

**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, March 3, 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: **This meeting was previously scheduled for February 24, 2010 but postponed due to inclement weather.**

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

Absent: Mrs. Reithmeyer; Mrs. Worob (ill).

Quorum Present.

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); John A. Torrente, Esq., Solicitor; media and MEA representation.

Anthony DiPaola, Project Manager of Vitetta Architect gave an overview of the bids received for the heating system and other upgrades at Grandview Elementary.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Representative to the Board -- **Zach Markgraf**

February 2 – Student of Month Breakfast; Grades 8-11 chose course selections and met with counselors for next year; February 16 -- Report Cards; additional support classes for PSSA are offered; Gym night this Saturday; Alice in Wonderland – March 26 & 27; Congratulations to Tiffani White who was chosen as Bowler of the Year; Lady Bulldogs presented a winning season this year

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Peyton MacDonald (Alice) and Mark Agazarian (March Hare) invited the public to the play *Alice In Wonderland* which will be held at 7:30 on March 26 & 27 at the high school.
- Mr. Kevin Jones reported on the Morrisville Opportunity Educational Foundation. The Foundation is partially funding a student trip to Broadway. To raise funds, they will be selling gift cards to Giant; information will be placed on the website. MOEF has a Facebook page; please visit it and get involved.
- Our 21st Century Musical Workshop students have been asked to perform at PDE's Extra Learning Opportunity event in Harrisburg on March 11.
- Mr. DeAngelo and I met with the representatives from Head Start regarding their agreement. The Head Start people would like our board to come back to them with recommendations on what the district would like to include in the agreement. A copy of the agreement will be send to the Board on Friday.

⇒ Enrollment Report

District Enrollments as of February 18, 2010

PreK	17	<u>Student Population</u>	
Kindergarten.....	84	GRANDVIEW	342
Grade 1	74	INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 4-5	<u>123</u>
Grade 2	79	 465
Grade 3	88		
Grade 4	63	INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 6-8	178
Grade 5	60	HIGH SCHOOL 9-12	<u>242</u>
Grade 6	61	 420
Grade 7	59		
Grade 8	58	TECHNICAL SCHOOL	57
Grade 9	58	Regular Ed... 42	
Grade 10	52	Spec Ed	15
Grade 11	67		
Grade 12	<u>65</u>	HOME SCHOOLED	15
	885	CHARTER SCHOOLS	25
		Regular Ed..... 20	
		Special Ed	5
		OUT-OF-DISTRICT	66
		Regular Ed..... 11	
		Special Ed	55

Total.....1048-10=1038

(10 students in out-of-district placements are housed in our district and are included only once in the total)

⇒ This week in our Schools

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- February 3rd - Anne Peavy Literacy Coach worked with 2nd grade teachers
- February 5th, 8th, 9th - Play practice
- February 9th - Share Bear Play (PreK-2nd grade students)
- February 10,11th - SNOW DAYS
- February 12th - Staff In-Service (Compass Learning, Data Interpretation, Sexual Harassment Training)
- February 18th - 100th Day of School Celebrations
- February 19th - Rescheduled Valentine's Day Party 2:00 p.m.

UPPER INTERMEDIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL SECONDARY REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2009

- The Student of the Month Breakfast will be held on February 2nd. Congratulations to all the recipients
- Course selection for the 2010-2011 school year took place for the students in grades 8 thru 11. Counselors met with all students to arrange their schedules and the course selection has been completed.
- Report cards were distributed on February 16th.
- A staff in-service was held on February 12th.
- Schools were closed in observance of President's Day on February 15th.
- Gym Night will be held on February 26th. The middle school assembly will start the event; middle school events will be held during the afternoon.

- Congratulations to sophomore Tiffani White. Tiffani was selected as the Bicentennial Athletic League female bowler of the year for the 200-2010 bowling season. Tiffani has a league average of 168 for the season. Great job, Tiffani.
- The Lady Bulldogs Varsity Basketball team will begin its quest for the District #1 Championship, this Wednesday February 24th with a HOME game at Morrisville High School. The Lady Bulldogs will be hosting Plumstead Christian High School. Game Time is 7:00 there is a \$5.00 admission charge for all spectators. Come Out and cheer the Girls on to VICTORY!!!!!!!
- The Varsity Boys Basketball team begins their quest for a District #1 basketball Title. The Bulldogs will travel on Tuesday Night February 23 to Phil-Mont Christian. Game Time is 7:00 Admission is \$5.00 for all spectators.

PUBLIC SESSION

Anne Perry, 43 Fairview

Traffic – Penn Dot traffic study; recess; joint board/community meeting

Bill Minder, 423 Crown

PSERS

Jon Perry, 43 Fairview

Early dismissal notices; black pipe; response to MRR hearing; budget concerns

Bill Farrell, 347 N. Penna.

Black pipe; heating valves; traffic situation

Ed Bailey, 36 E. Palmer

6th grade recess; playground equipment; traffic safety suggestions

As representative to the Bucks County Technical School Authority Mr. Bailey reported that at the January meeting they discussed what to do with the remaining funds from the auditorium project.

Dr. Yonson explained the anatomy of the district's decision to close schools for inclement weather. She urged parents and families to update their contact numbers with the schools.

ACTION ITEMS:

2.1. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2010 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 nay (Mrs. Heater).

2.2. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 Monthly Agenda Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

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

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

3. HUMAN RESOURCES – Mr. Hellmann
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

District Employees as of February 17, 2010 = 149

5.....Administrators
80.....Teachers
12.....Administrator Support Staff
16.....Support Staff
36.....Instructional & Non-Instructional Support Staff

ACTION ITEMS

3.1. Approval, Resignations

The Board approved a motion to approve the acceptance of the resignations of

Tracy Berard PCA effective 2/19/10
James Venose Custodian effective 1/28/10

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; 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.	Interviews in process	PCA	ASAP	\$11.52/hr. in accordance with Group II Salary and Benefits	Tracy Berard
3.2.b.	Danielle Biondi	LTS Secondary Guidance Counselor	3/29/10 to 6/18/10	Per CBA, M level, step OA pro-rated = \$47,698	Christy Nemeth's leave of absence
3.2.c.	Julie Shemelia	Special Education Office Assistant	2/8/10	\$12.00/hour 20 hrs./week	Paid by ARRA-IDEA Funds
3.2.d.	PER DIEM SUBSTITUTES			Per Policy	2009-10
	Kenneth Brask, Nancy Castner, Thomas Caruso, Justine Clarke, Theresa Dombkoski, Patricia Gambardello, Andrea Gaudet, Stina Liebman, Nirel Morris, Diana Noya, Jennifer Seipel, Heather Falk, Amanda Scholwinski, Deborah Summer				

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

4. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE -- Bill Hellmann
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
ACTION ITEMS:

4.1. Approval, Contractors Related to Grandview HVAC Renovation Project

4.1.a. Approval, General Contractor

The Board approved a motion to approve Martell Construction, as the General Contractor for the Grandview Elementary School HVAC Renovations project in the amount of \$242,900.00 plus alternate #2 – replacement doors in the amount of \$31,000.00. Total = \$273,900.00.

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

4.1.b. Approval, Electrical Contractor

The Board approved a motion to approve MJF Electrical Contracting as the Electrical Contractor for the Grandview Elementary School HVAC Renovations project, in the amount of \$344,700.00.

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

4.1.c. Approval, Plumbing Contractor

The Board approved a motion to approve Slatts Mechanical, Inc., as the Plumbing Contractor for the Grandview Elementary School HVAC Renovations project, in the amount of \$79,500.00 plus alternate #8 – in the amount of \$30,000.00. Total = \$109,500.00.

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

4.1.d. Approval, HVAC Contractor

The Board approved a motion to approve Air Control Technology, Inc., as the HVAC Contractor for the Grandview Elementary School HVAC Renovations project, in the amount of \$919,499.00.

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

4.1.e. Approval, Asbestos Contractor

The Board presented a motion to approve Power Component Systems, as the Asbestos Contractor for the Grandview Elementary School HVAC Renovations project, in the amount of \$187,900 + \$4,200.00 for alternate #1 – VAT tile removal = \$192,100.00.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman.

Amend 4.1.e.

The Board approved a motion to approve **Control Environmental Systems**, as the Asbestos Contractor for the Grandview Elementary School HVAC Renovations project, in the amount of \$187,900 + \$4,200.00 for alternate #1 – VAT tile removal = \$192,100.00.

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

4.2. Submission of Non-Reimbursable PDE-3074 Applications at Grandview Elementary

The Board approved a motion to approve the submission of Non-Reimbursable PDE-3074 Application forms to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the following projects:

Boiler Repair/Replacement Bid – Grandview Elementary School

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Hellmann
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
ACTION ITEMS:

5.1. Approval, Asbestos Contractor/Cost Proposal -- Environmental Connections, Inc.

The Board approved a motion to approve Environmental Connections, Inc. for Asbestos Professional, Technical and Analytical Services for the Grandview Elementary School HVAC Renovations project, in the amount of \$30,080.00.

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

5.2. Approval, Tax Exempt Status

The Board approved a motion to approve Disabled Veterans status request for tax parcel number 23-589-280.

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

5.3. Approval, Banking Services -- TABLED

5.4. Approval, Insurance Services -- TABLED

5.5. Approval, Budget Transfers

The Board approved a motion to approve the ordinary and necessary budget transfers for the 2009-10 School Year in the amount of \$2,120.50. Grant transfers - \$1,370.50 and General Fund transfers - \$750.00.

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

5.6. Acceptance of Corrective Action Plan in Response to Auditor General's Performance Audit Report

The Board approved a motion to accept the Corrective Action Plan in response to the Auditor General's Performance Audit Report.

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

Several Board members and the Business Administrator was very disgruntled with the findings of the audit report and felt that it was nit-picking.

5.7. 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: (1/27/10 – 2/17/10)	\$334,328.67
Athletic Fund (1/28/10 – 2/19/10)	1,875.00
Cafeteria Fund: (2/28/10)	42,801.49
Accounts Payable (2/25/10)	271,286.16
Capital Projects (2/5/10 – 2/17/10)	14,204.75
Capital Reserve (2/5/10)	2,500.00
Procurement Cards (January 2010)	3,420.23
Payroll & Benefits (January 2010)	<u>1,080,173.50</u>
TOTAL BILLS	\$1,750,589.80

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

EDUCATION/POLICY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Brenda Worob

6. EDUCATION COMMITTEE **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:** **ACTION ITEMS:**

6.1. Approval, Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Programs and Services **Instructional Materials Budget for 2010-2011**

The Board **DEFEATED** a motion to approve the 2010-2011 Intermediate Unit Operating Budget. This budget covers the costs of operation of the programs and services part of the Intermediate Unit Budget. This includes such services as curriculum development, staff development, and film and video tape rentals. The District's total expenditure to the Intermediate Unit will be \$12,068 representing an increase of \$162 from the 2009-2010 budget.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; **DEFEATED** by a unanimous roll call vote of 7 nays.

Mr. Hellmann read from a February 24, 2010 BCCT article which stated that Neshaminy voted down this budget because they believe the IU should make attempts to cut their budget. Mrs. Mihok added that, as a representative to the IU, she has never seen an attempt to tighten their budget.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Brenda Worob

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS:

7.1. Approval of Policies

7.1.a. Approval, Policy #707 – Facilities Use

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

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

7.1.b. Approval, Policy #200 – Enrollment in District

The Board approved a motion to approve the first and second reading of Policy #200 – Enrollment in District.

7.1.c. Approval, Policy #201 – Admission of Beginners

The Board approved a motion to approve the first and second reading of Policy #201 – Admission of Beginners.

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

8. SPECIAL EDUCATION

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

8.1. Approval, Purchase READ 180 Program

The Board approved a motion to approve the purchase of the READ 180 Program at a cost of \$34,796 with ARRA (stimulus) funds.

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

The cost is “front loaded” in the first year with a very limited maintenance fee in successive years.

8.2. Approval to Assume Intermediate Emotional Support Program

The Board approved a motion to assume the Intermediate Emotional Support Program (Grades 4-6) currently operated by the BCIU#22. This action would be effective for the 2010-2011 school year.

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

Mr. Gesualdi explained that this motion is to bring our students who are currently housed in programs outside the district back to the district building. This is good for the student, as well as a cost saving effort.

9. LIAISON REPORTS

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Mr. Buckman
Mr. Buckman reported that he and Mrs. Mihok served as judges at the recent USA Skills Competition. Students won both gold and silver medals. A silver medal was won by a Morrisville student, Ashanti Modlin for Exploratory. Working on the budget.
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mrs. Mihok
Mrs. Mihok suggested that the IU budget be scrutinized before our Board votes on it. She also pointed out a misprint in the recent IU directory listing.

Dr. Yonson shared a recent email sent to IU representatives and Superintendents from the Director of the Bucks County IU related to the budget.

2/25/10

Dear IU Board Members,

In light of the recent newspaper article regarding the Neshaminy Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 (attached), the following information is being provided regarding the Bucks County Intermediate Unit (IU) Programs and Services (P&S) budget for 2010-11.

The P&S budget was:

- developed in the fall of 2009;
- reviewed by a Superintendents Advisory Committee in December of 2009;
- approved by all thirteen Superintendents in December of 2009;
- reviewed by the IU Board of Directors Finance Committee in January of 2010, and
- approved by the IU Board of Directors on January 19, 2010.

The Bucks County IU is an integral partner of our member school districts. Stringent oversight is provided by our 13 school directors, superintendents, business managers, and tens of advisory councils that meet monthly. Their primary focus is on the review, development, analysis, and cost of current and proposed programs. They provide an ongoing evaluation of both program value and cost effectiveness. The value of the IU is its expertise, creativity, support of district initiatives, and consortium programs that provide economies of scale to our member districts. These include special education, professional development, health, energy, supplies, and technology. If the cost of our services and programs is not competitive with the open market, we will not be chosen to provide those services, which is our ultimate accountability.

The IU and member school districts have an outstanding relationship built on mutual respect, professionalism, and a philosophy of helping children. Disputes, although rare, have always been resolved in an appropriate forum.

At our March IU Board of Directors' meeting, I will provide an overview of IU program costs. For now, I have included below a summary of facts concerning the Programs and Services budget for 2010-11.

Information about the BCIU Programs and Services Budget:

- P&S Budget has decreased 5.9% over the past 2 years.
- P&S Budget for next year is less than in the past 4 years.
- P&S Budget 2010-11 is \$17,500 less than the 2006-2007 budget.
- P&S budget per-student cost of \$5.20, which had remained unchanged since 1996-1997, was reduced in the 2010-1011 P&S Budget to \$5.05 per student.
- P&S Budget 2010-2011 reflects an overall 4.49% decrease in salaries for the P&S Division.
- P&S Budget 2010-2011 reflects an overall 3.98% decrease in benefits for the P&S Division.
- P&S Budget 2010-2011 reflects an overall total decrease of 1.86%.

Please do not hesitate to call me on my cell phone (609-820-5280) regarding this issue.

Barry J. Galasso, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Mrs. Mihok commented that there is a lot more room for more work on this budget. Mr. Hellmann added that Centennial SD is also taking back IU classes in their buildings.

- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mrs. Worob
Mrs. Worob was not in attendance.

Mr. DeWilde reported that he attended a PSBA conference last week. He spoke about the PSERS situation and how it will impact the tax payers. He suggested a visit to www.psers.state.pa.us for information on the impending rate spike facing districts in 2012/13.

Mr. DeWilde is interested in a community reach out initiative. He asked members of the community to contact him at jdewilde@mv.org with ideas.

10. OLD BUSINESS

Mandate Waiver – Mr. DeAngelo advised the waiver has been approved by the State.

Music Teacher Assignment – Dr. Yonson advised that high school scheduling is finished and one of our music teachers is undersubscribed; therefore, she will be moving to another position in 2010-11.

Rumors – Mr. DeWilde requested that rumors in the community be immediately addressed.

Joint Boro/School Meeting – Mrs. Mihok advised that just this morning Borough Council set the date for Monday, March 8th. Mrs. Mihok will be attending this meeting. The main topics of discussion are scheduled to be traffic and crossing guards. Mrs. Mihok observed the traffic and gathered information from a resident on Grandview Avenue; she will be sharing that information at Monday's meeting.

Black Pipe – Mr. Stout advised that there is no problem with the black pipe.

Use of All Purpose Room – Ms. Ruffing outlined the schedule of use of the all purpose room at Grandview which does not allow the room to be used for recess. However, we are substituting the driveway, weather permitting, for recess outdoors.

Traffic Study – Copies of the traffic study done for the Council and the Penn Dot report for Grandview will be forwarded to the Board.

Availability – Mr. DeWilde requested that when out of the office members of administration be reachable.

Construction Update – Mr. DeAngelo will share a pictorial update of the recent updates and improvements at the meeting on the 17th.

Mr. Hellmann read the following article from the Bucks County Courier Times 2/28/10. He paralleled this article with a statement that he made on May 28, 2008 regarding the cost of teachers in Morrisville.

Pain-free budget surgery

Cut costs by cutting the jobs of retiring workers.

Bensalem School District officials are contemplating a strategy every school district should take a hard look at: cutting expenses through attrition.

About 30 veteran teachers are expected to retire at the end of the school year. Officials are thinking this creates an opportunity to trim at least 20 jobs by shifting workers around to fill some but not all of those posts. Taxpayers should welcome that thinking.

Nobody wants the district's education program to suffer, but times are such that hard decisions have to be made. Private sector employers are doing lots of cutting in an effort to stay in business, including trimming workers' hours and eliminating jobs. The public sector needs to follow the business leaders.

Not filling the positions of retiring workers would be a relatively painless way of cutting a budget proposal that inflicts plenty of pain on taxpayers.

11 NEW BUSINESS

Future Meetings and Items of Interest

March 17, 2010.....6:45 pm Infrastructure/Finance/Human Resource
Committee meets in G-Hall Conference Room
.....7:30 pm Monthly Agenda Meeting in LGI

March 24, 2010.....7:00 pm Education/Policy Committee meets in G-Hall
Conference Room
.....7:30 pm Monthly Business Meeting of the Board

***For Community and District Information
Visit our community website www.mv.org
and Channel 28 on your Local Cable***

12. Adjournment

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

William Hellmann, President

Marlys Mihok, Secretary