

**Morris Plains Board of Education  
Public Meeting December 11, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.  
Borough School Auditorium**

**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 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. Alan Albin, Mr. Scott Bober, Mrs. Lee Connor, Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mrs. Maria Manley, Mr. Wayne Marek, Mr. Douglas McCabe (arrived at 8:10pm) and Ms. Denise Rawding

*Also present:* Dr. Ernest Palestis, Mrs. Kristin Kosky and Mr. Sean Dolan

*Number of public attending:* 75

**Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none**

**Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Palestis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and he had a surprise that was not listed on the agenda. Tonight, the Board would be honoring Mr. Wayne Marek for his years of service on the Board. Shortly after the presentation, Mr. Wayne Marek presented a check to the Morris Plains Education Foundation in honor of his father, Cornelius Marek.

Dr. Palestis praised the Morris Plains Education Foundation for going above and beyond. He commended the organization efforts for working with the district being awarded the BASF Corporation Grants. The grants from BASF would be for Art Digital Microscopes, handheld MiScopes, Salt Water Aquarium/Seining Nets and a laptop. The Morris Plains Education Foundation is working to raise funds for the district and a fundraiser is planned for February 1, 2013 at the Bretton Woods.

In addition, the Strategic Planning Committees are reorganizing in January. Details will be posted on the website.

**Student Accomplishments/Performances**

**--Select Chorus – Grades 5 - 8**

**--Morris County Champions – Girls Soccer**

**--Third Grade Students – Thanksgiving Play** – Mr. Sean Dolan recognized the

Third Grade Students and Staff. The play included curriculum, best practice and community involvement.

**Staff Presentation - Working and Communicating with Our Peers**

**--Naomi Pochettino, Teacher, Special Education**

**--Kimberly Moore, Intern – School Counselor**

**Staff Recognition – BASF Science Education Grant**

**--Suzanne Schafer Skalski, President, Education Foundation of Morris Plains**

--Edward Frankosky  
--Casey Devlin

**Board Committee Status Reports**

**Finance/Buildings and Grounds** – Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston reported that the committee met before the Board meeting to review maintenance projects, boiler repairs, roof projects, cabinets, Christmas install, telephone, fiber network, saving, security, nursing, Gov Deals, transportation, budget, agenda items and the Long Range Facility Plan.

**Curriculum and Instruction** – Mrs. Terri Kaag reported that the committee met on December 5, 2012 to discuss the Special Education Update, Teach NJ, School Brains, K-4 reports, student achievement goals, measuring up, World Language and Physical Education curriculum status. In addition, there was a discussion of Technology Benchmarks, Professional Development, PLC's and Nooks.

**Legislative** – Mr. Wayne Marek reported that a Task Force meeting would be held.

**Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC)** – Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston reported that the meeting included staff changes and a school visit.

**Morris School District** – Mr. Alan Albin reported that the committee did not meet.

**Personnel** – Ms. Lee Connor reported that the committee discussed agenda items and Chief School Administrator search.

**Policy Updates** – Ms. Denise Rawding reported that the committee met and discussed the Attendance Policy.

**Liaison Committees (Reports if Available) -**

- Morris Plains Home and School Association (MPHSA) – no report
- Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Committee (MPMAC) – no report
- Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP) - no report
- Strategic Planning Committees – The committee will circulate letters for requesting Action Committee's representatives. We need to have a chairperson for each Committee by January 15, 2013.

**Correspondence**

**Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Mrs. Maria Manley, seconded by Mr. Wayne Marek, the Board approves the following Minutes:

November 27, 2012 – Executive Session

November 27, 2012 – Public Meeting

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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 December 11, 2012:**

**A. Personnel (upon the recommendation of the Superintendent):**

**1 Approve Request for Family Leave – Special Education Teacher – Mountain Way School**

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, The Board approves a request for a Family leave of absence for Mrs. Maria Laboy, Special Education Teacher at Mountain Way School as follows:

March 4, 2013 – April 26, 2013: Paid sick days will be used  
 April 29, 2013 – June 30, 2012: Unpaid Family Leave (NJ Family Leave Act).

It is anticipated that Mrs. Laboy will return on September 1, 2013.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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 Request to Extend Family Leave Request**

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves an extension of a Family Leave for Mrs. Maria Diaz, Spanish Teacher at Borough School as follows:

As per doctor – 8 weeks paid sick time from November 9, 2012 through January 4, 2013  
 Unpaid Family Leave effective January 7, 2013 – Friday, March 1, 2013.

It is anticipated that Ms. Diaz will return on March 4, 2013.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Approval of Substitutes – 2012-2013**

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves the following substitute teacher for the 2012-2013 school year:

Jessica Allen

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Approval of Basketball Officials – 2012-2013**

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves the following basketball officials at a cost of \$55.00/game for the 2012-2013 school year.

Hayward Bailey  
 Jim Behrmann  
 Chris Sotiro  
 Greg Martin  
 Dave Mullen  
 Sylvester Robinson

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Approval of Unpaid Medical Leave – Classroom Aide**

On the motion of Mr. Wayne Marek seconded by Mrs. Maria Manley, the Board approves an extended unpaid medical leave for Nancy Coccia, Classroom Aide, effective January 3, 2013 through June 30, 2013 pending medical authorization.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**B. Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Purchasing/Contracts**

**1. Approve Bills and Claims Report/Disbursement Journal**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report/disbursement journal dated December 11, 2012 in the amount of \$306,715.70.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes (abstain from their check)	Mr. Scott Bober – yes (abstain from their check)	Mrs. Lee Connor - yes (abstain from their check)
Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes (abstain from their check)	Mrs. Maria Manley – yes
Mr. Wayne Marek - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe – yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes (abstain from their check)

**2. Approve Payroll Distribution**

Motion by Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston 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
November 30, 2012	General Fund	\$259,945.53

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Adoption of Resolution: Sequestration – Amend Federal Budget Control Act of 2011**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today’s schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision to impose \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts in almost all federal programs, including education, that would become effective January 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts, also known as “sequestration,” would have a negative impact on education through a reduction in funds of 7.8 percent or more and could result in larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, possible four-day school weeks, loss of extracurricular activities, and teacher and staff lay-offs; and

WHEREAS, sequestration would affect almost every public school system in the nation and the millions of students educated through programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), English Language Acquisition, Career and Technical Education, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers; and

WHEREAS, public schools nationwide would be negatively affected by an estimated \$2.7 billion loss in just three programs alone – Title I grants, IDEA special education state grants and Head Start – that serve a combined total of 30.7 million children; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey already ranks last among the states in the percentage of school expenditures (3.1%) supported by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2013, New Jersey will lose more than \$73 million in funding for elementary and secondary education programs, administered through the U.S. Department of Education, as well as over \$11.7 million in Head Start funding; and

WHEREAS, with a state-imposed tax levy cap and limited growth in state aid, New Jersey local school districts have limited capacity to absorb cuts in funding resulting from sequestration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Plains Board of Education, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey urges Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to United States Senator Robert Menendez, United States Senator Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Representative Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, State Senator Joseph Pennacchio, Assembly Representative Jay Webber, Assembly Representative BettyLou DeCroce, the New Jersey School Boards Association, and the National School Boards Association.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Approval of Contract for Substitute Nurse – 2012-2013 School Year**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a contract with Delta T Group North Jersey Behavioral Healthcare Referral Agency to provide Nursing Substitutes for 2012-2013 school year at a per diem rate as follows:

Nurse (RN) \$41.25 per hour

Nurse (RN) Overnight Rate \$100.00 (flat rate – 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.)

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Approval of Contract for Educational Data Services – 2013-2014 School Year**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves professional services for Educational Data Services, Inc. to provide system conversion of online order system for the district requisition ordering for budget 2013-2014 in the amount of \$1,200.00

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Approval of Maintenance Contract for Handilift**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a contract with Handilift for Maintenance Contract with 4 visits per year for each handicap chair lifts for January 2013-December 2013 in the amount of \$1,408.00.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**7. Approve the Renewal of the Flexible Spending Plan**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves the renewal of the Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with Discovery Benefits. **Be it Resolved** that the board wished to renew this 12 month agreement through January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

**Resolved**, that the Employer shall contribute to the Plan amounts sufficient to meet its obligation under the Cafeteria Plan, in accordance with the terms of the Plan Document and shall notify the Plan Administrator to which periods said contributions shall be applied.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**8. Approval of Smartboards Professional Development**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves professional development Services for Smartboards for staff at \$950.00 per workshop on 1/9, 1/10, 3/14, 3/15 and 4/22 and 4/23 totaling \$5,700 in accordance with NJ State Provider #5927 from Keyboard Consulting.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**9. Accept Donations From Morris Plains Home School Association**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board accepts a donation from the the Morris Plains Home School Association in the amount of \$775.00 for Borough School Student Agendas.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**10. Approval of Telephone Hosting Service**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a 5 year contract based on date of install with Cablevision Lightpath, Inc. (“Lightpath” or “Optimum Lightpath” for Telephone Hosting Service for Borough(C50) and Mountain Way(C30) for Cisco Telephone install and professional services. (Pending Attorney Review and Land Assessment)

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**11. Approval of Fiber& Internet Voice Bundle Hosting Service**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston, the Board approves a 5 year contract with Cablevision Lightpath, Inc. (“Lightpath” or “Optimum Lightpath” from December 12, 2012- December 13, 2017 for Fiber Network Services and Internet/Bundle Voice Telephone for Borough and Mountain Way (terminates prior contract).

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Programs**

**1. Approval of a Request for a New Club at Borough School – Solar Car Club**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves a request (as per Article IV, Paragraph 6 of the Contract Between the Morris Plains Education Association and the Morris Plains Board of Education), to start a new club at Borough School; the Solar Car Club as per the attached proposal at a stipend of \$250.00. (Second year; first year was a pilot program – unpaid).

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences**

**1. Approval of Professional Development**

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board approves the attached list of requests for professional development and corresponding costs.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

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

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, the Board accepts and affirms the Superintendent’s monthly report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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 - Mr. Wayne Marek was recognized for his service to the Board.**

**Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations –** Mr. Sean Dolan reported to the Board that he visited The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at Frelinghuysen Middle School to discuss the curriculum which includes the I-Pad. We will also be looking at Nooks. He responded to questions from the Board and a discussion followed.

**Executive Session**

**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 to discuss: (select one or more)

- 1) a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law;
- 2) a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds;
- 3) material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;
- 4) a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it;
- 5) a matter involved the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds;
- 6) protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law;
- 7) pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege;
- 8) specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session;
- 9) deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss;

**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. The Board adjourned to an Executive Session at 9:05pm.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**Return to Regular Session from Closed Session**

On the motion of Ms. Denise Rawding seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, 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 9:40pm.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	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

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Ms. Denise Rawding, seconded by Mr. Scott Bober, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Kosky  
Board Secretary