

**Morris Plains Board of Education
Minutes of the Public Meeting – May 6, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Borough School Learning Center**

District Goals - 2013-2014

Board Governance

- Self-improvement through workshops that relate to Strategic Plan and/or Board Goals.
- Commitment to Board obligations, Board meeting attendance and committee meeting attendance.
- Strengthen committee communication by publishing agendas and minutes.

Student Achievement

- Analyze data to determine where support is needed for administration and staff to improve student achievement.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Find alternative sources of funding to support activities - income or cost savings opportunities.
- Implement process to coordinate use of funds with outside groups

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. Alan Albin, Mr. Scott Bober, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Ms. Lucia Galdi, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mrs. Maria Manley (arrived at 7:11pm), and Ms. Denise Rawding (arrived at 7:12pm)

Absent: Mr. Francis Foley and Mr. Douglas McCabe

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

Number of public attending: 7

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations

Ms. Suzanne Schafer- Skalski of the Education Foundation of Morris Plains read a letter (see attached copy). Ms. Lee Connor reaffirmed that Ms. Schafer- Skalski is speaking for the Education Foundation Board. The Morris Plains School Board needs to focus on the direction of the Foundation. Mrs. Terri Kaag said the Morris Plains School Board will do everything possible to see that the Foundation Board moves forward. Mr. Mark Maire asked when the Education Foundation Board meets again – early June.

Ms. Cynthia Fetherston introduced Dr. Karen Cortellino, President of the Morris County School Boards Association. Dr. Cortellino presented the Master Board Member award to Mrs. Terri Kaag.

Presentation – Hearing on the 2014-2015 School Budget

Correspondence - none

Business Items Prepared for Official Action on May 6, 2014:

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

Final School Budget - 2014-2015

1. Approve Submission of the Final 2014-2015 School Budget

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mr. Alan Albin, the Morris Plains Board of Education approves the following resolution of the 2014-2015 final budget.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains School Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves the 2014-2015 school district budget as follows:

General Fund	\$16,049,702
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 136,700
Debt Service Fund	\$ 543,350

and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there should be raised for the General Fund \$14,444,951 and Debt Service \$543,350 for the ensuing School Year (2014-2015); and

WHEREAS, the district has a taxing authority which is composed of \$118,210 for health benefits adjustment from the 2013-2014 budget, \$0.00 for enrollment adjustment, \$0.00 for PERS Deferment, and \$34,113 banked levy from the 2012-2013 budget are available to the district for the school budget for 2014-2015 in addition to the 2% cap increase over the prior year which totals \$283,234.00 resulting in a maximum district tax levy available of \$14,597,274

WHEREAS, The Board has approved that there should be raised for the General Fund a tax levy of \$14,444.951 for the ensuing School Year (2014-2015).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves that the unused taxing authority of \$115,323.00 be banked for potential use in the subsequent three fiscal years.

WHEREAS, school district policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(a) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2014-2015 school year; and

WHEREAS, maximum expenditure amount allotted for travel and expense reimbursement for the 2014-2015 school year was \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, travel and expense reimbursement has reached a total amount \$20,843.69 as of February 1, 2014;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains School Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2014-2015 school year at the sum of \$30,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

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

1a. Approve Adoption Submission of the 2014-2015 Final School Budget

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mr. Alan Albin, Morris Plains Board of Education approves the following resolution of the 2014-2015 final budget.

BE IT RESOLVED that the final budget be approved for the 2014-2015 School Year using the 2014-2015 state aid figures:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2014-2015 Total Expenditures	16,049,702	136,700	543,350	16,729,752
Less: Anticipated Revenues	1,604,751	136,700	0	1,741,451
Taxes to be Raised	14,444,951	0	543,350	14,988,301

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Daily Record in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Borough School Learning Center, Morris Plains Borough School, Morris Plains, New Jersey on May 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2014-2015 School Year.

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

1b. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursements

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mr. Alan Albin, the Board approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board of Education Policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b) provides that the board of education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2014-2015 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2014-2015 school year at a sum of \$30,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

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

1c. Professional Expenses

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mr. Alan Albin, the Board approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves Professional Services for the school year 2014-2015:

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 (a) mandates boards to establish annually prior to budget preparation, for public relations and each type of professional service a maximum level of spending for the ensuing school year; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget includes the following appropriations

Legal	\$ 50,000
Auditor	\$ 27,000
Architect	\$ 7,500
Professional Development	\$ 15,000
Transportation	\$ 5,000
Other Services	\$133,663
Repair Services	\$ 99,381
Related Services	<u>\$652,038</u>
Total	\$989,582

WHEREAS, the administration needs to notice the board if there arises a need to exceed said maximums, upon which the board may adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal board action; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Administration wishes to minimize the amount of paperwork involved in this area;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education establishes maximums for professional services listed above at a level of 120% of the amounts listed for the 2014-2015 school year.

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

1d. Tax Authority & Banked Cap:

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mr. Alan Albin, the Board approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves tax authority and banking of cap:

2014-2015 school year composed of \$118,210 for health benefits adjustment from the 2013-2014 budget and \$34,113 2014 from the 2012-2013 budget in addition to the 2% increase over the prior year which totals \$152,323 resulting in a maximum tax levy available of \$14,597,274.

BE IT RESOLVED, that there should be raised for the General Fund a tax levy of \$14,444,951 for the ensuing School Year (2014-2015).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the unused taxing authority of \$152,323 will be banked for potential use in the subsequent three fiscal years.

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

Executive Session

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley, seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, 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 8:05pm to discuss 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.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Return to Regular Session from Closed Session

On the motion of Ms. Denise Rawding, 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 10:10pm

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Adjournment

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 10:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Warren S. Ceurvels
Board Secretary