

MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of January 12, 2026
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, January 12, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Anthony Lo Franco 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. Diana Agu, Mrs. Katie Cole, Mrs. Meredith Davidson, Ms. Linda K. Murphy, Board Vice-President, Ms. Sieglinde Pylypchuk, Dr. Vivian Rodriguez, Board President, and Mrs. Beth Wall.

Ms. Tina Perry, Morris Plains Representative, Mr. Alan Smith and Mrs. Melissa Spiotta 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. Tina Alberto, Anti-Bullying Coordinator (6:30pm - 6:33pm).

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 January 12, 2026 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 Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Cole

AYES: Mrs. Agu, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Murphy,
Ms. Pylypchuk, Dr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

At 7:35 pm, Ms. Murphy, moved to go into open session and recess. Mrs. Davidson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Also present, for open session, Mr. Christopher Argenziano, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Joan Frederick, Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary, Mr. Matt Kriley, Director of Elementary Education, Mrs. Elaine Broe, Communications & Community Relations Coordinator, Mr. Glenn Miller, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Mr. Harry Ruiz, Director of Safety & Operations, Mr. Robert Provost, Partner, PKF O'Connor Davies and Ms. Sarah Kim, Supervisor with PKF O'Connor Davies, with approximately 20 members of the public/media in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Rodriguez led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Representatives:

Ms. Zheng reported on the following topics:

- *Winter sports*
- *Congratulations to Girls Wrestling team winning first match with the first all girls wrestling team*
- *Boys ice hockey currently on a 6-game winning streak*
- *Fiddler on the Roof production rehearsals*
- *Social studies Honor Society, in partnership with Homeless Solutions, finishing up their Winter Clothing Drive*
- *National Art Honor Society held a Winter Ornament Sale*
- *SGO concluded their gift drive with thank you notes to all the generous donors*
- *19th annual Morristown ONStage, Feb 24th include district students as finalists*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mucci made the following statement:

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the events in our community over this past weekend. We are aware that recent I.C.E. activity in town has deeply impacted members of our school community. We know that some of our students and families are experiencing fear, confusion and distress.

Tonight our emotions are understandably high and I want to begin by grounding us in our shared responsibility: the care, safety and wellbeing of our students. Our schools remain places of learning, stability and routine. For children, especially in moments of uncertainty, predictability and trusted adults matter. Our focus as a district is to keep our schools calm, welcoming and centered on instruction, while ensuring students who are struggling emotionally are supported. Counselors, social workers and administrators are available and we ask staff and families to continue referring students in distress to the appropriate supports available in our schools.

I also need to be clear about our role. School districts do not engage in immigration enforcement, nor do we collect or share information related to an individual's immigration status. At the same time

there are limits to what we can discuss publicly this evening regarding security measures or law enforcement practices.

What I can say is that we work continuously with our community partners to ensure our schools operate safely and responsibly within the law to protect all of our students. Importantly, we are not alone in supporting families. Through our participation in the Morris Area Clergy Council, we have established a community based pathway for families who need assistance.

For those who wish to help or are seeking to support our community members who need it, Nourish NJ is working in partnership with area churches and faith organizations including Assemblies of God. Together they are providing food access and family support resources. Since this is an evolving initiative, information about these resources, and how our community can help, is available through the Nourish NJ website and should be updated within two days.

We are so proud as a group and as a Board of Education to serve our outstanding school district. The Morris School District is one that is filled with compassion, empathy and strong community partnerships. We sincerely thank you for your concern for all of our students, we appreciate your offers of help and we look forward to offering these opportunities to you and working together to help all of our students and families.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Rodriguez shared her gratitude for the opportunity to help our district grow, and our Board to act as advocates for the betterment of the Morris School District.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert Provost, Partner, PKF O'Connor Davies presented the 2024-2025 Audit report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Rodriguez 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.

Members of the public came forward on the following topics:

- *Concern on the safety and wellbeing of the students, families and staff due to recent I.C.E. operations that occurred over the weekend, requesting the district to communicate what additional services, protocols and safeguards are currently in place or swiftly implemented to ensure the school district remains safe and supportive space for all members of our community.*

BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING
SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Motion #1 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Morris School District Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Morris School District Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Morris School District Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2026 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Morris School District Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION (Motion #1)

Moved by Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Cole

AYES: Ms. Agu, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk,
Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

MINUTES

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

December 15, 2025

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

December 15, 2025

Motion #3 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education, approve minutes from the regular business meeting of:

January 5, 2026

MINUTES (Motions #1-3)

Moved by Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Cole

AYES: Ms. Agu, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk (Motion #3)
Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Ms. Pylypchuk (Motions #1-2)

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

POLICY

SECOND READING

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

Policy	Regulation	Title
<u>5700</u>	N/A	Pupil rights
<u>5721</u>	<u>R5721</u>	Independent publications
<u>5752</u>	N/A	Marital status and pregnancy
<u>5880</u>	N/A	Public performances by pupils

BOE COMMITTEES

Motion #2 Motion that the Board of Education approve their 2026 Committees as attached.

POLICY (Motions #1-2)

Moved by Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Wall

AYES: Ms. Agu, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk (Motion #2)
Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Ms. Pylypchuk (Motion #1)

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

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 15, 2025.

DISTRICT

FIELD TRIPS

Motion #2 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education agrees to the following additional  Field Trip Approval

MEF GRANTS

Motion #3 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education Accept monies from the Morris Educational Foundation for the following Grants:

<u>PK-8</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>
	\$8,000	NP, AH, SX, TJ	Intermediate Unit Writers Circle Workshop

Normandy Park:

The Writer's Circle Workshops is intended for all students in the intermediate unit (2/3). The students will jump into the fun of creative writing through group interaction, imaginative prompts, drawing, and role-playing to teach all the basics of story creation and help kids put their wildest inspirations onto the page. In a fun, non-judgmental environment, kids gain confidence in their ideas and discover the magic of creative writing. This will be an ideal opportunity to foster a love of writing as students in these grades build strong independent writing skills. Teachers will continue to work on these skills after the initial introduction by the professionals from the New Jersey-based creative writing organization that offers workshops and classes for children.

AH, SX, TJ:

These schools will take part in the Writers Circle Workshop that is described above. As a result, all third graders will have the same writing experience.

<u>9-12</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>
	\$200	MHS	Support of MHS Chemistry Department <i>Donor Designated</i>

<u>Amount</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$200	MHS	Support of MHS Math Department <i>Donor Designated</i>

<u>Amount</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$3,200	MHS	One Good Scene

One Good Scene offers approximately 50 students, in two advanced Creative Writing classes, an opportunity to explore the craft of scriptwriting with a professional scriptwriter and professional actors working in the field. They will create a 3- minute script with two people in dialogue sitting at a table. This allows the students to explore conversational dialogue – not only the core essence of great scriptwriting, but also forces the students to build on their own communication skills as they build their two characters and expand their storytelling ability. The professional actors will act out the final scripts.

<u>Amount</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$50,000	MHS	Artisan Academy <i>Donor Designated</i>

The Artisan Academy is a pathway that provides student makers with the skills, resources, and mentoring support to design and produce marketable products. In addition, the Academy provides these students with the necessary marketing skills that will support them in developing a profitable enterprise. The intended population may not necessarily be the top 20% of the class. They may not be sure of their future plans, but they are creative and have the work ethic to potentially start a business and with time they can grow into a meaningful income source. The funds are provided by the Lauren and Emily Failla Foundation. The funds will be split as \$25,000 over two years in order to jump start this Academy.

Prior to the vote, Ms. Murphy highlighted the grants from the Morris Educational Foundation and thanked the M.E.F. for their continued support.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS (Motions #1-3)

Moved by Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Wall

AYES: Ms. Agu, Mrs. Cole (Motions #1-2), Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk,
Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Cole (Motion #3)

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

PUPIL SERVICES

DISTRICT

OUT OF DISTRICT ROSTER

Motion #1 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves 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 January 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 for students with disabilities. Attendance is monitored monthly in order to ensure students are enrolled as agreed and IEPs are being followed. 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 Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Davidson

AYES: Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk, Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Agu, Mrs. Cole

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

HUMAN RESOURCES

RESIGNATION(S)/TERMINATION(S)/RETIREMENT(S) 2025-2026

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:

9-12	
Employee #8361	December 22, 2025 Terminated
Employee # 7267	January 27, 2026 Terminated
Escobar Andrade, Osmar 1.0 Custodian, MHS	January 6, 2026 Resigned

APPOINTMENT(S) 2025-2026 */**

Motion #2 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:
PK-8			
Pietro de Frietas, Erica 1.0 ABS, LLC	01/05/26-06/30/26	\$34,171	Bourland, C. Resigned
Mejia, Liliana 1.0 Custodian, FMS	11/25/25-06/30/26	\$42,000	Grau, M. Resigned
Rivera, Gloria 1.0 LDTC, LLC	03/16/26-06/30/26	\$92,415 MA, Step 18	Santana, S. Retired
9-12			
Dowd, Alyssa 1.0 Math, MHS	01/20/26-06/30/26 (revised date)	\$64,425 BA, Step 1	Employee #5124 LEAVE REPLACEMENT
DISTRICT			
Akman, Baran 1.0 Bus Driver, Transportation	01/05/26-06/30/26	\$37,800 \$35/hour	Employee #6246

		6 hours/day 180 days/year	
Contreras, Apolinar 1.0 Bus Driver, Transportation	01/05/26-06/30/26	\$37,800 \$35/hour 6 hours/day 180 days/year	Employee #3735
Garcia, Jonathan 1.0 Bus Driver, Transportation	01/06/26-06/30/26	\$37,800 \$35/hour 6 hours/day 180 days/year	O’Neill, J. Resigned
Sierra, Andrea 1.0 Accountant, MSD	01/20/26-01/31/26 02/01/26-06/30/26	\$100,000	Leave Replacement Isenburg, J. Retired

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

DISTRICT

SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS 2025-2026

Motion #3 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 2025-2026 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.:

Athletic Volunteer

Fedak, Stephen (Baseball)
Towns, Desmond (Wrestling)

Bus Driver

Arango Arias, Jessica (eff. 01/07/2026)

Substitute Teacher

Diaz, Nailah (eff. 12/17/2025)
Fontes, Ana (eff. 11/01/2025)
Guerriero, Esperanza (eff. 12/17/2025)
Silva, Elias (eff. 01/08/2026)

Touw, Mia (eff. 12/17/2025)
 Zeug, Rachael (eff. 01/08/2026)

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

LEAVE(S) OF ABSENCE 2025-2026

Motion #4 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 #3044	05/26/26-06/17/26 08/26/26-11/24/26	Accumulated Leave * FMLA/NJFLA **
Employee #7599	02/13/26-03/27/26	Personal ***
Employee #8090	12/24/25-01/27/26 01/28/26-04/28/26 (revised dates)	Accumulated Leave* 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

EXTRA PAY 2025-2026

Motion #5 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following extra-pay positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS		
POSITION	STAFF MEMBER	TOTAL SALARY
9-12		
Baseball		
Assistant Coach (2 of 3)	Hwang, Simon	\$7,161
Assistant Coach (3 of 3)	Testa, David	\$7,161
Softball Assistant Coach (2 of 2)	Scalley, Megan	\$7,161

FRELINGHUYSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS		
POSITION	STAFF MEMBER	TOTAL SALARY
PK-8		
Baseball		
Head Coach (1 of 1)	Manahan, Bryan - GF	\$6,455
Assistant Coach (1 of 1)	Picado, Jack	\$3,176
Lacrosse Head Coach - Girls (1 of 1)	Daly, Ashley	\$4,537
Track & Field		
Head Coach (1 of 1)	Leung, Caroline	\$4,227
Assistant Coach (1 of 2)	Finnegan, Kate	\$2,959

INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS 2025-2026

Motion #6 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve compensation in the amount of \$100 to each of the following staff members due to involuntary transfer for the 2025-2026 school year:

Staff Member	Previous Assignment	New Assignment
PK-8		
Sommer, Jeanette	Hillcrest	Sussex

TRANSFER(S), CHANGE(S) OF ASSIGNMENT, TITLE AND OR/ SALARY 2025-2026

Motion #7 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:
PK-8					
Smith, Brandon	1.0 Custodian (P/T), LLC	1.0 ABS, FMS	01/07/26	\$34,171	Employee #7339

DISTRICT					
Bedoya Quiroz, Angela	1.0 Bus Aide, Transportation	N/A	01/20/26	\$24,317 \$19.00 hourly rate 6.5 hours/day 180 days/year (revised hours)	
Castro Lopez, Lucila	1.0 Bus Aide, Transportation	N/A	01/05/26	\$17,955 \$19.00 hourly rate 5.25 hours/day 180 days/year (revised hours)	N/A
Mora Herrera, Vanessa	1.0 Bus Driver, Transportation	N/A	01/20/26	\$44,100 \$35.00 hourly rate 7 hours/day 180 days/year (revised hours)	N/A
Rodriguez Robles, Heydee	1.0 Bus Aide, Transportation	N/A	01/05/26	\$20,576 \$20.78 hourly rate 5.5 hours/day 180 days/year (revised hours)	N/A
Santana Javier, Eudis	1.0 Bus Aide, Transportation	N/A	01/05/26	\$21,218 \$19.65 hourly rate 6 hours/day 180 days/year (revised hours)	N/A

PK-8

K-5 BILINGUAL ACADEMIC AFTER SCHOOL TEACHERS 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion #8 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approve the K-5 Bilingual Academic After School staff: **Revisions in bold.**

Posting: #J-41
 Program: K-5 Bilingual Academic Afterschool Teacher
 Description: After school academic support for K-5 bilingual students
 Dates: November 2025 - May 2026
 Funding: Title III
 Rate: \$50/hour
 Preparation time: \$39/week (limited to weeks when sessions are held)
 Staff: Carranza, Paola (HC)
 Kahwaty, Nicole (SX)

Marvez, Audrey (SX)
Moran, Jennifer (WD @ TJ)
Vasquez Baldassari, Oscar (WD @ TJ)
Murphy, Cathleen (AV)
~~Rafael Calderon, Tatyana (TJ)~~
Ventresca, Lauren (AH)

Substitute(s):
Kelly-Ruano, Francis

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

DISTRICT

REFERRAL BONUS 2025-2026

Motion #9 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
Schmaling, Doris	Secretary	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.

9-12

SENIOR NJDOE PORTFOLIO 2025-2026

Motion #10 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and the Board Curriculum Committee, the Board of Education approves Senior NJDOE Portfolio

Program: Senior NJDOE Portfolio
Description: Administer Senior NJDOE Portfolio Appeals
Dates: January, 2026 - March, 2026
Funding: Local Funding
Rate: As per contract language (not to exceed 10 hours per staff member)
Staff: Angelo, Amy
Ann Rivera, Lee
Escobar, Jenifer
Finizio, Janet
Mulrooney, Kristen
Rubin, Stephanie
Schwartz, Allison

Serra, Mike
Temprano, Susana
Trimmer, Grace
Velez, Jada

EXPLANATION: Upon submission of an approved timesheet, staff members will be paid as above.

DISTRICT

SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

Motion #11 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between the Morris School District Board of Education and Employee #7111.

DISTRICT

STUDENT TEACHER APPOINTMENTS 2025-2026

Motion #12 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following name(s) be added to the list of student teachers, and approve all Morris School District Student Teachers, as assigned for the 2025-2026 school year, and further that the Board of Education approve submission to the County Superintendent application for emergency hiring and each 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.:

Student Teacher

Bavaro, Nathan (Fairleigh Dickinson University)
Campbell, Adam (Rutgers University)
Edwards, Gabriella (Fairleigh Dickinson University)
Kozub, Laura (Fairleigh Dickinson University)
Rzaca, Veronica (Seton Hall University)
Santana Salazar, Ashlyn (Fairleigh Dickinson University)
Swat, Margaret (Fairleigh Dickinson University)

PK-8

MEF FMS TUTORING COORDINATOR 2025-2026

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

Program: MEF FMS Tutoring Coordinator 2025-2026
Funding: MEF Grant
Rate: \$3,600
Staff: Recarte, Melissa

EXPLANATION: Staff members will be paid in equal installments in December and June.

HUMAN RESOURCES (Motions #1-13)

Moved by Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Cole

AYES: Mrs. Agu, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk,
Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

BUSINESS MATTERS

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 **November 2025**
Fund 10 -- General Fund
Fund 20 -- Special Revenue Fund
Fund 30 -- Capital Projects Fund

Statement of Cash Balances

that the Board of Education accept the Statement of Cash Balances for the month of
November 2025 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 **November 2025**
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 **November 2025**
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 **January 12, 2026**
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
2025-2026 budget through **November 2025**.

BILLS LIST 2025-2026

- Motion #5 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education
approve the attached 2025-2026 bills list for the period ending:

December 31, 2025 (payroll)
January 12, 2026
January 13, 2026 (NACHA)

DISTRICT

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion #6 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education acknowledges receipt and approves the 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Auditor's Management Report on Administrative findings with no recommendations

PK-8

EMERGENCY CONTRACTING

Motion #7 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education recognizes the emergency situation at Frelinghuysen Middle School due to frozen and damaged coils in unit ventilators, and authorizes a contract with DeSesa Engineering Co., Inc., in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18-7.

EXPLANATION

On January 2, 2026, Frelinghuysen Middle School experienced a broken pipe that impacted 9 classrooms. DeSesa Engineering was contracted to make the necessary repairs to the damaged coils. No additional quotes were obtained.

BID AWARDS

BID 26-039(B) TREE PLANTING RE-BID

Motion #8 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42, BID 26-039(B), Tree Planting Re-Bid, having been duly advertised and received on January 6, 2026, be awarded to Downes Tree Service Co., Inc. as set forth below:

Vendor	Base Bid \$
Downes Tree Service	\$102,305.00
SJC Lawncare	\$184,000.00
Sunset Creations	\$128,205.00
Turco Golf	\$155,048.79
Wetlands Landscape & Site Construction	\$168,350.00

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 2025-2026

Motion #9 WHEREAS there exists a need for professional services for 2025-2026 and funds are available for these purposes,

WHEREAS the Public School Contracts Law (Chapter 114, Laws of 1977) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for professional services without competitive bids be publicly adopted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Morris School District Board of Education that the following be engaged as follows:

AHS Hospital Corp/Morristown Medical Ctr	<p><u>District Level</u> School Doctor Annual Fee</p> <p>Drug Screenings</p> <p><u>Morristown High School</u> Review of PPEs</p> <p>Campus Performed PPEs</p> <p>Per Diem Athletic Trainer</p>	<p>\$33,000/year</p> <p>\$70/urine collection \$25/breath alcohol test</p> <p>\$50/physical</p> <p>\$20,000/day for 200 total physicals \$100/add-on</p> <p>\$66.50</p>
AHS Hospital Corp	<p><u>Frelinghuysen Middle School</u> Team Physician Services</p> <p>Review of PPEs</p> <p>Primary Athletic Trainer</p>	<p>\$5,000 /year</p> <p>\$50/physical</p> <p>\$49,320/year</p>

TRAVEL & REIMBURSEMENT

Motion #10 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.

BUSINESS MATTERS (Motion #1-10)

Moved by Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Cole

AYES: Mrs. Agu, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk,
Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

ADJOURNMENT (8:06PM)

Moved by Ms. Murphy seconded by Mrs. Wall

AYES: Mrs. Agu, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Pylypchuk,
Mrs. Wall, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ms. Perry, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Spiotta

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Lo Franco
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary