

MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Minutes of June 28, 2024  
LAFAYETTE LEARNING CENTER, CENTRAL OFFICE

The special business meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris School District, of Morris County, New Jersey was held in the 2nd Floor Large Conference Room in Central Office at Lafayette Learning Center, Morristown, NJ on Friday morning, June 28, 2024 at 9:04 am.

Mrs. Joan Frederick, Assistant 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.

A special meeting of the Board of Education will be held Friday, June 28, 2024 at Lafayette Learning Center, 31 Hazel Street, Morristown, NJ 07960 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room, for the purpose of personnel matters. The meeting will open at 9:00 am. Action may be taken.

At the Roll Call, the following Board Members were present: Mrs. Katie Cole, Board President, Mrs. Meredith Davidson, Board Vice-President, Ms. Linda K. Murphy, Mrs. Susan Pedalino, Mr. Alan Smith & Mrs. Melissa Spiotta.

Ms. Lucia Galdi, Morris Plains Representative, Mr. Cary Lloyd, Dr. Vivian Rodriguez & Mrs. Beth Wall were absent.

Also present at 9:00am, Dr. Anne Mucci, Superintendent, Mrs. Joan Frederick, Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary, Ms. Debora Engelfried, Director of Data & Analysis Programs and Michelle Ferraro, Administrative Assistant to Business Administrator.

The Board moved to go into closed session at 9:06am.

***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 June 28, 2024 at 9:00 A.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 Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Cole

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Galdi, Mr. Smith

At 9:32am, Mrs. Spiotta moved to go into open session. Mr. Smith seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Non from the public/media was in attendance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Mucci thanked those Board members in attendance for making time for this special meeting to get the great staff on the agenda.*

*Dr. Mucci gave the Board an update on all the Facility summer projects.*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Mrs. Cole expressed understanding for the summer schedules/vacations amongst the Board and asked they do their best to attend their committee meetings and communicate their availability.*

**BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING**

**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, June 10, 2024.

**EDUCATIONAL MATTERS (Motion #1)**

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

Motion #1 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:

<b><i>PK-8</i></b>	
Riddle, Eileen 1.0 ABS, HC	June 30, 2024 Resigned
<b><i>DISTRICT</i></b>	
Balon, Natalie 1.0 Supervisor of Spec. Ed. (6-12), PS	June 30, 2024 Resigned

***RESIGNATION(S)/TERMINATION(S)/RETIREMENT(S) 2024-2025***

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:

<b><i>PK-8</i></b>	
Arroyo, Amanda 1.0 Teacher (Spec. Ed. MD), AV	August 16, 2024 Resigned
Short, Mary Kathleen 1.0 Teacher (Spec. Ed. MD), AH	August 13, 2024 Resigned
<b><i>DISTRICT</i></b>	
Reid, Barbara 1.0 Bus Aide, Transportation	July 1, 2024 Retired (Revised)

***APPOINTMENT(S) 2024-2025 \*/\*\****

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:
<b>PK-8</b>			
Higgins, Allison ® 0.5 Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, HC	\$13,846 Col. B, Step 1	On or about 09/03/24-06/30/24	Picciallo, J. Resigned
Lendis, Evagkelia 1.0 Principal, FMS	\$162,000	On or about 8/28/24-06/30/25	Ugialoro, J. Resigned
<b>9-12</b>			
Kenny, Sophia 1.0 Director of Guidance and Program Development, MHS	\$160,000	On or about 8/28/24-06/30/25	Est. 06/10/24

- \* Pending probationary period
- \*\* Pending completion of paperwork

**TRANSFER(S), CHANGE(S) OF ASSIGNMENT, TITLE AND OR/ SALARY 2024-2025**

Motion #4 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the change(s) of assignment and/or salary for the following staff:

Employee	Former Assignment	New Assignment	Effective	Salary	In Place Of:
<b>PK-8</b>					
Johnson, Melissa	1.0 Class V Secretary, Community School	1.0 Class V Secretary, TJ	On or about 08/01/24 - 06/30/25	N/A	Morreale, J. Retired
<b>DISTRICT</b>					
Navarro, Carina	1.0 Psychologist, FMS	1.0 Supervisor Special Education (6-12), PS	On or about 08/28/24-06/30/25	\$115,000	Balon, N. Resigned
Pardilla, Osvaldo	1.0 Assistant Director of Technology, CO	1.0 Director of IT - Infrastructure, CO	On or about 07/01/24-06/30/25	\$140,000	Est. 06/10/24

**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:

<b>9-12</b>		
Employee #4811	05/13/24-06/14/24 08/28/24-11/19/24	Maternity * FMLA/NJFLA **
<b>DISTRICT</b>		
Employee #6995	06/20/24-06/30/24 07/01/24-09/11/24 (Revised dates)	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
- \*\*\* With pay/with benefits
- \*\*\*\* Without pay/with benefits

**EXTRA PAY 2024-2025**

Motion #6 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following extra-pay positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

<b>MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR</b>		
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>STAFF MEMBER</b>	<b>TOTAL SALARY</b>
<b>9-12</b>		
Advanced Placement Instructional Coordinator - Stipend	Rooney, Kevin On or about 7/1/24-06/30/25	\$8,500



**PK-8**

**FMS SUMMER SECURITY COVERAGE 2024**

Motion #7 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve compensation to the following Security Monitors to monitor the front desk and provide overall building security at FMS.

Date/Time: June 15, 2024 – August 27, 2024  
(Not to exceed 8 hours daily Monday – Thursday and  
Not to exceed 5.5 hours Friday)  
Location: FMS  
Staff:

Andrade, Nilsa  
Ashmont, Albert  
Bailey, Charles  
Bell, Beverly  
Hernandez, Albert  
Mantone, Jerald  
Nasi, Rigers  
Schmidt, Edward  
Singleton, Melissa  
Trizzino, James  
Vorhies, Cara

**EXPLANATION:** Upon submission of approved timesheets, employees will be compensated at their regular hourly rate.

**NP - ESY SUMMER SECURITY COVERAGE 2024**

Motion #8 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve compensation to the following Security Monitors to monitor the front desk and provide overall building security at NP.

Date/Time: July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024  
(Not to exceed 5.5 hours daily)  
Location: NP  
Staff:

Andrade, Nilsa  
Ashmont, Albert  
Bailey, Charles  
Bell, Beverly  
Hernandez, Albert  
Mantone, Jerald  
Nasi, Rigers  
Schmidt, Edward  
Singleton, Melissa  
Trizzino, James  
Vorhies, Cara

**EXPLANATION:** Upon submission of approved timesheets, employees will be compensated at their regular hourly rate.

***LLC - ESY SUMMER SECURITY COVERAGE 2024***

Motion #9 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve compensation to the following Security Monitors to monitor the front desk and provide overall building security at LLC.

Date/Time: June 15, 2024 – August 27, 2024  
(Not to exceed 8 hours daily Monday – Thursday and  
Not to exceed 5.5 hours Friday)

Location: LLC

Staff: Andrade, Nilsa  
Ashmont, Albert  
Bailey, Charles  
Bell, Beverly  
Hernandez, Albert  
Mantone, Jerald  
Nasi, Rigers  
Schmidt, Edward  
Singleton, Melissa  
Trizzino, James  
Vorhies, Cara

**EXPLANATION:** Upon submission of approved timesheets, employees will be compensated at their regular hourly rate.

***TJ - ESY SUMMER SECURITY COVERAGE 2024***

Motion #10 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve compensation to the following Security Monitors to monitor the front desk and provide overall building security at TJ.

Date/Time: July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024  
(Not to exceed 5.5 hours daily)

Location: TJ

Staff: Andrade, Nilsa  
Ashmont, Albert  
Bailey, Charles  
Bell, Beverly  
Hernandez, Albert  
Mantone, Jerald  
Nasi, Rigers  
Schmidt, Edward  
Singleton, Melissa  
Trizzino, James  
Vorhies, Cara

**EXPLANATION:** Upon submission of approved timesheets, employees will be compensated at their regular hourly rate.

***CST SUMMER SERVICES 2024***

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

Posting: #I-24  
Program: Summer CST Services  
Description: Child Study Teams are needed during the summer for the referral process/ID meetings, IEP development, parent conferences, and scheduling meetings in compliance with state and federal regulations. General and special education teachers participate in eligibility and IEP meetings, as required by the state administrative code.  
Dates: June 24, 2024 – June 30, 2024  
July 1, 2024 - August 27, 2024  
Hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Funding: Local Funds  
Compensation: Not to exceed 750 hours total as per Contract language  
Requirements: Morris School District staff that hold the proper credentials as CST, School Counselors, Related Services Staff, and MSD Certified Staff

***HR/CURRICULUM  
DISTRICT***

***SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAM 2024***

Motion #12 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the Summer Academic Program for MSD students in Grades K -12 Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the following:

Posting: I-25  
Program: FMS Summer Learning Academy Teachers  
Description: FMS  
Dates: July 2, 2024 - August 1, 2024  
Funding: ESSER-ARP, NJ High-Impact Tutoring Grant  
Rate: As per contract  
Staff: Alfieri, Daniele  
Castro, Nicole  
Janosy, Allison  
Pierre, Nikeema

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

***MHS SUMMER GUIDANCE HOURS 2024***

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

Program: Guidance Services - MHS  
Description: School Counseling services are needed during the summer to complete and update schedules. Counselors will also be working with students and parents/guardians as our rising seniors prepare for the college admissions process and our underclassmen continue to evolve in their academics. In addition, counselors will be meeting with and scheduling all new registrants. They will also be performing outreach to families who are in need of ongoing support. Finally, they will be working on developing new programs to be offered in the coming school year.  
Dates: June 17, 2024-August 27, 2024  
Funding: Local  
Rate of pay: 1/140th of monthly salary:  
(not to exceed the allotted number of hours for each counselor)  
Staff: Counselors (11):  
Barrera, Claudia - 56 hours  
Caruso, Sandra - 49 hours  
Cheikes, Ellen - 49 hours  
Kenny, Kristina - 49 hours  
Matthews, Craig - 56 hours  
Norton, Michael - 56 hours  
Pichardo, Oshaira - 56 hours  
Tate, Monica - 56 hours  
Streiff, Cheryl - 49 hours  
Weisenseel, Kate - 56 hours  
Wolf, Karen - 49 hours

**HUMAN RESOURCES (Motions #1-13)**

Moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Galdi, Mr. Lloyd, Dr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Wall

*The Board expressed their excitement for the staff changes/additions and the positive impact it will have specifically on the students. The Board discussed receiving a revised organizational chart.*

**ADJOURNMENT (9:48AM)**

Moved by Mrs. Pedalino, seconded by Mrs. Spiotta

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Galdi, Mr. Lloyd, Dr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Wall

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Frederick  
Assistant Business Administrator/  
Assistant Board Secretary