

**Morris Plains Board of Education
Public Meeting – February 28, 2012
Mountain Way School Media 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. Lee Connor, Board President, opened the meeting at 6:35pm 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 – Mrs. Lee Connor welcomed everyone.

Present: Mr. Scott Bober, Mrs. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mrs. Maria Manley, Mr. Wayne Marek, Mr. Douglas McCabe and Ms. Denise Rawding

Absent: Mr. Alan Albin

Also present: Dr. Ernie Palestis, Mrs. Alice E. Bresett, and Ms. Lindsay Nahm

Number of public attending: 9

Executive Session

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education to recess this public meeting and enter into closed session at 6:36pm, where the public will be excluded, for the purpose of discussing personnel items which come within the provisions of NJSA 10:4-12, Chap. 231 of P.L. 1975. The matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public when circumstances permit.

Return to Regular Session from Closed Session (if necessary)

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, 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.

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Ernest Palestis

Dr. Palestis welcomed and thanked everyone. He reported on the State Aid and said the district would receive an increase of \$97,412. The district will lose Title I funding and possibly some or all of Title II funding. He reported that State Aid is still down from the 2009-2010 funding. We will be receiving restitution for the vandalism of the shed - \$572. Dr. Palestis thanked Ms. Lindsay Nahm for the staff development. Ms. Nahm was able to get colleagues from Clinton Township to conduct the teacher in-service. He also reported that teacher web-pages will be ready for September. The 6th Grade Gifted and Talented will be doing a mock trial of the Titanic. Judge Carlucci will be assisting them. Dr. Palestis and Ms. Alice Bresett will be meeting with Assemblyman Jay Webber concerning funding issues. On March 13, 2012, Dr. Palestis will be doing a presentation on School Choice. On March 27, 2012, there will be the budget hearing and Kindergarten Registration will take place March 27-29, 2012.

Integrated Preschool Program –

The Board meeting moved to the Pre-K room. Dr. Palestis introduced Ms. Jennifer Simms. Ms. Simms demonstrated the Smart Table and gave a tour of the Pre-K room (hands on) from 7:55pm-8:15pm.

Board Committee Status Reports

Finance/Buildings and Grounds – Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston reported (minutes are attached).

Curriculum and Instruction – Mrs. Terri Kaag reported (minutes are attached) about the concerns with the YMCA, reviewing math texts, and alignment of curriculum. The next Curriculum meeting is March 1, 2012 at 4:15pm.

Morris School District – Mrs. Terri Kaag reported that MSD is planning to purchase new Mandarin 4 Textbooks and they will be implementing a new one-one program in which every 7th grader will receive an I-Pad.

Legislative – Mr. Wayne Marek reported about “Fix America’s Schools Today”. Mr. Marek will contact Rodney Frelinghuysen’s office to set up a time for Mr. Frelinghuysen to visit Morris Plains schools. Mrs. Lee Connor reported that the MCSBA meeting featuring Senator J. Doherty as a speaker was well attended.

Personnel – Mrs. Lee Connor reported that our documentation for the personnel portion of our QSAC monitoring is up to speed.

Policy Updates – The new chairperson for Policy is Ms. Denise Rawding. She reported that there are only two policies left on the critical list.

Liaison Committees

--**Morris Plains Home and School Association (MPHSA) –** Mrs. Karen Dovano reported that Science Night will be held on March 15, 2012 at Borough School.

--**Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Committee (MPMAC) –** no report

--**Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP) –** The Foundation will provide a \$1000 Teacher grant and \$250 towards the Sound System.

--**Strategic Planning Committees –** State of the Schools met once and there was a great turnout for the meeting which included 18 people (about half from the community and half teachers). Mrs. Lee Connor reported on the State of the Community and a survey will be distributed to the community.

Approval of the Board of Education Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the following Minutes:

- February 14, 2012 – Executive Session
- February 14, 2012 – Public Meeting

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

Business Items Prepared for Official Action on February 28, 2012:

A. Personnel (upon the recommendation of the Superintendent) – no items.

B. Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Purchasing/Contracts

1. Approve Line Item Transfers

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves line item transfers dated February 28, 2012 in the amount of \$31,929 (attached).

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

2. Approve Bills and Claims Report

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report dated February 28, 2012 in the amount of \$568,811.18.

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

3. Approve Payroll Distribution

Motion by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston 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
February 15, 2012	General Fund	\$259,829.34
	Special Revenue	\$ 224.20
February 29, 2012	General Fund	\$244,734.23
	Special Revenue	\$ 244.20

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

4. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports For The Period Ending January 31, 2012

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the Certification from the Board Secretary that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAS 18A:17-9, further that District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports upon consultation with the appropriate district personnel, certifies that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of NJAS 18A:17-36, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District Board of Education's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and that therefore it is recommended that the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2012 to be approved.

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

5. Approve Business Administrator/Board Secretary as Qualified Purchasing Agent

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding the Board approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3a, permits a board of education to authorize its purchasing agent to award contracts that do not exceed in a contract year the annual limit as established by the Governor, and

WHEREAS, local boards of education have been advised by the Local Finance Board through that the Governor has authorized the following bid and quotation thresholds effective July 1, 2010,

	Bid Threshold	Quotation Threshold
Base Amount	\$17,500	\$2,625
With Qualified Purchasing Agent	\$36,000	\$5,400

WHEREAS, Alice Bresett possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Morris Plains Board of Education desires to increase the bid threshold as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, in the State of New Jersey hereby increases its bid threshold to \$36,000 and its quotation threshold to \$5,400 and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints Alice Bresett as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2b, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Board of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2 the Board of Education Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Alice Bresett's certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

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

6. Approve Submission of the 2012-2013 School Budget

On the motion of Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Morris Plains Board of Education approves the following resolution and submission of the 2012-2013 proposed budget to the County Office for approval.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains School Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves the 2012-2013 school district budget for submission to the county superintendent as follows:

General Fund	\$14,994,161
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 144,211
Debt Service Fund	\$ 555,100

and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there should be raised for the General Fund \$13,884,036 and Debt Service \$545,458 for the ensuing School Year (2012-2013); and

WHEREAS, the district has a taxing authority which is composed of \$0.00 for health benefits adjustment, \$0.00 for enrollment adjustment, \$0.00 for PERS Deferment, and \$23,599 banked levy from previous budgets are available to the district for the school budget for 2012-2013 in addition to

the 2% cap increase over the prior year which totals \$23,599 resulting in a maximum district tax levy available of \$13,941,748.

WHEREAS, The Board has approved that there should be raised for the General Fund a tax levy of \$13,884,036 for the ensuing School Year (2012-2013).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves that the unused taxing authority of \$57,712 be banked for potential use in the subsequent three fiscal years.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves the withdrawal of \$143,825 from the Capital Reserve to provide funding for the following Projects:

Conversion of Storage to Classroom Space – Mt. Way	\$81,500
Partial Roof Replacement – Mt. Way	\$62,325

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 2012-2013 school year; and

WHEREAS, maximum expenditure amount allotted for travel and expense reimbursement for the 2011-2012 school year was \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, travel and expense reimbursement has reached a total amount \$9,394 as of February 1, 2012;

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 2012-2013 school year at the sum of \$25,000; 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 – absent	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe - yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

C. Special Education

1. Approve Speech and Language Therapy

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves speech and language therapy, provided by the Morris County Educational Services Commission, for the following students, effective February, 2012 through June, 2012 at a total cost of \$1,536.00:

Student 001024	Student 001192
Student 001018	Student 001085
Student 001071	Student 001073

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

2. Approve Behaviorist Observation, Assessment and Staff Training

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves behaviorist observation, assessment and staff training for student 000092, effective February, 2012 at the Borough School at a total cost of \$1,500. Services to be provided by Progressive Therapy of NJ, 1 Meredith Court, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438.

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

3. Approve Clinical Psychological Evaluation

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves a clinical psychological evaluation for student 000851, effective February, 2012 at the Center for Child and Family Development, 145 Washington Street, Morristown, NJ 07960 at a total cost of \$865.00

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

4. Approve Psychiatric Evaluation

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves a psychiatric evaluation for student 000092 effective February, 2012 a total cost of \$500.00. Services to be provided by Dr. Lee Suckno, 170 East Main Street, Suite 202, Rockaway, NJ 07866

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

5. Approve Psychiatric Evaluation

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves a psychiatric evaluation for student 000120 effective February, 2012 a total cost of \$500.00. Services to be provided by Dr. Lee Suckno, 170 East Main Street, Suite 202, Rockaway, NJ 07866

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

D. Curriculum

Ms. Lindsay Nahm reported that the curricula has been realigned to the current standards. Mrs. Connor thanked Ms. Nahm.

1. Approval of Curricula

On the motion of Ms. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board approves the following curricula:

Social Studies
World Language
Visual Performing Arts

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

E. Superintendent’s Anti-Bullying Report

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

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mr. Douglas McCabe, the Board accepts and affirms the Superintendent’s monthly report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. (copy attached)

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

F. Policy

1. Policies for First Reading

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves, on first reading, the following policies:

Policy # 3570 District Records and Reports
 Policy # 6171.2 Gifted and Talented

There was discussion on the number of days to retain the tapes. Consensus was to retain for 45 days.

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

2. Policies for Second Reading

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board adopts, on second reading, the following policies:

Policy # 5114 Suspension and Expulsion
 Policy # 5131 Conduct and Discipline

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

There was a discussion on the number of days to retain tapes. 45 days.

G. Donation/Purchase of Sound System for Borough School

1. Accept Donation from the Morris Plains HSA in the amount of \$12,981.91(Sound System for Borough School)

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board accepts a gift in the amount of \$12,981.91 from the Morris Plains HSA to be used toward the purchase of the new sound system for Borough School and to move the existing sound system and install it at Mountain Way School.

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

2. Approve Purchase of Sound System for Borough School

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves the purchase of a new sound system for Borough School from PanAVid Inc., Pompton Plains, NJ, in the amount of \$21,366.91 for installation during the week of April 2nd, 2012. PanAVid will also move the existing sound system from Borough School and install it at Mountain Way School. Cost of this service will be \$1,615. Installation will also be scheduled for the week of April 2nd, 2012. Funds will be made available through the Student Activity Fund.

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

H. Fundraiser – 6th Grade Camping Trip

1. Approve Creation of the 6th Grade Camping Trip DVD

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves the creation of a 6th grade camping drip DVD to raise funds for the 6th Grade Camping Trip. Ms. Kim Romano and Mrs. Greik will create the DVD which will cost \$25.00. If the organizers do not receive preorder payments for at least half of the students in the 6th grade, the DVDs will not be made, and the preorder money collected will be returned to those families.

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

A discussion was held on if a sign-off sheet would be needed.

I. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences

1. Approve Professional Development

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves the attached list of requests for professional development and corresponding costs.

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

J. Approve Substitute Rates

On the motion of Mrs. Terri Kaag seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves the following substitute rates for the 2012-2013 school year:

Substitute Position	Rate	New/Same
Certified Teacher Substitute	\$100.00/day	New Rate
Other Teacher Substitute	\$ 90.00/day	New Rate
Nurse	\$150.00/day	New Rate
Secretary	\$ 85.00/day	Same
Aide	\$ 85.00/day	Same
Custodian	\$ 12.50/hour	Same

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

Discussion Items:

A. New Business - none

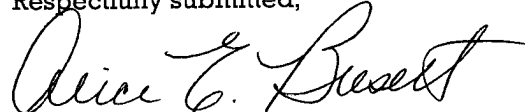
B. Old Business - Financial Disclosure Reminder

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Adjournment

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe, seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Alice E. Bresett
Board Secretary