## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE Morrisville, Pennsylvania

The regular monthly meeting of the Morrisville Board of School Directors was held in the LGI Room located in the Morrisville Middle/Senior High School, 550 West Palmer Street, Morrisville, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. Bill Hellmann, President, called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm with the following members present on roll call:

 In attendance:
 Messrs. Buckman, Hellman, DeWilde, Radosti and Stout, Mrs. Mihok; and Mrs. Worob.

 Absent:
 Mrs. Reithmeyer; Mrs. Heater.

 Quorum Present.
 Versent:

Also attending this evening's meeting was Dr. Elizabeth Hammond Yonson, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Mr. Anthony Gesualdi, Director of Pupil Services; Mr. William Ferrara, Intermediate/Secondary Principal (Gr. 6-12); Ms. Laurie Ruffing, Elementary/Intermediate School Principal (PreK-5); Frank Dillon, Esq., Solicitor; media and MEA representation.

## **ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION**

Student Representative to the Board

Mark Agazarian – Parent Advisory was held on January 12; 4Sight Testing took place during the week of January 11; Financial Aide night was held on January 13; \$750 was raised for the Coaches vs. Cancer initiative; Schools are closed January 18 for MLK observance; Exams end tomorrow for grades 9-12; grades 8-11 are beginning their course selections for next year; Gym Night will be held on February 28.

## 1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Yonson advised that January in Pennsylvania is School Director Recognition Month. Board Directors were honored at a dinner held at the Vo Tech School. Dr. Yonson read the below resolution and thanked the members for their service to Morrisville School District. Dr. Yonson presented each Board member with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Drew King, President of the MEA, presented a donation of books to be placed in the school library. For the past several years the MEA and Friends of MEA have presented the District with books for the benefit of our students. This year 180 new books have been added to our school libraries.

Mr. William Ferrara offered a brief explanation of the proposed Course of Study for the 2010-2011 school year. He outlined the process as it progresses from selection to completion.

 $\Rightarrow$  Update on grants – Ms. Ruffing

Ms. Laurie Ruffing will be reporting twice a year to the Board on the grant process in the District. Ms. Ruffing advised that we currently have the EAP grant for \$92,000; the ABG grant for \$134,500 and the PreK grant in the amount of \$280,800. All of these grants are significantly

lower than last year because of the impasse of the PA State Budget. New grants this year include the Target grant for \$800 which is dedicated to Healthy schools; the Science is Elementary grant (no specific amount) which covers supplies, staff development, etc. related to elementary science as well as the Earth Saver's Grant for \$1,500 which pays for kindergarten curriculum and zoo visits. We have applied for the Bully Scholarship grant which would allow our guidance counselors to be trained in bully prevention and share this information with other staff members and the PEP grant (up to \$300,000) which would be used to enhance our physical education program. In addition, Ms. Ruffing completes and submits quarterly reports for all the grants.

# School Director Recognition Month January 2010

- WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and
- WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and
- WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and
- WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and
- FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth.

#### ➡ Enrollment Report

#### District Enrollments as of January 21, 2010

|                    | Student Population          |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kindergarten82     | GRANDVIEW                   |
| Grade 174          | INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 4-5124  |
| Grade 279          |                             |
| Grade 3            |                             |
| Grade 463          | INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 6-8178  |
| Grade 561          | HIGH SCHOOL 9-12 <u>240</u> |
| Grade 658          | 418                         |
| Grade 761          |                             |
| Grade 859          | TECHNICAL SCHOOL57          |
| Grade 954          | Regular Ed 42               |
| Grade 1054         | Spec Ed 15                  |
| Grade 1168         | •                           |
| Grade 12 <u>64</u> | HOME SCHOOLED15             |
|                    | CHARTER SCHOOLS24           |
|                    | Regular Ed20                |
|                    | Special Ed4                 |
|                    | OUT-OF-DISTRICT60           |
|                    | Regular Ed11                |
|                    | Special Ed49                |
| Total              |                             |

(10 students in out-of-district placements are housed in our district and are included only once in the total) Note: There are an additional 17 PreK students which were not reported in the above totals.

 $\Rightarrow$  This week in our Schools

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- January 4 students returned from winter break
- January  $11 15^{\text{th}}$  DIBELS/4sight testing
- January 12 Anne Peavy Literacy Coach with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers
- January 13 Ann Peavy Literacy Coach with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers
- January 14 Sane Parenting Workshop
- January 18 schools closed
- January 29 3nd of  $2^{nd}$  marking period

## **UPPER INTERMEDIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL SECONDARY REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2009**

- The Parent Advisory meeting was held on January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 4Sight testing was held during the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- A financial aid night was held in the Library at 6:30pm on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- A Coaches vs. Cancer Day was held on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The faculty and staff along with the proceeds from the January 15<sup>th</sup> boy's basketball game will be donated to the Coaches vs. Cancer Program. This year donation was \$750.00. All Bicentennial League members are participating in this project.
- There was no school on January 18<sup>th</sup>, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Exams will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>
- There will be an early dismissal at 11:00am for students on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

# PUBLIC SESSION

# Ann Perry, 43 Fairview Ave.

Music Program; School Authority representative; MRR hearing response

Gayle Haug, 260 Harper Ave. MRR hearing response; Pennsbury merger.

**Dave Stoneburger, 270 Harper Ave.** Traffic safety at HS

**Jon Perry, 43 Fairview** Merge update; MP lease; Vitetta studies; 2010-11 budget deficit; educational standards

# Bill Farrell, 347 N. PA

Economic crisis; fiscal responsibility

# **ACTION ITEMS:**

# 2.1. Approval of Minutes

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2009 Monthly Business Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 6 ayes; 1 abstention (Mrs. Worob).

# 2.2. Approval of Minutes

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

# 2.3. <u>Approval of Minutes</u>

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2010 Monthly Agenda Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. DeWilde; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes

## INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES Mr. Bill Hellmann, Chairperson

# 3. <u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u> – Mr. Hellmann INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

District Employees as of January 21, 2010 = 150 5......Administrators 80.....Teachers

12.....Administrator Support Staff

17.....Support Staff

36.....Instructional & Non-Instructional Support Staff

# ACTION ITEMS

## 3.1. Approval, Resignation

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Anthony Gencarelli from the position of JV Boys Basketball Coach, effective immediately.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

Items 3.2.a. and 3.2.b. were moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

# 3.2. Approval, Appointments

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the appointments listed below:

|        | Individual   | Position   | Effective  | Compensation      | Replacing          |
|--------|--|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3.2.a. | Kyle Sharp   | JV Boys    | 2009-2010  | Per CBA = \$2,325 | Anthony Gencarelli |
|        |  | Basketball |            |                   |                    |
|        |  | Coach      |            |                   |                    |
| 3.3.b  | Michele  | Teacher    | 1/10-1/11  | Per CBA = \$750   | Mentor for Tarisa  |
|        | McCann   | Induction  |            |                   | Rorick             |
|        |  | Mentor     |            |                   |                    |
| 3.3.c. | PER DIEM SUBSTITUTES   |            | Per Policy | 2009-10           |                    |
|        | Jeffrey Bloom; Eric Browning; Nia Ferguson; Bonnie Frain; Emily Gagne; Kellieanne Gallagher; Amy     |            |            |                   |                    |
|        | Gallo; Robert Irving; Lateef Johnson; Raymond Karwoski; Deepa Luitel; Andrew Martin; Kiersty         |            |            |                   |                    |
|        | McDougall; Chris O'Brien; Gregory Osborn; Molly Presley; Keith Reilly; Dawn Rigney; Barbara Spivack; |            |            |                   |                    |
|        | Lois Terlecki; Matthew Uhler   |            |            |                   |                    |

Dr. Yonson explained the purpose of per diem substitutes and the teacher induction program.

# 3.4. Approval, Tuition Reimbursement

| Individual        | Course                                | Institution       | Credits | Amount     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|------------|
| Lynn Palumbo      | Instruction & Technology Secondary Ed | Holy Family       | 3       | \$500.00   |
| William Ferrara   | Negotiations & Dispute Resolution     | Arcadia Univ.     | 3       | \$1,860.00 |
| Carla VanDeMark   | Skills & Strategies for Inclusion and | Gratz College     | 3       | \$500.00   |
|                   | Disability Awareness                  |                   |         |            |
| Dan Fox           | Reading Strategies                    | Univ. of the Arts | 3       | \$500.00   |
| Michael Scott     | Motivating Today's Learner            | Indiana-Wesleyan  | 3       | \$470.00   |
| Alison Bechberger | Dissertation Proposal Design          | Temple Univ.      | 3       | \$500.00   |
| Joe Myat          | Workplace Communication               | Mercer College    | 0       | \$165.00   |
| Joe Myat          | Writing/Speaking Skills               | Mercer College    | 0       | \$165.00   |

#### *The Board approved a motion* to approve tuition reimbursement as listed below:

Items 3.2.a. and 3.2.b. were moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. DeWilde; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

Dr. Yonson explained the CBA agreement regarding payment for tuition.

## 4. <u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u> -- Bill Hellmann <u>INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:</u> <u>ACTION ITEMS:</u>

# 4.1. Approval, Berkheimer Act 80 Contract

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the Berkheimer Act 80 Contract not to exceed \$710.00 plus shipping cost.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

# 4.2. Approval, Adopt Resolution to Not Raise Taxes By More Than Index

*The Board approved a motion* that the Board of School Directors adopts the resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of tax for the support of the general fund budget for 2010-11 by more than the District's index pursuant to Section 311 (d) (1) of the Act 1 of 2006 (the District's index for 2010-11 is 3.4%)

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 7 ayes.

Mr. Hellmann read from an article that appeared in today's BCCT.



There also is general agreement that, in these difficult economic times, school districts should be doing more to cut back on their expenses. Indeed, that's a point we've been making for a long time. Why is it that annual school tax increases have become automatic year after year after year? Why do school directors congratulate themselves for keeping those increases to just a few mills, as if higher taxes are preordained and only the amount is left to determine? How is it that school board members, who one would hope are reasonably intelligent, can't understand the problems that arise when they keep taxes on a constant track upward while incomes are going in the other direction?

Meanwhile, we don't know where individual school districts can save additional money; every district is different. But all of them have to realize two things: 1. Almost every business, large and small, has had to make major adjustments in this economy, 2. The business of education must act in a similar vein, and that doesn't mean picking around the edges. Public education is not sacrosanct. It is a big thing, but it is not

the only thing.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the "Taxpayer Relief Act" (hereinafter "Act 1");

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

WHEREAS, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the Morrisville School District index for the 2010-2011 fiscal year is 3.4%;

WHEREAS, the Morrisville School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Morrisville School District for the 2010-2011 fiscal year by more than its index.

AND NOW, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Morrisville School District (hereinafter "District") Board of Directors (hereinafter "Board") the following:

- 1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2010-2011 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- 2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter "School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.
- 3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
- 4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
- 5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
- 6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

- 7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:
  - (a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
  - (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
  - (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

**DULY ADOPTED** by the Board of School directors in lawful session duly assembled this twenty seventh day of January, 2010.

BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT Bucks County, Pennsylvania

By:\_\_\_\_\_

William Hellmann, President

ATTEST:

Marlys Mihok, Secretary

(SEAL)

# 4.3. Payment of Bills

*The Board approved a motion* to approve payment of bills, as listed, subject to final audit by the Business Administrator in the amount of:

| Miscellaneous Disbursement: (12/22/09 – 1/21/10) | \$203,425.85        |
|--|---------------------|
| Athletic Fund $(12/17/09 - 1/21/10)$             | 4,232.00            |
| Cafeteria Fund: (1/29/10)                        | 39,766.41           |
| Accounts Payable (1/28/10)                       | 597,998.20          |
| Capital Projects (12/22/09 – 1/21/10)            | 257,615.32          |
| Capital Reserve (1/21/10)                        | 42,323.00           |
| Procurement Cards (December 2009)                | 4,146.69            |
| Payroll & Benefits (December 2009)               | <u>1,182,588.24</u> |
| TOTAL BILLS                                      | \$2,332,095.71      |

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice call vote of 7 ayes.

Capital Reserve category is a new item. This is expected to continue from this point forward. It refers to the gas line at Grandview which we hope to negotiate down in the future.

## 4.4. Approval, Contract with Provident Energy

*The Board approved a motion* to approve a contract, Addendum 1, 2 and 3 with Provident Energy subject to review by Solicitor).

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a unanimous voice call vote of 7 ayes.

This enables Provident to do energy consulting and purchasing. All the Bucks Co. districts have agreed to work with Provident.

## EDUCATION/POLICY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Brenda Worob

## 5. EDUCATION COMMITTEE INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

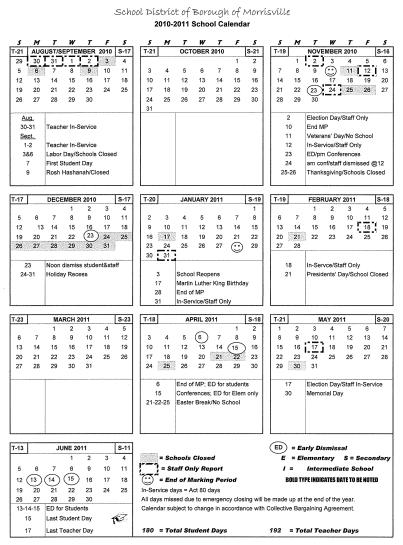
Mrs. Worob reported that in committee Blended Schools education was discussed. This would enable the district to bring back our 12 charter school students to this non-profit educational endeavor. This would result in more education dollars for the district.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

## 5.1. Approval, 2010-2011 School Calendar

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar.

Moved by Mrs. Worob; seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice call vote of 7 ayes.



DRAFT 1-6-10

#### 5.2. Approval, 2010-2011 Program of Studies

The Board approved a motion to approve the 2010-2011 Program of Studies.

Moved by Mrs. Worob; seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice call vote of 7 ayes.

## 6. <u>POLICY COMMITTEE</u> – Mrs. Brenda Worob

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Review of Policy: #200 Enrollment in District Policy #201 – School Enrollments Fee Schedule for #801 was discussed District policies are now posted on the district website

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

## 6.1. Approval, First Reading of Policy #707 – Facilities Use

*The Board approved a motion* to approve the first reading of Policy #707 – *Facilities Use*.

Moved by Mr. Buckman; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a unanimous voice call vote of 7 ayes.

## 7. LIAISON REPORTS

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School Mr. Buckman Members of the Board recently attended a recognition dinner for School Directors; Mr. Buckman will be serving on the budget committee, negotiating committee and the PIA committee.
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Mrs. Mihok *No report this evening.*
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative Mrs. Worob Mrs. Worob reported from the January 21, 2010 Legislative Report.

# Race to the Top: Pennsylvania files application after 120 school districts sign MOUs; President seeks federal expansion of program

This week Pennsylvania was one of 40 states that submitted grant applications to the U.S. Department of Education to receive funds under the first phase of the federal \$4.3 billion Race to the Top program. The state is seeking \$400 million for education reforms, the maximum that the state would be eligible to receive under federal guidelines. The grants are not formula-based, but rather will be awarded to states that can show the strongest strategies and coordinated commitments to reform. Awards are expected to be announced in April.

## Quality Counts report gives Pennsylvania a B-

The Center for Public Education, an initiative of the National School Boards Association, recently released an analysis of *Education Week's* annual special report *Quality Counts 2010*.

As in past years, *EdWeek* grades and ranks each state in six policy and performance areas (*Chance for Success; K-12 Achievement; Standards, Assessments & Accountability; Transitions & Alignment; Teaching Profession; and School Finance*). It provides an overall grade and ranking across all six indicators.

Overall, the nation received a grade of a C across the six areas of policy and performance. States received the highest grades in the area of Standards, Assessments, and Accountability where twenty states received grades of A or A-. States received the lowest grades in K-12 Achievement where the nation earned a D+.

Pennsylvania earned an overall grade of B- with a score of 80.5. The state's grades/scores for each of the six indicators are: Chance for Success: B (83.5); K-12 Achievement: C+ (77.2); Standards, Assessments, & Accountability: B- (81.0); Transitions & Alignment: B- (82.1); The Teaching Profession: B- (80.6); and School Finance: C+ (78.4).

Mrs. Worob and Mrs. Mihok plan to attend the PSBA's Legislative Leadership Conference, to be held on April 25-26, 2010 in Harrisburg.

Dr. Yonson advised the board about the legislative meeting which will be held at the IU with Jack Brady. She finds these meetings very beneficial and encouraged Mrs. Worob to attend.

# 8. OLD BUSINESS

• Mr. Stout suggested forming a safety patrol to aid in the management of the traffic problems in front of the HS.

• Mr. DeAngelo advised that we have RFPs out for banking and insurance. Interviews will be held February 16 at 5 pm and he would like to have several board members attend. Mr. DeWilde and Mr. Stout advised they would be attending.

# 9. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

Mrs. Mihok advised that the YMCA is holding a *Healthy Kids Day* on April 17. She asked that the district consider participating and that we provide the Y with some contact information. Mrs. Mihok welcomed Mr. Dillon as Solicitor to the Board.

In response to a comment from the public, Mr. Buckman inquired what the plans were for the music program. Several members of the board responded they were not aware of any changes. Mr. Buckman praised our music department, both band and choral for the wonderful holiday show they presented.

Dr. Yonson advised that since the Board has asked Administration to lessen expenses in the coming year's budget process, the Administrators have been meeting and exploring a number of ways to comply with this request. Any recommendations would be brought before the Board.

Ed Bailey serves as a representative to the School District Authority. This position deals with financing and the buildings.

#### Future Meetings and Items of Interest

| Monday, January 25, 2010  | School Director Recognition Dinner at Tech School |
|---------------------------|---|
| Monday, February 15, 2010 | Presidents' Day - Schools Closed                  |
|                           |   |
| •                         |   |

For Community and District Information Visit our community website <u>www.mv.org</u> and Channel 28 on your Local Cable

# 10. Adjournment

*The Board approved a motion* to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm.

William Hellmann, President

Marlys Mihok, Secretary