

MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of January 3, 2023
MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

The reorganizational meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris School District, of Morris County, New Jersey was held in the Learning Commons of the Morristown High School, Morristown, NJ on Tuesday evening, January 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Anthony Lo Franco, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: The New Jersey Open Public Meeting 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 Board of Education of the Morris School District in the County of Morris has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted. The notice was mailed to the Daily Record, and to those persons or entities requesting notification, posted on the district website and posted at the Administration Center, 31 Hazel Street, Morristown, New Jersey.

OATH OF OFFICE

Anthony Lo Franco administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Cary Lloyd of Morristown, Mrs. Susan Pedalino of Morris Township and Mrs. Melissa Spiotta of Morris Township.

At the Roll Call, the following Board Members were present: Mrs. Katie Cole, Mrs. Meredith Davidson, *Ms. Lucia Galdi, Morris Plains Representative (6:39 pm), Ms. Linda K. Murphy, Mrs. Susan Pedalino, Mr. Alan Smith (6:39 pm), Mrs. Melissa Spiotta, and Mrs. Beth Wall.

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez was absent.

Also present at 6:30 pm, Dr. Anne Mucci, Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Lo Franco, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Ms. Lora Clark, Director of Human Resources, Personnel & Equity, Ms. Debora Engelfried, Director of Data & Analysis Programs, and Mr. Marc Gold, Director of Pupil Services.

The Board moved to go into closed session at 6:36 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion #1 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, while the Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) requires all meetings of the Morris School District Board of Education to be held in public, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine (9) types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in "Executive Session," without the public being permitted to attend, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that three (3) issues are permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance and shall be discussed during an Executive Session to be held on January 3, 2023 at 6:30 P.M, and

WHEREAS, the nine (9) exceptions to open public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and next to each exception is a box which will be marked when the issues to be privately discussed fall within that exception, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the discussion as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception shall be written:

"(1) Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law, State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from public discussion." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality are: Student Matters

"(2) Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is:

"(3) Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is:

"(4) Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body." The collective bargaining contract(s) discussed are between (1) the Board and the Morris School District Administrators Association.

"(5) Any matter involving the purchase lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is:

□ "(6) Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is:

□ "(7) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer." The parties to and docket numbers of each item of litigation and/or the parties to each contract discussed are and the nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is:

□ "(8) Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting." Subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under South Jersey Publishing Co. v. New Jersey Expressway Authority, 124 N.J. 478 (1991), the employee(s) and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality are:

□ "(9) Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is:

WHEREAS, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be sixty (60) minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall (select one) reconvene and immediately adjourn or reconvene and proceed with business where formal action will be taken.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris School District Board of Education will go into Executive Session for only the above stated reasons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) will be made public at a time when the public's interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Motion #1)

Moved by Mrs. Spiotta, seconded by Mrs. Wall

AYES: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Mr. Lloyd, Ms. Murphy,
Mrs. Pedalino, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Galdi, Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

At 6:50 pm, Mrs. Spiotta moved to go into open session and recess. Mrs. Davidson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, at which time Ms. Clark, Ms. Engelfried and Mr. Gold exited the meeting.

Public Session began at 7:30 pm

Anthony Lo Franco administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Luci Galdi, Morris Plains Representative.

There were approximately 2 members of the public, staff and local media in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Lo Franco led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Lo Franco introduced the re-elected Board members, Mrs. Pedalino and Mrs. Spiotta, as well as the newly elected Board member, Mr. Cary Lloyd, all with whom he administered the oath of office prior to closed session.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Lo Franco opened the floor to nominations for President.

Motion to nominate Mrs. Spiotta for President

Moved by Mrs. Wall

There were no other nominations.

Roll call vote for Mrs. Spiotta for President

AYES: Mrs. Cole, Ms. Galdi, Mr. Lloyd, Ms. Murphy,
Mrs. Pedalino, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall

NOES: Mrs. Davidson

ABSTAIN: Mr. Smith

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez

Mrs. Spiotta was elected President.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Spiotta opened the floor to nominations for Vice President

Motion to nominate Mrs. Cole for Vice President

Moved by Mrs. Wall

Motion to nominate Ms. Murphy for Vice President

Moved by Mr. Smith

There were no other nominations.

Mrs. Pedalino moved to close nominations, Mrs. Davidson seconded with a unanimous vote. Mrs. Davidson made a brief statement regarding Board President & Vice President roles.

Roll call vote for Mrs. Cole for Vice President

- AYES:** Mrs. Cole, Ms. Galdi, Mrs. Pedalino, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall
- NOES:** Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Smith
- ABSTAIN:** Mr. Lloyd
- ABSENT:** Dr. Rodriguez

Roll call vote for Ms. Murphy for Vice President

- AYES:** Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Smith
- NOES:** Mrs. Cole, Ms. Galdi, Mrs. Pedalino, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall
- ABSTAIN:** Mr. Lloyd
- ABSENT:** Dr. Rodriguez

Mrs. Cole was elected Vice President.

ORGANIZATIONAL

4. **Appointment and Delegates**

Appointment, by the President, of alternate delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Morris County School Boards Association.

Delegate	<u>Board President</u>
State Alternate	_____
County Alternate	_____

Appointment, by the President, of a Member to the Morris County Educational Services Commission Board of Directors.

Member:

Appointment, by the President, of a Member to the Morris Educational Foundation.

Member: **Mrs. Cole**

The Board had a brief discussion on above and will further discuss to select alternates and members for open positions.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Mucci thanked everyone for the warm welcome, sharing that there will be upcoming informal community meet and greets scheduled. Additionally, Dr. Mucci will be attending the SEPAG meetings.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Spiotta welcomed Mr. Lloyd as our newest Board Member, stating the board is looking forward to a great year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Long Hill Board of Education member shared with the Board what a wonderful asset Dr. Mucci will be in the district, having had such a great experience with Dr. Mucci during her time as Superintendent in the Long Hill School District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Morris Educational Foundation

Mrs. Cole shared that the MEF ONStage finalists have been announced for the event on March 1, 2023.

ORGANIZATIONAL

5. **Code of Ethics**
Motion, that the Board of Education adopt the “Code of Ethics for School Board Members” as per the [attached](#).

6. **Parliamentary Procedures**
Motion that the Board of Education approve Robert’s Rules of Order as the official Guide for Parliamentary Procedure for the Morris School District.

7. **Policy**
Motion, that all policies, rules, regulations, handbooks and other legislative or regulatory action of this Board, in force immediately prior to this reorganization meeting, are hereby continued in force, as if the Board Year had not changed.

8. **Authorizations**
Motion, that the Assistant Board Secretary or in his/her absence, the President, or the Vice President, act as Board Secretary in the absence of the Board Secretary.

9. **Business Administrator Authorization**
Motion that the Board of Education approve the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to approve bids, approve account transfers, pay bills, approve construction change orders and approve travel in accordance with policies #0147, 0147A, 3440 and 4440, Board Member Travel Expenses; Staff Travel Expenses and N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, in between board meetings on an emergency basis with list of such bids, transfers, payments, construction change orders and travel subject to presentation and ratification at the next business meeting of the board.

10. **Superintendent’s Authorization**
Motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools or her designee to employ school personnel to fill vacancies in existing job classifications as they may occur in between board meetings on an emergency basis with a list of those employed subject to presentation and ratification at the next business meeting of the board.

11. **Charges for Reproducing Public Documents**

Motion, that the Board of Education approves the following rates for photocopying of public documents in compliance with NJSA 47:1A-1

Letter size or smaller	\$0.05/page
Legal size or larger	\$0.07/page

12. **Meeting Dates Designation**

Motion, that the meetings of the Board of Education shall be held on Monday evenings (as per [attached](#) schedule of meeting dates). The meetings will open at 6:30 p.m. and immediately adjourn to closed session until 7:30 when the regular business meeting will begin. In the event that said schedule is hereafter revised, the Board Secretary is hereby directed to post and direct notice to [The Daily Record](#) at least 48 hours before the revised meeting date.

13. **Official Newspaper**

Motion, that the Daily Record be designated as the official newspaper of the Morris School District. Other notices, which require a broader circulation, shall also be published in The Star Ledger.

REORGANIZATIONAL (Motions #5-13)

Moved by Mrs. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Wall

AYES: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Galdi, Mr. Lloyd, Ms. Murphy,
Mrs. Pedalino, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez

MINUTES
DISTRICT

Motion #1 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education, approve executive session minutes from the regular business meeting of:

December 19, 2022

Motion #2 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education, approve minutes from the regular business meeting of:

December 19, 2022

MINUTES (Motions #1-2)

Moved by Mrs. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Pedalino

AYES: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Galdi, Ms. Murphy,
Mrs. Pedalino, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Lloyd

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

DISTRICT

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING REPORT

Motion #1 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accept the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying report for the period ending, December 19, 2022.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS (Motions #1)

Moved by Mrs. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Pedalino

AYES: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Galdi, Ms. Murphy,
Mrs. Pedalino, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Lloyd

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez

NEW BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Mrs. Spiotta reminded the board of Mrs. Bangiola's upcoming celebration and the poll sent out for February's Board retreat date. Additionally, Mrs. Spiotta announced that she will be sending out the new committees and the Board is working on updating their bios for the district website.

Ms. Murphy mentioned the BOE Orientation packet is in the process of being updated and will be sent once complete.

ADJOURNMENT (7:49 PM)

Moved by Mrs. Cole, seconded by Mrs. Pedalino

AYES: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Galdi, Mr. Lloyd, Ms. Murphy,
Mrs. Pedalino, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta, Mrs. Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Lo Franco
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary