



Vincent Caravello <vcaravello@marlboro.k12.nj.us>

Fwd: Marlboro BOE Meeting, March 28, 2023, email 3 of 3

1 message

Kathleen Amster <kamster@marlboro.k12.nj.us>

Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 3:11 PM

To: Michael Ballone <mballone@mtps.org>, Vincent Caravello <vcaravello@marlboro.k12.nj.us>

Another one

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brian and Fran Cohen** <brianandfran@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 2:47 PM

Subject: Marlboro BOE Meeting, March 28, 2023, email 3 of 3

To: <Boardmembers@mtps.org>

CC: <ehibbs@mtps.org>, <mballone@mtps.org>, <Angelica.Allen-mcmillan@doe.nj.gov>, <Lester.richens@doe.nj.gov>

Dear Members of the Marlboro BOE and Stakeholders,

This is the third of three emails I am sending today, as a taxpayer and community member, to address my concerns about three distinct issues raised during the Marlboro BOE meeting held on March 28th, 2023.

During the meeting it was announced that the community coffee chats are set to begin in May. As I understand it, these will be BOE organized "chats" that requires pre-registration, will have limited space, and will not be recorded. In other words, by design, these meetings will be sponsored by the BOE, only open to a select few, and there will be no public disclosure about what was discussed.

I have some questions:

1. Were these meetings approved by a public vote during a BOE meeting? If so, where does that vote appear on any agenda? If not, doesn't there need to be a vote?
2. How does this structure, which seems to be the opposite of the transparency this BOE said that it aspires to, not violate the open public meetings laws?
3. Does anything preclude the BOE from having a more casual meeting that complies with the open public meetings law? If not, then why is this approach being pursued, rather than one that complies with the law?

While I appreciate that the spirit of this proposal seems to have been to encourage community involvement, I am deeply troubled that the BOE seems to be deliberately pushing the envelope and violating the very laws and regulations that the BOE is required to uphold, thereby inviting challenge and litigation, and keeping our community divided where opportunities exist to unite us instead.

I look forward to the courtesy of a response.

Regards,

Francine Cohen