Borough of Morris Plains.

Student Council Update –Student Council Officers – cancelled

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Mark Maire reported the following to the Board:

- No Incidences of HIB to report at this time.
- Enrollment Numbers: Mountain Way (217), Borough (419) = Total (636)
- December is a busy month, filled with holiday spirit. There were many wonderful school programs and activities such as a dance, holiday shop, and winter concerts at each school.
- Please save the date of December 19th for our Borough School grade 5 and winter band and choral concert. I would like to thank Mr. Hilton, Mrs. Lewis, and all our band and chorus students for their time, dedication, and talents. We are excited for the performance.
- School Choice Update - 8 applications for 3 Kindergarten seats. Two seats will be filled with Tier 1 students. We will conduct a lottery on Thursday, December 19th to fill the final seat.
- 12-13 Violence, Vandalism, Substance Abuse Report was recent released to the public. Proud to report that Morris Plains School District does not have any incidences reported to the Department of Education. We will continue to strive to make our schools an optimal, safe learning environment for our students.
- Registration will open for our preschool classes in Mountain Way on January 15th. The program is available for Morris Plains residents who are three or four years old.
- Recently, staff received training from Deirdre House, center for Morris County's Child Victims. Training included recognition of the signs of child abuse and improve the ability to identify abuse, as well reporting laws and procedures.
- On Wednesday, December 11th, we had an extremely productive Professional Development session for staff. We had several presenters, including breakout sessions. Presenters discussed literacy strategies to support the Common Core; and introduced staff to resources and sample questions in preparation for PARCC. Administration is currently working on a PARCC presentation for parents. We will share more information about the workshop with members of the school community in the spring.
- I would like to thank Mrs. Lee Connor for her years of service as a member of the Board of Education for the Morris Plains School District. In my short time in the district, I have observed firsthand Mrs. Connor's commitment to the school community. Specifically, her work to stay abreast with local and state legislation. Her motivation and drive to make sure the board remained a strong governance body, to make decisions that were not always easy, but with the best interest of the district in mind. On behalf of the school district, I thank you, Lee, for your time, dedication, work, and contribution to the district.
- This is the last board meeting in 2013. I wish all of you a safe, happy, and health holiday season and a Happy New Year! Be well and enjoy the time with your loved ones.

Business Administrator's Report – Dr. Warren Ceurvels reported the following:

- The District was awarded a Rod Grant of \$173,480 out of \$48.2 million statewide.
- Dr. Ceurvels met with the Administrative Staff on the budget roll-out due back on January 15, 2014.
- Dr. Ceurvels will submit the mid-year budget review responses to Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston on January 29, 2014.
- Dr. Ceurvels compiled negotiations information for the Board Attorney.

Correspondence - none

Board Committee Status Reports:

Finance/Buildings and Grounds – Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston reported on the meeting held on November 29, 2013 (See attached report).

Curriculum and Instruction – Mrs. Terri Kaag reported (See attached report).

Legislative – Ms. Lee Connor reported the following:

- The Board will be negotiating the Superintendent’s contract
- The Board should support continuation of employee contributions towards benefits
- When contacting legislators regarding unfunded mandates we need to supply supporting documentation

Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC) – Mrs. Terri Kaag attended the December 4, 2013 meeting. She is happy with the new website (See attached report).

Morris School District – Ms. Lucia Galdi reported that interviews are being conducted for the Frelinghuysen School Principal. The Morris School District is among 10th in the State of NJ for HIB incidents. Mrs. Maria Manley asked what the district is doing about HIB after incidents are reported.

Personnel – Ms. Lee Connor reported on the following:

- New maternity leaves
- Articulation of Science Teachers with Morris School District
- Incident with Custodian
- Budget – Staffing
- Staff Leadership
- Technology Committee
- Grade inflation and rigors
- AESOP has been difficult

Policy Updates – none

Liaison Committees (Reports if Available)

- Morris Plains Home and School Association (MPHSA) - none
- Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Committee (MPMAC) - none
- Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP) - none
- Strategic Planning Committees - none

Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes - tabled

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____, the Board approves the following Minutes:

November 26, 2013 – Regular Meeting.
November 26, 2013 - Executive

Roll Call: AA ___ SB ___ LC ___ CF ___ LG ___ TK ___ MM ___ DMc ___ DR ___

Business Items Prepared for Official Action on December 17, 2013:

A. Personnel (upon the recommendation of the Superintendent) - *The following motions are of a routine nature, noncontroversial, and will be voted on in one motion.*

1. Approval of Retirement – Kindergarten Teacher, Mountain Way School

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves a retirement request from Marcy Schneider, Kindergarten Teacher at Mountain Way School, effective July 1, 2014.

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 Family Leave Request – Kindergarten Teacher, Mountain Way School

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves a family leave request for Stephanie Lemmey, Kindergarten Teacher at Mountain Way School as follows:

March 31, 2014 – May 23, 2014	35 Days	Paid Sick Days
May 26, 2014 – June 30, 2014		Family Leave Act (Unpaid Days)

Mrs. Lemmey anticipates returning on September 1, 2014.

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 3rd Grade Teacher (Family Leave Replacement) – Borough School

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves Felicia Politi as 3rd Grade Teacher at the Borough School (family leave replacement – Mrs. Hendershot), effective March 17, 2014 through June 30, 2014 at a salary of \$50,395 (BA, Step 1 – to be prorated). There are no benefits with this position. The Board also approves Felicia Politi as substitute teacher for two days on March 13 and March 14, 2014 at a per diem rate of \$100.00.

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

4. Approval of Special Education Teacher (Family Leave Replacement) – Borough School

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves Lindsey Irwin (Emergent Hire, pending results of criminal background history) as Special Education Teacher at the Borough School (family leave replacement – Mrs. Deeb), effective January 8, 2014 through May 23, 2014 at a salary of \$50,395 (BA, Step 1 – to be prorated). There are no benefits with this position. The Board also approves Lindsey Irwin as substitute teacher for two days, on January 6 and January 7, 2014 at a per diem rate of \$100.00.

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

5. Amend the Motion of November 12, 2013: Approval of Title I After School Program Coordinators (2)

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board amends the approval of the Title I After School Program Coordinators effective September 30, 2013 through May 30, 2014 at a stipend of \$2,034 each prorated. The prorated amount is December 1, 2013 – May 30, 2014 - 6 months x \$254.25 = \$1525.50: Beth Shepard – Mountain Way; Jane Hurley-Mead - Borough

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 - The following motions are of a routine nature, noncontroversial, and will be voted on in one motion.

1. Approve Bills and Claims Report/Disbursement Journal

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report/disbursement journal dated December 10, 2013 in the amount of \$350,288.71.

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 Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, 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
11/30/2013	General Fund	\$271,724.22

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. Annual Audit – Acceptance and Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2012-2013

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Morris Plains School District Board of Education after presentation and discussion, accepts the annual audit, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of Finances and Management(CAFR) report for the district accounts for fiscal year 2012/2013 without recommendation. Be it resolved: that the school business administrator is directed to file copies of this audit with the New Jersey Department of Education via the County Office and the offices for National Recognized Municipal Securities Information Repository as required by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (since the district has outstanding debt services bonds).

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 Send/Receive Agreement with Morris School District – 2013-2014

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves a Sending/Receiving Agreement between the Morris Plains Board of Education and the Morris School District Board of Education effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 as per the attached.

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. Approval of Shared Services Agreement with the Morris School District – Special Education Services

On the motion of Ms. Lucia Galdi seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves a Shared Services Agreement with the Morris School District for Special Education Services for student #2614328942, effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 as per attached.

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. Superintendent’s Anti-Bullying Report - The following motion is of a routine nature, noncontroversial, and will be voted on in one motion.

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

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mrs. Terri Kaag, 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

D. Curriculum - The following motion is of a routine nature, noncontroversial, and will be voted on in one motion.

1. Approve Library Media Curriculum - tabled

On the motion of _____ seconded by _____, the Board approves the Library Media Curriculum as per the attached.

Roll Call: AA ___ SB ___ LC ___ CF ___ LG ___ TK ___ MM ___ DMc ___ DR ___

E. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences - The following motion is of a routine nature, noncontroversial, and will be voted on in one motion.

1. Approval of Professional Development

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mrs. Terri Kaag, 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

Discussion Items:

A. New Business - Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston thanked Ms. Lee Connor for her service to the Board, the County and the State. Mr. Scott Bober asked if everyone read the teacher's contract. Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston asked for a new contract for Mr. Dennis McKeever for the Negotiations.

B. Old Business - none

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Adjournment

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley, seconded by Ms. Lee Connor, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm.

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

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Warren S. Ceurvels
Board Secretary