

**Morris Plains Board of Education
Minutes of the Public Meeting – February 25, 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, Mr. Francis Foley (via phone at 7:35), Ms. Lucia Galdi, Mrs. Terri Kaag, Mr. Douglas McCabe (arrived at 7:40pm) and Ms. Denise Rawding

Absent: Mrs. Maria Manley

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

Number of public attending: 12

Executive Session

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, 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 at 7:05pm to discuss certain matters; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege;

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 (if necessary)

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober, seconded by Ms. Lucia Galdi, 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 7:34pm.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Multidisciplinary Ancient Civilizations Project - Grade 6

- Scott Curcio
- Lauren Degnan
- Lisa DiStefano
- Joyce Peslak
- Students

Library Core Curriculum PreK-8

- Sophie Blavet
- Joyce Peslak

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

- In total, we have used 7 snow days thus far. We gained two back with February 18th and April 21st. On February 18th, 28 students in total were recorded absent at both schools. The last day of school is June 26th. Any additional snow days will be taken from the spring break, starting with Monday, April 14.
- No Incidences of HIB to report
- 2014-2015 School Calendar is on the agenda for approval
 - 4 professional development days/2 staff development days
 - Surveyed Morris County school districts concerning professional development days
 - Collected feedback from parents, administration, and staff
 - Professional Development Days – Valuable time thus far
- Principals will be conducting a presentation to the board on March 11th, highlighting the “State of Education” for their respective school.
- Added a link on the district website posting all curriculum documents and resources for members of the school community.
- Today, a Technology Committee meeting was held at Borough School. 12 staff members were in attendance. The meeting was productive and it was guided by the Strategic Plan.

Business Administrator's Report –Mr. Maire and Dr. Ceurvels provided an update on the preparation of the preliminary 2014-2015 with a power point presentation. Mr. Douglas McCabe stated that the intent of the Finance Committee is to be under the CAP.

Correspondence - none

Board Committee Status Reports:

Finance/Buildings and Grounds – no report

Curriculum and Instruction - Ms. Denise Rawding discussed School Brains and online offerings of foreign language thru Middlebury College.

Legislative - no report

Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC) - No meeting held

Morris School District - no report

Personnel - Ms. Lucia Galdi reported that the committee discussed staffing recommendations for next year and the ESC contract.

Policy Updates - Ms. Denise Rawding reported that 6 policies need to be updated.

Liaison Committees (Reports if Available)

--Morris Plains Home and School Association (MPHSA) - Ms. Cynthia Fetherston mentioned the next fundraiser - a comedy night.

--Morris Plains Municipal Alliance Committee (MPMAC)

--Education Foundation of Morris Plains (EFMP)

--Strategic Planning Committees

Approval of the Board of Education Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the following Minutes:

February 11, 2014 - Executive and Regular Sessions.

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

Business Items Prepared for Official Action on February 25, 2014:

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. Approve Home Instructor - Special Needs Student

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves Lauren Degnan as home instructor for a special needs student effective February 19, 2014 for 2 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$33.00 = \$66.00 per week x 12 weeks = \$792.00 maximum, not to exceed 12 weeks.

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

2. Approval of Family Leave - Amended Request - Mrs. Alissa Schonmann

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board amends a family leave request from Mrs. Alissa Schonmann (Mrs. Schonmann anticipates returning on September 1, 2014.):

February 18, 2014 - March 21, 2014 24 Sick Days PAID
 March 24, 2014 - June 30, 2014 12 weeks UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE

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

3. Approval of 4th Grade Teacher (Family Leave Replacement) - Borough School - Amended Motion

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves Matthew Gottilla (emergent hire, pending criminal history background clearance) as 4th Grade Teacher at the Borough School (family leave replacement – Mrs. Schonmann), effective February 18, 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 Matthew Gottilla as substitute teacher for one day on February 12, 2014 at a per diem rate of \$100.00.

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

4. Approval of Professional Development Committee - 2013-2014

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the following members of the professional development committee for the 2013-2014 school year at a stipend of \$500.00 each member for a total of \$2,000.00:

Erin Kramer
Danielle Mastrogiovanni

Jessica Hendershot
Debbie Drake

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

5. Approval of Chaperones - 6th Grade Camping Trip

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the following chaperones for the 6th Grade Camping Trip to Fairview Lakes YMCA on April 24 and April 25, 2014 at a stipend of \$350.00 for each chaperone for a total of \$3,500 (\$350.00 x 10 chaperones):

Casey Devlin	Alison Porter	Joyce Peslak	Ashley Morris
Ed Frankosky	Catilin Hamill	Phyllis McGeehan	Laura Degnan
Wayne Looney	Debra Greik		

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

6. Approval of Chaperones - 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC

On the motion of Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the following chaperones for the 8th Grade Camping Trip to Washington, D.C. , at a stipend of \$498.00 per chaperone for a total \$3,984.00 (\$498.00 x 8 chaperones):

Casey Devlin	Denise Zalis
Ed Frankosky	Brian Wilson
Wayne Looney	Marcia Goldberg
Scott Curcio	Mary Ellen Sullivan

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

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the attached bills and claims report dated February 25, 2014 in the amount of \$477,640.91.

Mr. Alan Albin – yes	Mr. Scott Bober – yes	Mrs. Cynthia Fetherston – yes - abstain from PO 14-1812
Mr. Francis Foley – yes	Mrs. Terri Kaag – yes	Mrs. Maria Manley – absent
Ms. Lucia Galdi - yes	Mr. Douglas McCabe – yes	Ms. Denise Rawding - yes

2. Approve Payroll Distribution

Motion by Mr. Scott Bober 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
2/15/2014	General Fund	\$265,833.60

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

3. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports For The Period Ending January 31, 2014

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober 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, 2014 to be approved.

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

C. School Calendar - 2014-2015 School Year - *The following motion is of a routine nature, noncontroversial, and will be voted on in one motion.*

1. Approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves the proposed calendar for the 2014-2015 school year as per the attached.

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

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

1. Approve a Neurological-Psychological Educational Evaluation

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves a neurological-psychological educational evaluation for student 000092 in February, 2014 at a cost of \$3,500.00. Services will be provided by Dr. Barbara Couvadelli, 200 Middlesex Essex Turnpike, Suite 306A, Iselin, NJ 08830.

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

2. Approve an Out of District Placement

On the motion of Mr. Scott Bober seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, the Board approves an out of district placement for student 00000A, at the Summit Speech School, 705 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974, effective February, 2014 through June, 2014 at a tuition cost of \$23,780.00 (\$290.00 per day x 82 days).

Transportation to be bid with coordinated transportation through ESC.

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

E. 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 Mr. Douglas McCabe seconded by Ms. Terri Kaag, the Board accepts and affirms the Superintendent's monthly report of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.

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

F. Workshops/Seminars/Conferences

1. Approve Professional Development

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

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

Discussion Items:

A. New Business - none

B. Old Business- none

Hearing of Citizens and/or Delegations - none

Adjournment

On the motion of Mr. Alan Albin, seconded by Ms. Denise Rawding, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris Plains Board of Education moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:42pm.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Warren Ceurvels
Board Secretary