

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE  
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
**Work Session** – Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
Large Group Instruction Room  
Morrisville Intermediate/Senior High School  
7:30 p.m.

***This meeting was recorded for televising***

The regular monthly agenda meeting of the Morrisville Board of School Directors was held in the LGI Room located in the Morrisville Intermediate/Senior High School, 550 West Palmer Street, Morrisville, Pennsylvania on January 18, 2012, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. DeWilde, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to appoint Mr. Paul DeAngelo as Temporary Recording Secretary for tonight's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Buckman and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 9 ayes.

**ROLL CALL**

*The following members present on roll call:*

Messrs. Buckman, DeWilde, Parker, Stout, Miller, and Ms. Kartal and Ms. Marone.

Members absent: Messrs. Stoneburner and Worob.

*Quorum Present:*

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William Ferrara, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Ms. Laurie Ruffing, Elementary/Intermediate Principal; Mr. Donald Harm, Secondary Principal; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Thomas Profy, IV, Esq., Solicitor; media, MEA representatives and members of the community.

Mr. Ferrara stated that Mr. Stoneburner had informed him that he would not be able to attend this evening's meeting because he would be out of town.

Since this was the first time that the new Board members were attending an Agenda Meeting, Mr. Ferrara explained the process of an Agenda Meeting by stating that these meetings are to outline the items that will be discussed in detail at the regular monthly Board meeting.

## Student Spotlight

### Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF

## Superintendent/Administrator's Reports

### INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCIAL/HUMAN RESOURCES

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

##### INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

##### ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve the Eplus Agreement for our District servers, upon Solicitor's review.
2. Board action is requested to rescind the motion to approve STR as the monitoring company for the District and allow the continued use of Three Sigma.

Mr. Buckman stated that there are several students in attendance at this evening's meeting who wanted to address the Board, and he asked if the Public Session could be done at this time so that the students would be able to leave the meeting after their comments and get home to do their homework.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### Mr. Quill

Mr. Quill asked the Board to revisit the possibility of bringing back middle school football to Morrisville. He discussed a petition started by one of our middle school students on which this student obtained approximately 30 middle school students signatures who are interested in playing middle school football. Mr. Quill stated that Mr. Harm and Mr. Hubiak are looking into the costs to have a middle school football team. Mr. Quill stated that we currently have enough equipment and uniforms for approximately 32 participants. He stated that the parents are willing to fundraise to help defray the costs of buses and officials for the games. Mr. Miller asked when this decision would have to be made by the Board, and Mr. Quill stated that he believes they would need to know by July, but that he would get back to them as soon as he can with an official date. Mr. Ferrara stated that the Board would need to make a decision by July in order for schedules to be made, etc. Mr. Ferrara also stated that the decision to stop middle school football was never a financial matter; it was due to the lack of interest.

### Anthony Hernandez

Anthony, the student who started the petition for middle school football, stated his interests in starting up this team again, and stated that all of the students who signed the petition are dedicated students and very interested in participating.

Mr. Ferrara discussed the reason for the item on the agenda regarding the board action to rescind the motion to approve STR as the monitoring company for the District and allow the continued use of Three Sigma. It was determined that STR would not be able to handle the equipment we are currently using; therefore, we wish to continue to use Three Sigma as our monitoring company.

Mr. Buckman asked if it is necessary for any Board action on this item since Three Sigma was previously approved and we are already using them. It was determined that the Board must take action to allow the District to continue to use Three Sigma as our monitoring company.

Ms. Kartal stated that she has concerns about the costs involved with the Eplus Agreement on the Agenda for Board approval, and stated that she has emailed Mr. DeAngelo and Mr. Myat information on another company and asked that they look into this company and their costs and services and get back to the Board prior the meeting next week as a possible alternative. Ms. Kartal asked that this item be tabled next week if this information has not been gathered and the Board notified. Mr. Ferrara stated that if this item is tabled, we will continue to use our current services until another decision is made by the Board. Mr. DeAngelo stated that this contract is on the Agenda for Board approval in order to generate an open purchase order in the event that the technology department would need to bring in Eplus to do any additional network service to the District. The language of the contract is passed on to our Solicitor to review and delete/add any language we wish to have added or deleted prior to it being approved. Mr. DeAngelo stated that this is the company who installed and supported the installation of our server and he feels that it wouldn't be an apple to apple comparison when looking at other companies. Ms. Kartal asked if we could possibly negotiate the 4 hour minimum in this agreement. Mr. DeWilde stated that the 4 hour minimum is the normal standard charge with almost all companies in this field and that the hourly rates they are charging are in line with most companies doing the same type of work. Ms. Kartal stated that she does not necessarily feel we need to change companies, but would like to see if the 4 hour minimum could be negotiated to a 2 hour minimum and to possibly have their rates lowered.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

##### **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **ACTION ITEMS:**

None at this time.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Board action is requested to approve the following appointments:
  - a. AESOP Substitutes
  - b. Paraprofessional
2. Board action is requested to approve tuition reimbursements.
3. Board action is requested to approve Supplemental Contracts.

Mr. Ferrara stated that all Board members were supplied with a listing of all individuals that have a supplemental contracted position and their stipend. He stated that these positions are paid per MEA contracted costs.

Mr. Parker asked if the appointment for Paraprofessional is being filled with any of our employees that were laid off. Mr. Gesualdi stated that they first looked at any eligible laid off employees for this position. Mr. Gesualdi stated that prior to this appointment, we have brought back 4 furloughed employees for any open positions. For this current Paraprofessional appointment, any eligible furloughed employees were contacted, but were not interested due to the fact that they have obtained employment elsewhere.

Mr. Ferrara stated that Ms. Darletta Berry-Johnson and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Organization were successful in getting CoHort 6 funding in the amount of \$499,175. Since these finances are available, a motion may be added to the agenda next week to add individuals to their payroll.

## **FINANCIAL/BUSINESS**

### **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Budget Presentation
2. Auditor Presentation

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Board action is requested to approve the 2010-11 Financial Statements.
2. Board action is requested to approve the Verizon Settlement in the amount of \$1,000.
3. Board action is requested to approve the Gorecon Change Order Settlement in the amount of \$10,000.
4. Board action is requested to approve the Workers Comp Panel with ARIA.
5. Board action is requested to approve Business Office attendance at PASBO.
6. Board action is requested to approve the Berkheimer Agreement.
7. Board action is requested to approve transfer of funds from the Class of 2011 to the Class of 2014 in the amount of \$320.56.
8. Board action is requested to approve transfer of funds from the Classes of 2008 (\$27.66), 2009 (\$207.40) and 2010 (\$171.72) to the General Fund.
9. Board action is requested to approve the Treasurer's Report.
10. Board action is requested to approve the Investment Report.
11. Board action is requested to approve Budget Transfers.
12. Board action is requested to approve Payment of Bills.

Ms. Kartal asked for the name of our current Worker's Comp Provider. Mr. DeAngelo stated that we changed these services last year and we are currently using PSBA and that they are doing an outstanding job. Mr. DeAngelo stated that they do make recommendations, based on the claims they receive, for those to be on the Worker's Comp panel, but the district can actually chose who they want for this panel.

Ms. Kartal discussed the transfer of funds from classes and asked if these classes can donate funds to future classes. Mr. DeAngelo stated that this can be done. Mr. Ferrara stated that in order for this to be done, an officer from the transferring class must sign off in agreement of any transfers. Mr. Kartal asked that in the future, prior to the end of the year, if any monies are left in that graduating class's account, that it be transferred at that time to another class or donated prior to the students leaving our school.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Board action is requested to approve the 2012-13 school calendar.

Mr. Ferrara thanked Ms. Ruffing and Mr. Harm for preparing this calendar. Mr. Ferrara also stated that the following item will be added under Education Committee – Action Items:

2. Board action is requested to act on a student discipline issue.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

None at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update on the cameras at the high school.

Mr. Ferrara passed out information regarding the cameras we currently have in place at the high school. He thanked the Board members for attending the retreat at which time this item was discussed. Mr. Ferrara thanked Mr. May, Mr. Myat and Mr. Lastichen for their diligence in getting 28 of the 32 cameras operational at the present time and tied into one system. The other 4 are working under the old system and Mr. Myat was waiting for a control board to arrive in order to have these last 4 cameras hooked up. Mr. Lastichen was in attendance at tonight's meeting and stated that the control board arrived and the last 4 cameras are now operational, but are still under the old system. Mr. DeAngelo stated that the administration is looking into possibly replacing these 4 old cameras with 2 new cameras, making it much more efficient and able to hook into the new system. Mr. May stated that with the new control board, we have the capability of hooking up 110 cameras.

Mr. Ferrara distributed information regarding the RFP. Mr. Ferrara stated that the administration needs direction from the Board regarding this matter and when they want to take Board action on the RFP. Mr. DeWilde stated that all Board members have received information from other districts regarding their RFP's and they need to read over all materials received and then come together with their thoughts. Mr. DeWilde asked the Board to take their time, do it the right way, and then have the RFP go out in the correct format according to the Board's wishes. Mr. DeWilde wants this matter to remain an open discussion in public, with all Board members coming forth with any questions during the public meetings. Mr. Miller stated that at a prior meeting, the Board agreed to have this completed by the summer. He asked for a timeline in order to have this completed by then and what needs to be done at this time. Mr. DeAngelo reviewed the timeline and the steps that need to be taken. Mr. Ferrara's recommendation was to follow the summer

timeframe, and try to keep the amount of time that the district has to pay two solicitors, if Mr. Profy's firm is not selected, to a minimum. Mr. Ferrara stated that he feels that the Board should at least have the draft of the RFP done no later than February, and the actual RFP and advertisement's posted no later than the middle of March in order to adhere to the July 1st deadline.

Ms. Kartal asked that the Walk-ability Study be added under Old Business which she discussed at the last Board meeting. Mr. Ferrara asked Ms. Kartal for more information on this study. Ms. Kartal stated that she will get more information to the administration and the Board members. She stated that basically this study is done by the Pennsylvania State Schools where they do a pre walk-ability audit over a 2 day period. This involves reviewing walking maps and various routes that our students use and any obstacles involved. They then walk these routes and make any recommendations after the walks have been completed. There is then a non-infrastructure grant through the State available in November to be used towards any of the recommendations that were made during the walk-ability study. Ms. Kartal stated that there is no charge for this study, therefore, no Board action is required to vote on this item, but that we need to get the application in as soon as possible in order to meet the timeframes, have the study scheduled, etc. Mr. Buckman suggested that this item be placed on the agenda to be voted upon by the Board members.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Miller discussed the Student Spotlight Program and asked for a name of a contact person for this program. Mr. Ferrara stated that Ms. Karen McQuillan would be the contact person and that members of the FBLA would be attending the January Board meeting under the Student Spotlight Program. Mr. Miller stated that this program is open for any and all students to attend the Board meetings for any achievements, presentations, etc. Mr. Ferrara also stated that the students who had straight A's in the high school will also be attending the Board meeting under the Student Spotlight Program in January.

Mr. Miller stated that he attended the meeting at Holy Trinity last week regarding the possible closure of this school. He stated that at this time, Holy Trinity has not been officially notified of the closure by the Archdiocese. Mr. Miller feels that we should be prepared and proactive for any parents that may possibly be sending their students to our schools if Holy Trinity were to close. Mr. Miller discussed an email sent from a parent of a student at Holy Trinity to Mr. Miller and Ms. Ruffing, and thanked Ms. Ruffing for her quick response to this email, stating that the parent was very impressed and thankful. Mr. Miller suggested that we have an open house or question and answer period for parents seeking knowledge about our schools. Ms. Ruffing stated that she and Mr. Ferrara have already discussed having meetings of this type, but were waiting for the final word from the Archdiocese notifying Holy Trinity of their official closure. Mr. Miller stated that the parents of students at Holy Trinity are very concerned and asked if there was any way that we could at least notify them of their options at this time and at least give them some contact names within our District, and not wait until the official notification from the Archdiocese. Mr. Ferrara stated that we will also reach out to the residents in Morrisville who have students that attend Conwell Egan. Mr. DeWilde suggested that we put information regarding this matter and contact information on our website.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that we were approached by Mr. Seward from the Borough with regard to Community Service and having a fire drill at M. R. Reiter. If the Board is willing to entertain this fire drill, they will send a letter to the District which will be passed along to the Board members. Mr. DeWilde stated that he feels this is a great idea and gives his support. Ms. Kartal asked that the community be notified of this drill so that they are aware it is only a drill. Mr. DeAngelo stated that they would be covered under their insurance in case of any injuries or damage to the building.

Mr. DeAngelo discussed the current investigation regarding stolen musical instruments and our insurance coverage for musical instruments, stating that we have a \$500 deductible. Mr. DeAngelo stated that the District would reimburse any student for any musical instrument that was missing. Mr. DeWilde asked if a police report was filed regarding this matter, and it was stated that the report was filed today. Mr. Ferrara stated that all Board members will receive a copy of the police report once it is available.

Mr. Kartal asked when committee appointments will be made. Mr. DeWilde stated that all committees are filled except for Human Resources, Education and a Tech School Authority Representative. Mr. Buckman stated that a Board member cannot fill the vacancy for the Tech School Authority Representative position. Ms. Kartal offered to be placed on the Human Resource Committee if no one else signs up. Since Mr. Stoneburner and Mr. Worob were not present at tonight's meeting, Mr. DeWilde stated he did not want to fill these positions without their input. Mr. DeWilde read the following list of Board members who are currently on the committees:

Human Resources – Mr. Parker and Mr. DeWilde

Education – Ms. Marone, Mr. Buckman

Public Relations – Mr. Miller, Ms. Kartal, Mr. DeWilde

Facilities – Mr. Parker, Mr. Stout, Mr. Stoneburner

Finance – Mr. Stoneburner, Mr. Miller, Mr. Buckman

Borough Council – Mr. DeWilde, Mr. Miller, Ms. Kartal

PSBA – Ms. Marone

IU – Ms. Marone

Tech School – Ms. Kartal (backed up by Mr. Buckman)

MEA – Mr. DeWilde, Mr. Parker, and the possibility of Mr. Worob or anyone else who would like to join this committee

Mr. DeWilde stated that he notified the IU today that Ms. Marone will be his replacement. He also stated that he advised the Borough Council last evening that committee assignments have been made. The Borough Council members on the School Board committee will be Nancy Sherlock, Todd Sanford and one other individual, and Mr. DeWilde advised them that he and his committee are ready to sit down and talk.

Mr. Miller asked that we get letters of interest posted on the website, TV station, etc. regarding the Tech School Authority Representative position.

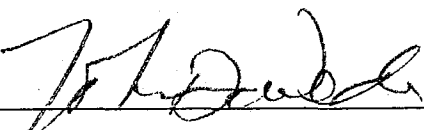
Ms. Kartal asked Mr. Buckman to get together with her in the near future to discuss the Tech School matters, since she is now the representative on that committee.

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that community panels for the facilities need to be assigned. Mr. DeWilde stated that letters of interest need to be sent out. Mr. DeAngelo stated that he has a guideline for these positions and will get this information to the Board in their Friday packet. Mr. Miller explained that these positions are also available to community members to have their input.

Mr. DeWilde stated that an Executive Session will take place after tonight's meeting to discuss negotiations and legal matters.

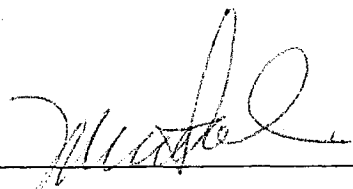
**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote.



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John DeWilde, President



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Wanda Kartal, Secretary