

MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of March 11, 2024
MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

The regular business 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 Monday evening, March 11, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Mr. 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, TAPInto Morristown 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.

At the Roll Call, the following Board Members were present: Mrs. Katie Cole, Board President, Mrs. Meredith Davidson, Board Vice-President, Ms. Luci Galdi, Morris Plains Representative (6:32pm), Mr. Cary Lloyd, Ms. Linda K. Murphy, Mrs. Susan Pedalino, Mrs. Melissa Spiotta, and Mrs. Beth Wall.

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez and Mr. Alan Smith were absent.

Also present at 6:30pm, 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, Dr. Kimberly Markus, Consultant, Education Advisors, LLC (6:45pm - 7:27pm).

The Board moved to go into closed session at 6:31pm.

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 March 11, 2024 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. Pedalino

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

At 7:29 pm, Ms. Murphy moved to go into open session. Mrs. Spiotta seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Also present, at 7:30 p.m, Mrs. Jennifer Adkins, Director of Community School, Mrs. Joan Frederick, Assistant Business Administrator, Dr. Diana Pinto-Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services & Bilingual, and Mr. Marcos Vargas, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

There were approximately 135 members of the public/media in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Cole led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mucci introduced Ms. Jessica McGinn, Assistant Director of Athletics, Supervisor of Health and Phys. Ed. to announce the coaches to publicly honor and recognize the teams/athletes from the following sports:

Frelinghuysen Middle School:

- *Girls Soccer*
- *Wrestling*
- *Boys Basketball*

Morristown High School:

- *Girls Volleyball*
- *Winter Boys & Girls Track & Field*
- *Boys Basketball*
- *Fencing*
- *Wrestling*
- *Swimming*
- *Hockey*
- *Girls Basketball*

Ms. McGinn preceded the student recognition by recognizing the other members of the Athletic Department, Danielle Frey, Jacob Charpentier, and Rose Piccolo. (Unable to attend, Athletic Director, Mr. Smitty Horton).

Additionally, Ms McGinn presented a plaque to Danielle Palestina, Adam Kahn and Jonathan Loyola from Atlantic Sports Health, who help perform in-house physicals for FMS/MHS athletes, aided in adding the first middle school athletic trainer (Mr. Loyola) in Morris County and donated training tables and a John Deere Gator to get around the middle school campus.

The Board took a 15 minute recess resuming at 8:30pm.

Dr. Mucci and Mr. Lo Franco presented the [District Goals with the 2024-2025 Budget presentation.](#)

Questions and comments were taken from the Board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- *Mrs. Cole expressed gratitude to the community and parents for their support in two recent big fundraisers, Morristown ONStage & Project Graduation Fashion Show.*
- *District Goals and Budget Presentation video/recording will be on website for public viewing.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum

Mrs. Pedalino highlighted the following topic(s) discussed:

- *Field Trips*
- *OpenSciEd/Turnkey Professional Development*
- *MOU agreement for dual enrollment program with Rutgers University*
- *Summer programs update*
- *District-wide professional development update*
- *iReady mid-year data report*

Finance

Ms. Murphy highlighted the following topic(s) discussed:

- *2024-2025 Budget*
- *Proposal for Buildings & Grounds and Coaches salaries for 24-25*
- *Capital projects and Long Term Capital planning*

Human Resources

Mrs. Spiotta highlighted the following areas discussed:

- *Tech audit results, restructuring*
- *Hiring additional teachers to allow some teachers to not have to teach during an extra period/block*

Policy

Mrs. Wall highlighted the following:

- *Reviewed/Approved for first read:*
 - *5520 - Disorder and Demonstration*
 - *5757 - Antiracism*
- *Reviewed/approved for second read:*
 - *0163 - Quorum*
- *Mandated Updates reviewed/approved for first read:*
 - *1140 - Affirmative Action Program*
 - *1523 - Comprehensive Equity Plan*
 - *1530 - Equal Employment Opportunity*
 - *1550 - Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices*
 - *2260 - Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices*
- *District and individual school counts*
- *FYI*
 - *The Freedom to Read Act planned to be discussed by the Senate Education Committee, will require a Board policy.*

Board Governance

Mrs. Davidson highlighted the following was discussed:

- *Celebrations and recognitions at Board meetings*
- *Post and list Board and District goals on each agenda*
- *Review progress monitor on goal tracker*
- *Public Comment*
- *Committee meeting schedules/calendars*
- *Sufficient time in executive session, ensuring public session begins on time*
- *Strategic planning dates*
- *Meeting minutes format*

Morris Plains

Ms. Galdi updated the Board on the following:

- *QSAC visit successful*
- *Mrs. Crudele, principal of Mountain Way school, met with MHS principal, Athletic Director and Technology department so upon 8th grade graduation, incoming Morris Plains rising 9th graders will automatically be entered into the MHS school management systems and have their email account set up. Additionally the tech department will show a tutorial on CANVAS to be given to the rising 9th graders and their families so they are familiar by the start of school.*

Morris Educational Foundation

Mrs. Cole reported the following updates:

- *Sold out show for Morristown OnStage and hit the creative arts target, thanking Ms. Katherine Vizzini and the entire team who worked diligently to make this a success.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Cole read the following statement:

Before we open the meeting to public comment, we wish to remind you that our meeting is now video-recorded and publicly aired. While the Board welcomes and encourages public comment, we ask that you be respectful, including in any comments you might make about staff. The Board does not endorse any comments made by a speaker, nor will the Board be held liable for any comments made by members of the public. The law prevents the Board from speaking about specific students and about personnel matters. For this reason, the Board will not answer any questions on these subjects. Finally, the Board's policy limits each speaker to three minutes. We ask that you respect this policy and the time of your fellow community members by concluding your comments once you reach three minutes. Public comment is open for an hour or until public comments are complete, whichever comes first.

At this point, I would like to invite any members of the public to come forward and provide your full name and address.

No one from the public came forward.

BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING

Ms. Galdi read in the following statement:

As appointed representative of the sending Morris Plains School District to the Morris School District Board of Education, I would like to clarify that my votes on tonight's Business Agenda items will relate only to those items that are identified as applicable District-wide, to grades PreK-12, or to the High School, grades 9-12.

I am abstaining from voting on any agenda item pertaining solely to the Elementary and Middle Schools, grades PreK-8.

MINUTES

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

February 26, 2024

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

February 26, 2024

MINUTES (Motions #1-2)

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

POLICY

DISTRICT

FIRST READING

Motion #1 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve for first reading the following new/revised bylaws/policies/regulations:

1140 Affirmative Action Program

1523 Comprehensive Equity Plan

1530 Equal Employment Opportunity

1550 Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices

2260 Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices

5520 Disorder and Demonstration

5757 Antiracism

DISTRICT

SECOND READING

Motion #2 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve for second reading the following new/revised bylaws/policies/regulations:

2431 Athletic Competition

5755 Equity in Educational Programs and Services

2430 Extra-Curricular Activities

8462 Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

7510 Use of Facilities

0000.02 Introduction

0110 Identification

0144 Board Member Orientation and Training

0152 Board Officers

0161 Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation

0163 Quorum

PK-8

RESIDENCY RESOLUTION

Motion #3 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, On February 9, 2024 the parents/guardians of students # 704223 and 703641 were each provided with a Notice of Initial Determination of Ineligibility for a free education in the Morris School District ("MSD") based upon the administration's review of their domicile/residency status; and

WHEREAS, the parents/guardians were notified of the right to request a hearing before the Board of Education to demonstrate that the students are entitled to attend school in the MSD; and

WHEREAS, a hearing was held on February 26, 2024;

WHEREAS, the parents/guardians have provided insufficient documentation to support the students' eligibility for a free education in the MSD; and

WHEREAS, the parents/guardians invited the MSD to conduct a home inspection, and said home inspection failed to establish students' domicile/residency status.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the students # 704223 and 703641 are not eligible to receive a free education in the MSD and the administration is authorized to provide the parents/guardians with a Notice of Final Ineligibility, which will include the rate of tuition that may be assessed against them, along with information regarding their right to appeal this determination to the Commissioner of Education.

PK-8

RESIDENCY RESOLUTION

Motion #4 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS,

On March 5, 2024 the parents/guardians of student # 707615 were provided with a Notice of Initial Determination of Ineligibility for a free education in the Morris School District ("MSD") based upon the administration's review of their domicile/residency status; and

WHEREAS, they were notified of the right to request a hearing before the Board of Education to demonstrate that the students are entitled to attend school in the MSD; and

WHEREAS, they did not request such a hearing; and

WHEREAS, they have provided no documentation to support the students' eligibility for a free education in the MSD.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the student # 707615 is not eligible to receive a free education in the MSD and the administration is authorized to provide the parents/guardians with a Notice of Final Ineligibility, which will include the rate of tuition that may be assessed against them, along with information regarding their right to appeal this determination to the Commissioner of Education.

PK-8

Motion #5 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Morris School District operates the Morris School District Community School Sunset Program at the Lafayette Learning Center pending license ## CCC126926; and

WHEREAS, Cristina Frazzano is presently serving as the Principal of the district's Thomas Jefferson School; and

WHEREAS, the Morris School District Board of Education recognizes that Cristina Frazzano possesses the qualifications and skills necessary to serve as sponsor for the Sunset Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby designates Cristina Frazzano as the sponsor representative for the Sunset program at the Lafayette Learning Center for registration purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cristina Frazzano shall remain the Board's designated sponsor for this stated purpose until such further Board action is taken.

POLICY (Motions #1-5)

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

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, February 26, 2024.

DISTRICT

FIELD TRIPS

Motion #2 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the following additional Field Trips

DISTRICT

OPENSIED TURNKEY

Motion #3 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the OpenSciEd Turnkey.

EXPLANATION: For our half day PD on March 25, 2024 we will have a few teachers presenting and “turnkeying” the state’s new science curriculum units from OpenSciEd.

9-12

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS (MOU)

Motion #4 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the Rutgers University School of Health Professions (MOU).

EXPLANATION: Rutgers University entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Morristown High School to establish a dual-credit program to high school students in order that students may earn high school credit and college credit based on university examinations and requirements. This agreement is further referred to as the Collaborative Arrangement to Offer Dual-Credit enrollment in the Rutgers School of Health Professions for the following courses: Dynamics of Healthcare - Medical Terminology - Anatomy & Physiology I.

9-12

CCM ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PROGRAM (MOU)

Motion #5 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the CCM Advanced Manufacturing Program (MOU).

EXPLANATION: The CCM Advanced Manufacturing Noncredit High School program will provide students with entry level skills for employment in the growing field of advanced manufacturing. This program will create opportunities for career sustaining, earning of certification and job placement.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS (Motions #1-5)

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

PUPIL SERVICES

OUT OF DISTRICT ROSTER

Motion #1 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve placements and instructional services for students with disabilities, including those received by the district and those attending schools for which tuition is charged, for the month of March as noted in the detailed listing maintained on file in the Board Secretary's office.

EXPLANATION

Students with IEPs whose needs cannot be met in the programs that exist within the district are placed in outside private and public schools approved by the New Jersey Department of Education for students with disabilities. Attendance is monitored monthly in order to ensure students are enrolled as agreed and the state-mandated contract with each school states that two weeks' notice is required for removal of a student. Case managers make at least two visits per school year for each student enrolled in one of these schools, including one visit that involves the convening of an IEP Team to complete an annual review of the student's IEP. In order to preserve confidentiality, all students are identified only by their local and/or state identification numbers in any listing that is maintained outside the Office of Pupil Services.

PUPIL SERVICES (Motion #1)

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Cole

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

HUMAN RESOURCES

ABOLISH/ESTABLISH POSITION(S) 2023-2024

Motion #1 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education abolish and establish the following position(s) for the 2023-2024 school year:

ABOLISH	ESTABLISH	Effective date
<i>DISTRICT</i>		
N/A	1.0 Custodian (Floater), B&G	3/12/24

RESIGNATION(S)/TERMINATION(S)/RETIREMENT(S) 2023-2024

Motion #2 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the resignation(s), termination(s) and/or retirement(s) of the following staff according to the effective date and reason shown:

<i>PK-8</i>	
Employee #7831	April 26, 2024 Terminated
Ayala, Fridda 0.5 Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, NP	March 1, 2024 Resigned
Lemus Doninelli, Ana 1.0 Custodian, HC	March 16, 2024 Resigned

APPOINTMENT(S) 2023-2024 */**

Motion #3 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following to the position/s stated at the annual salary rates and effective date/s shown, and further that the Board of Education approve the submission to the County Superintendent applications for emergency hiring, pending approval of all Human Resource documents and/or requirements and each applicant's attestation that s/he has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.; 18:39-17 et seq.; 18A:6-4.13 et seq.:

			In Place of:
<i>PK-8</i>			
Molka, John 1.0 Math, FMS	\$66,050 MA, Step 5	03/27/24-06/30/24	Employee #5216 LEAVE REPLACEMENT

<i>DISTRICT</i>			
Arias Jaramillo, Alejandra 1.0 Bus Aide, Transportation	\$14,400 \$16 per hour 5 hours per day 180 days per year	03/01/24-06/30/24	Gibson, P. Reassigned
Vasquez Campos, Pedro 1.0 Bus Driver, Transportation	\$32,085 \$31 per hour 5.75 hours per day 180 days per year	03/01/24-06/30/24	Employee #5933

DISTRICT

SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS 2023-2024

Motion #4 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following name(s) be added to the list of substitutes, and approve all Morris School District Substitute Teachers to also provide service as Teacher Assistant, ABS, and Lunchroom Playground Aide as assigned for the 2023-2024 school year, and further that the Board of Education approve submission to the County Superintendent application for emergency hiring and each applicant’s attestation that s/he has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq., 18A:6-4.13 et seq.:

Bus Driver

Milan, Reyna

Bus Aide

Santana Javier, Eudis ® (eff. 03/11/2024)

Lunchroom/Playground Aide

Simmons, Frances (eff. 02/26/2024)

Teacher Assistant

Tomaszewski, Danielle (eff. 03/06/2024)

Teacher

Parrillo, Joseph ® (eff. 03/05/2024)

Quinn, Elizabeth (eff. 03/06/2024)

Sviben, Cameron (eff. 02/26/2024)

EXPLANATION: Upon the submission of approved timesheets, the staff will be compensated at approved substitute rates.

LEAVE(S) OF ABSENCE 2023-2024

Motion #5 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a leave of absence to the following staff members under the conditions stated and effective dates shown:

PK-8		
Employee #4470	02/06/24-03/27/24 03/28/24-06/05/24	Maternity * FMLA/NJFLA **
Employee #7528	01/17/24-03/08/24 <i>(Revised dates)</i>	NJFLA **
9-12		
Employee #5355	08/20/23-09/25/23 09/26/23-12/18/23 12/19/23-05/29/24	Maternity * FMLA/NJFLA ** Childrearing ***
Employee #4220	01/29/24-03/11/24 03/12/24-03/28/24	Maternity * FMLA/NJFLA **
DISTRICT		
Employee #7835	07/29/24-08/23/24 10/07/24-11/29/24	FMLA/NJFLA ** FMLA/NJFLA **

- * Accumulated sick leave may be used up to a period of eight weeks (four weeks before and four weeks after the birth of the baby) – with pay/with benefits.
- ** Without pay/with benefits
- *** Without pay/without benefits

LEAVE(S) OF ABSENCE 2024-2025

Motion #6 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a leave of absence to the following staff members under the conditions stated and effective dates shown:

DISTRICT		
Employee #7835	07/29/24-08/23/24 10/07/24-11/29/24	FMLA ** NJFLA **

- * Accumulated sick leave may be used up to a period of eight weeks (four weeks before and four weeks after the birth of the baby) – with pay/with benefits.
- ** Without pay/with benefits
- *** Without pay/without benefits

9-12

AP EXAM PROCTORS 2023-2024

Motion #7 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following AP Exam Proctors for the 2023-2024 school year:

Position: AP Exam Proctor
Rate: \$125.00 Standard Time
\$145.00 Extended Time
\$160.00 Back to Back Testing
\$100 Mandatory Training
Funding: Test fees and local funds
Staff: Cardona-Agudelo, Mateo
Flynn, Katharyn
Mileo, Laura
Mesias, Phyllis
Pallis, Paris
Stroh, Katherine

EXPLANATION: Upon submission of an approved timesheet, AP Exam Proctors will be paid as outlined above.

DISTRICT

AGREEMENT: SETON HALL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES BSW & MSW PROGRAMS

Motion #8 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent the Board of Education approve an agreement between Seton Hall University College of Arts & Sciences and the Morris School District for the time period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027 regarding a collaborative Practicum/Internship..

EXPLANATION: There is no cost to the district for this Agreement.

DISTRICT

COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2024-2025

Motion #9 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following Summer Music Academy (SMA) 2024 staff, effective June 10, 2024 – July 26, 2024. This will include pre-SMA meetings, the SMA season and cleanup. Hours will be assigned as needed, not to exceed 85 hours per staff member.

Beadle, Timothy	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Chu, Ross	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Gallagher, David	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Havington, Andrew	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Malko, Lindsey	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Morla, Nathan	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Myers, Selia	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Palacios, Maria	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.
Palatucci, John	SMA Instructor	\$28.00/hr.

EXPLANATION: Salaries to be paid out of collected tuition.

DISTRICT

COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2024-2025

Motion #10 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following Summer Music Academy (SMA) 2024 staff, effective March 12, 2024– July 26, 2024. This will include pre-SMA preparation, the SMA season and cleanup. Hours will be assigned as needed, not to exceed 100 hours.

Ocasio, Ariel SMA Supervisor \$37.00/hr.

EXPLANATION: Salaries to be paid out of collected tuition.

EXTRA PAY 2023-2024

Motion #11 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following extra-pay positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS		
POSITION	STAFF MEMBER	TOTAL SALARY
9-12		
Baseball Assistant Coach (2 of 2)	Testa, David (eff. 03/08/2024)	\$5,935
Track & Field Assistant Coach - Girls (2 of 2)	Prevete, Kathleen	\$5,622
Unified Bowling Assistant Coach	Pooler, Jayme (eff. 02/15/2024 to 03/01/2024)	\$1,000

DISTRICT

REFERRAL BONUS 2023-2024

Motion #12 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education authorizes the payment of a referral bonus to the following staff:

Staff Member	Position	Location	Referral Bonus
Grabowy, Stanley	Bus Driver	Transportation	\$500

EXPLANATION: Referred staff member has successfully completed the required ninety (90) day probationary period. Payment will be made to staff member as outlined above.

***HUMAN RESOURCES/CURRICULUM
DISTRICT***

K-5 ACADEMIC AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS 2023-2024 (revision)

Motion #13 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve Morris School District certificated staff members to provide after-school assistance for the Academic After School Support Programs for Bilingual and Monolingual students in Grades K-5 for the 2023-2024 school year: **(Revision in Bold)**

Posting: **#H47**
Program: K-5 Academic After School Teacher
Description: Academic support for grades K-5. To provide additional support for students as they work toward mastery of the NJ Student Learning standards in the core areas of instruction.
Dates: January 2024- June, 2024
Funding Source: K-5 Academic After School (ARP)
Rate: \$50/hr
Staff: ~~**Biller, Heidi (HC)**~~
~~**Cardona-Castano, Laura (MHS)**~~
~~**Clark, Bridget (HC)**~~
LoDolce, Blake (TJ)
~~**Miller, Kayla (HC) Start date Feb. 19th**~~
~~**Patten, Kelly (HC)**~~
Pizzi, Lara (HC)
Tepedino, Kathryn (NP)
~~**Ventresca, Lauren (WD)**~~

Substitutes:
Acrin, Genevieve (NP)
Grosso, Lauren (TJ)
Kelly-Ruano, Francis (TJ)

EXPLANATION: Upon submission of an approved timesheet, staff member will be compensated as outlined above.

HUMAN RESOURCES/CURRICULUM

DISTRICT

K-12 ACADEMIC AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS 2023-2024 (REVISED)

Motion #14 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Board Curriculum Committee (**revisions in bold**), the Board of Education approve Morris School District certificated staff members to provide after school assistance for the Academic After School Support Programs for Bilingual and Monolingual students in Grades K-12 for the 2023-2024 school year:

Posting: #H51
Program: K-12 Academic After School Support Program
Description: Academic support for grades K-12.
Dates: ~~October, 2023~~ **February, 2024** - June, 2024
Funding Source: **Title III K-8 Bilingual Academic After School Teachers (Title III)**
Rate: \$50 per hr
Staff: Almiron Romero, Jessica (FMS)
Carranza, Paola (HC)
Culmone, Gloria (NP)
Esteves, Cecilia (NP)
Ferrer, Mercy (AH)
Lagos, Claudia (TJ)
Murphy, Cathleen (AV)
~~Reis, Lucilia (HC)~~
Rogich, Monica (FMS)
~~Rejas, Cori (NP)~~
Umanzor, Abigail (AH)
Vargas, Marco (FMS)
Ventresca, Lauren (WD)

Substitutes:

Bueno, Natalia (FMS)
Kelly-Ruano, Francis (TJ)
Reis, Lucilia (HC)
Rodriguez, Maria (**AH**)
Sommer, Jeanette (HC)
~~Umanzor, Abigail (AH)~~

DISTRICT

K-12 ACADEMIC AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS 2023-2024 (revision)

Motion #15 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve Morris School District Certificated staff members to provide after school assistance for the Academic After School Support Programs for Bilingual and Monolingual students in Grades K-12 for the 2023-2024 school year. **(Revision in Bold)**

Posting: #H41
Program: FMS Bilingual Learning Academy
Description: Academic Support
Date: November, 2023 - June, 2024
Funding: Title I - SIA
Rate: ~~as per contract language~~ **\$50per Hour**
Staff: Almiron Romero, Jessica
Oesterle, Victoria
Rogich, Monica
Rosario, Kristin

EXPLANATION: Upon submission of an approved timesheet, staff member will be compensated as outlined above.

DISTRICT

OPENSIED TURNKEY

Motion #16 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the OpenSciEd Turnkey:

Program: OpenSciEd Turnkey
Description: Turnkeying state's new science curriculum units from OpenSciEd
Date: March 25, 2024
Funding: Local
Rate: Per contract language, \$100 for Prep time
\$25.00 per hour for attendance
Staff: Kolker, Mariel (MHS)
Sanders, Michelle (FMS)
Smalling, Sarah (FMS)

EXPLANATION: Upon submission of an approved timesheet, staff member will be compensated as outlined above.

HUMAN RESOURCES (Motions #1-16)

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

BUSINESS MATTERS

DISTRICT

Financial Reports

Motion #1 **Financial Reports of the Secretary to the Board of Education**
that the Board of Education approve the following financial report as on
file in the Business Administrator's office for the month of **January 2024**
Fund 10 -- General Fund
Fund 20 -- Special Revenue Fund
Fund 30 -- Capital Projects Fund
Fund 40 -- Debt Service Fund

Statement of Cash Balances

that the Board of Education accept the Statement of Cash Balances for the month of
January 2024 which is reconciled with the Board Secretary's Reports by fund for that
month.

Motion #2 Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (c) 3, we certify that as of **January 2024**
after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section)
and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our
knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C.
6A:23-2.11(a) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial
obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion #3 Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (c) 4, I certify that as of **January 2024**
no budgetary line item account has been over-extended in violation of N.J.A.C.
6A:23-2.11 (b).

Business Administrator/Board Secretary **March 11, 2024**
Date

DISTRICT

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Motion #4 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education .
approve the Budget Transfers as on file in the Business Administrator's Office for the
2023-2024 budget through **January 2024**.

DISTRICT

BILLS LIST 2023-2024

Motion #5 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education
approve the attached 2023-2024 bills list for the period ending:

February 29, 2024 (payroll)
March 11, 2024

9-12

GRANT

Motion #6 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education, approve the grant of \$5,000 from the New York Jets to help launch Unified Flag Football this season. A letter of appreciation will be sent to the donor for supporting the students of the district.

EXPLANATION

Funds will be used to purchase equipment and to fund the coach's salary.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Bergen County Co-Op

Motion #7 WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance # CK04- a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on effective immediately the governing body of the Morris School District, County of Morris), State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Morris School District

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PAYMENTS

Motion #8 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following payments to Parette Somjen Architects:

Project	Amount
<i>PK-8</i>	
Alfred Vail Fire Alarm Replacement	\$11,421.06
Woodland Roof Replacement	\$ 600.00
Woodland HVAC Improvements	\$ 1,800.00
Normandy Fire Alarm Replacement	\$ 8,214.04
FMS Elevator Replacement	\$ 3,065.30
<i>9-12</i>	
MHS New Electrical Distribution Panels	\$ 6,558.14
MHS Home Economics Classroom Renovation	\$22,201.12
MHS Band Room & Room 112 HVAC Upgrades	\$ 4,300.00
MHS Field Lighting & Scoreboard	\$ 164.25

TRAVEL & REIMBURSEMENT

Motion #9 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, employees are attending conferences, conventions, staff training seminars or workshops as depicted on attachment: and

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated functions was previously approved by the chief school administrator as work related and within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendees; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the functions was approved as critical to the instructional needs of the school district or furthering the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, the travel and related expenses particular to attendance at these functions are in compliance with the state travel payment guidelines established

by the Department of Treasury and with guidelines established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget; be it

RESOLVED, that the board approves the travel and related expenses particular to attendance at these functions.

***DISTRICT
 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
 SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2024-2025***

Motion #10 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the preliminary budget be approved for the 2024-2025 School Year using the 2024-2025 state aid figures and the Secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and 18A:F-6:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2024-2025 Total Expenditures	\$ 133,499,113	\$ 16,519,113	\$ 150,018,226
Less: Anticipated Revenues	< \$ 29,676,555 >	< \$ 16,519,113 >	< \$ 46,195,668 >
Taxes to be Raised	\$ 103,822,558	\$ 0	\$ 103,822,558

Adjustment for Banked Cap: \$1,000,000

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$1,000,000. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment is needed to maintain current programming and necessary building improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to advertise said preliminary budget in the Daily Record in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 school year will be held at Morristown High School on April 29, 2024 at 7:30pm.

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT WITHDRAWAL

Motion #11 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris School District Board of Education includes in the budget a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$4,185,329 for the following projects:

Culinary Arts Renovation	\$ 1,500,000
Fire Alarm Upgrades	\$ 1,009,000
Elevator Renovation	\$ 550,000
Electric Upgrade	\$ 450,000
Turf Field	\$ 365,583
Security Projects	\$ 310,746

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT DEPOSIT

Motion #12 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris School District Board of Education includes in the general fund appropriations \$ 700,000 for deposit into the Board of Education's approved Capital Reserve Account for future funding of projects.

MAINTENANCE RESERVE ACCOUNT WITHDRAWAL

Motion #13 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris School District Board of Education includes in the budget a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$1,000,000 for qualifying projects such as door replacements, masonry repairs, refinishing of gym floors and replacement of cracked walkways.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 2024-2025

Motion #14 WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:5.2 (a) a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for professional services and public relations, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:9.3-14

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris Board of Education hereby establishes the following maximums for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

Architecture/Engineering *	\$ 179,000
Legal	281,000
Audit	50,300
Private Investigator	75,000
Physician	<u>91,000</u>
Total	\$ 676,300

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

* Does not include projects funded through Capital Reserve.

MAXIMUM TRAVEL

Motion #15 WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, the Morris School District Board of Education must establish a maximum travel dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure supported by State and local funds in the amount of **\$118,248** for the 2024-2025 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount supported by State and local funds for the 2023-2024 school year is **\$132,808**, of which **\$27,663** has been spent and **\$14,098** is encumbered as of March 7, 2024. WHEREAS, the Board of Education resolution did not address the election to exclude travel expenditures supported by federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris School District Board of Education hereby elects to exclude federal travel expenditures supported by federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount and reaffirms the maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2024-2025 school year to be **\$118,248**.

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Motion #16 WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district;

AND, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

AND, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30);

AND, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the board of education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of **\$118,248** for all staff and board members for the 2024-2025 school year. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AID BUDGET

Motion #17 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the submission of the 2024-2025 Preschool Education Aid grant in the amount of \$11,605,549 to the Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education. The grant includes \$890,301 district funds to support students with disabilities in the General Education classroom.

BUSINESS MATTERS (Motions #1-17)

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

NEW BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Mrs. Davidson confirmed with the Board that their next retreat is scheduled for March 27, 2024 at Lafayette Learning Center from 6pm-9pm.

ADJOURNMENT (9:50PM)

Moved by Mrs. Spiotta, seconded by Mrs. Wall

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Smith

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Lo Franco
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary