

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Special Board Meeting – Wednesday, July 18, 2012
Large Group Instruction Room
Morrisville Middle/Senior High School
7:30 p.m.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

This meeting was recorded for televising

A special 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, July 18, 2012, after due notice of this meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. DeWilde, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present on roll call:

In attendance: Messrs. Buckman, DeWilde, Parker, Stoneburner, Stout, Miller, Worob, and Ms. Kartal

Quorum Present:

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William Ferrara, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Thomas Profy, IV, Esq., Solicitor; media, MEA representation, and members of the community.

- Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. DeWilde stated that starting in August we are going to change up the public comments to two different public sessions. He stated that the first one is going to be a public session on only the agenda items. Mr. DeWilde stated that the sign up sheet will reflect the agenda items and you will need to indicate what it is that you want to speak about, otherwise, he will ask for clarification, if it is not about an item on the agenda he will not call you for public speaking. He stated that at the end of the meeting, there will be another public session for general comments. Mr. DeWilde stated that these are business meetings and we want to get through them, we do want to hear what everyone has to say, and he doesn't think that the Board is infringing on anyone's First Amendment rights to speak. He stated that they are just going to split it up. Mr. DeWilde reminded everyone that signed up to speak tonight that only items on the agenda are to be spoken about at public session. He asked anyone who signed up for public session tonight if they would like to change what they signed up to speak about, because on the sheet it was listed as open position and various. No one spoke up. Mr. Ferrara stated that whoever wrote various from now on would have to be specific, but

tonight they won't have to do that. Mr. Ferrara stated that if you sign up to speak for public session in August, there is a subject line which will have to be filled out. Mr. DeWilde stated that we will change the form to make it a little clearer; he just wanted to give everyone a heads up.

PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Ellsworth – 531 Hillcrest Avenue

Ms. Ellsworth stated that she is interested in the open position that is available. She stated that she is a Morrisville resident and has been so since 1986. Ms. Ellsworth stated that she is proud of this community and that her children attend school here. She stated that there are a lot of people who say bad things about the Morrisville School District, but she feels that the district is a gem. She feels that this is a great small community and so many other school districts are bursting at the seams and that this school district has the privilege to have smaller class sizes, caring teachers and she thinks that is so valued and often overlooked by other people in the County.

Ms. Viramontes

Ms. Viramontes stated that she is a newer resident to Morrisville, informed the Board of her educational background and experiences, and stated that she is interested in the open Board position. She stated that currently she is a stay at home mom and has 4 young children. She stated that she is very interested and excited about learning more about the district and becoming a part of the community.

Ms. Mihok – 1 Hillcrest Avenue

Ms. Mihok stated that she was a School Board member since December of 2007 until December of 2011. She began to discuss a judgement filed against her in Doylestown and Mr. DeWilde told her that this was not on the agenda this evening, and as he stated earlier this evening, if it is not on the agenda, she cannot speak about it, and he asked her to take her seat.

Mr. Worob stated that you can't pick a sentence out of context when someone is reading a two page document and say that it has nothing to do with the agenda. He stated that if you listen to the whole statement, you will see how it relates to the agenda.

Ms. Mihok began again, continuing that the judgement is from Head Start, Inc. She stated that all of the School Board members that you see before you tonight have the same letter from the insurance company that represents the School Board saying that we are all not covered by their policy in this judgement. Ms. Mihok stated that this is a suit for over \$300,000, or approximately \$18,000 each, and it is affecting her credit.

Mr. DeWilde stated that he is sorry, but this is not on the agenda, and asked her to take her seat.

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Ms. Mihok continued stating that Al Radosti is already named in this judgement. She stated that if you appoint Mr. Radosti as the new School Board member, our liability remains the same. But if you appoint anyone else, Ms. Mihok stated, they could be exposed to this legal action too, but then she would only need to write a personal check for \$16,000.

Mr. DeWilde asked her again to stop.

Ms. Mihok asked why anyone in their right mind would want to be a member of the Morrisville School Board.

Mr. DeWilde told Ms. Mihok that she is out of order with her comments because it is not on the agenda.

Ms. Mihok continued speaking and she asked each board member to try to buy a house or a car saying that their credit has been affected.

Mr. DeWilde asked Ms. Mihok again to please take her seat.

Ms. Mihok thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Worob stated this is going to be bad what is going on here right now. He continued by asking, who is going to call the shots on whether something is on the agenda. For example, he stated, if someone wanted to get up there tonight and talk about Sony PlayStations, it is not on the agenda, but we are making a bond payment that relates to the Sony PlayStations that we bought 10 years ago, and we approving the payment of bills which makes it a relevant topic of discussion. Mr. Worob stated that we have had personal attacks and we don't have the backbone to stand up here and tell these people to get out of the meeting for personal attacks. He stated that Board members aren't given the opportunity to defend themselves; it is a one way street, and this is the best we can come up with instead of telling people that you are out of here once you start using names and attacking individual Board members and we are going to have the Constable pull you out of here and you aren't going to be able to come back.

Mr. DeWilde stated that this is the whole reason for not allowing people to get up here and not talk about non-agenda items.

Mr. Worob asked how are you going to tell if it's a bond payment from 10 years ago; who is going to make that determination.

Mr. DeWilde asked Mr. Worob if he wants to go through what he went through before. Mr. Worob said no and what he wants him to do when someone gets up there and tells him that he is responsible for the death of Ed Frankenfield, you throw them out of the meeting. Mr. Worob said that he did not like the last meeting when Mr. DeWilde allowed these attacks to go on and all you had to do was stand up to the public, and now

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we have to go through this and we are maliciously allowing them to break the rules and attack Board members.

Mr. DeWilde stated that this is not going to happen again or at least that is the intention of not allowing it to happen again.

Mr. Worob stated that no one is going to be able to sit here and take a sentence out of context and determine whether or not it has to do with the agenda. Mr. Worob stated that we are going to be opening ourselves up for lawsuits.

Mr. Stoneburner stated that it is his opinion that Mr. DeWilde, President of the School Board, runs the meeting, and the President has the only say so.

Mr. Worob stated that we are getting sued now for something he had nothing to do with, and we are going to be getting sued again because we are going to take First Amendment rights away from the public.

Mr. DeWilde stated that it is not a First Amendment right when giving the floor at different parts of the evening.

Mr. Worob stated that it is a poor response to personal attacks at the last meeting. Mr. DeWilde stated that if he has a different suggestion they can talk about it later. Mr. Worob stated that he already gave his suggestion that once they get up there and start their personal attacks, we throw them out of the meeting and tell them they can't come back if they can't change their ways.

Mr. Perry – 43 Fairview Avenue

Mr. Perry discussed the playground which is on the agenda, and stated that he hopes that we can get playground equipment for the Intermediate School. He also thanked Mr. DeAngelo for his generous donation to the District at the last meeting.

Mr. Ferrara stated that the playground is on the agenda for this evening and the plans are to have a 100 x 100 section outside H hall, which will be mulched and he understands that the PTO has some money they have raised, and we will piece meal in playground equipment as we go along. He stated that we are looking tonight for approval to start the process and the playground will be for grades 3, 4 and 5.

Mr. Miller stated that one thing we did at the last meeting, and will be doing so in the future, is to have a copy of the check register for the payment of bills and a copy of the minutes to be approved at each meeting, in a binder located at the Recording Secretary's table. He stated that this is being done to help reduce paper costs within the District. Mr. Miller stated that many of the School Board members are also getting documents electronically to also help save on the cost of paper. He stated that if this works, we will continue this procedure, and, if not, we will take the next step from there.

Routine Action Items

At the meeting of the Board of School Directors on September 22, 2010, the Board of School Directors approved a motion that Agenda meeting action items considered routine will be enacted under one motion unless removed for separate action upon Board request. The purpose of the consolidated motion is to expedite Governing Board action on all consent items, which are not held for discussion. Items that have been held for discussion by the Governing Board will be enacted upon at the time the item is discussed.

INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES

1. INFRASTRUCTURE
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:
ACTION ITEMS:

1.1 *The Board approved a motion* to approve the development of a playground for the Intermediate School.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Buckman, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that on Items 1.2 and 1.3 which were on the original agenda for last weeks meeting, the bid openings were today, and we received no bidders for the Security Door project or the Electrical Contract.

Ms. Kartal asked what happens to the doors now. Mr. Ferrara stated that we also had Mr. Profy at the last meeting send a letter to the Department of Education requesting the ability to, if we received no bids, get three sealed quotes. Mr. Ferrara stated that since we received no bids, we will now get the three sealed quotes, and at the administration's discretion, inform the School Board of which one we have selected based on the lowest, most responsible quote for each of the two contracts. Mr. Ferrara stated that the person from Vitetta showed up today to do the bids, and he feels that once we get School Board approval and we cut a check for the doors and hardware, the worst possible scenario for delivery would be five weeks. He stated that the gentleman from Vitetta felt that it wouldn't take five weeks because the drawings were done to standard size, therefore, there wouldn't be any special orders that we would need to wait for the hardware and

the frames. Mr. Ferrara stated that he and Mr. Lastichen feel that this project could be completed by August 31st.

Mr. Profy stated that the next step would be to send a revised notice to the PA Department of Education advising them that bids were prepared for the Security Door project and for an Electrical Contractor to install the Security Door project, and that the bids were not responded to, and once again seek their permission, under the emergency health and safety and welfare exception, to allow the district to pursue this course of action. Mr. Ferrara asked if this would enable us to send the Letter of Intent to the door manufacturer to get the hardware produced. Mr. Profy stated that he thinks in light of the fact that these are standard sizes and if we get something in writing from the architect to ensure what is being ordered is standard sizes, he believes that the District would be protecting its interest.

Mr. Worob asked how much electrical wiring is involved in wiring the security doors. Mr. DeAngelo stated that it would be to primarily wire it back to the fire panel. Mr. Worob stated that we hired a couple of per diem electricians a while back for our use as needed, and stated that this would be a good chance to use them. Mr. Ferrara stated that they could explore this possibility. Mr. Worob stated that since the doors are a standard size, this should save us some money.

Mr. Buckman stated that he just wants us to be in compliance with the State Laws bidding procedures, and he would like to see Mr. Profy go ahead and send the letters. Mr. Buckman stated that he thinks we need to vote yes so that this vote will be on the record, and then we can continue forward. Mr. Buckman stated that we may not be able to use the other contractor depending on the price. He stated that if the price is over a certain amount, it has to be the sealed bid quote system. He stated that this is the law in the State of PA, even in an emergency, therefore, we wouldn't be able to hire our own electrical per diem electricians. Mr. Ferrara stated that because we have an emergency situation and because we have already notified PDE, now we are saying that nobody bid, we are having Mr. Profy follow this up, and this will enable us not to have to have sealed bids, permitting us to have three sealed quotes. Mr. DeAngelo stated that he believes what needs to happen is the Board needs to authorize the administration to be allowed to send the letter of intent to pre-purchase the doors so then we can move forward.

Mr. DeWilde stated that we therefore need to change the motions.

Mr. Miller asked what the dollar amount is that the school district can go ahead and do the work without having sealed bids. Mr. Profy stated that with the amendment to the School Code, it is now up to \$12,500. Mr. Miller asked if the motions would have to be capped at that amount. Mr. Ferrara stated that we have a little more flexibility now and the only thing that we have to maintain is the prevailing wage portion of the bid to meet State Law.

Mr. Stout asked if anyone has any idea what the hardware would cost. Mr. Ferrara stated that they do not have this information at this time, and Mr. Stout asked him to look into it. Mr. Stout stated that he can't think of a company that wouldn't have eight standard size doors and feels that we could order them, send a truck to pick them up, and bring them back ourselves. Mr. Ferrara agreed with Mr. Stout and sees no problem with getting these doors as soon as possible.

Mr. Kartal asked what is holding up this process, and what needs to be done. Mr. Ferrara stated that we need to approve the motions this evening and then we can move forward to get the three sealed bids for the General Contractor and the Electrical Contractor, then at the administrations discretion would choose the lowest, most responsible quote and on we go. We would then send a purchase order for the doors and the hardware and we are in business.

1.2 *The Board approved a motion* authorizing the administration to pursue completion of the Security Door Project in accordance with Public Bidding Requirements of the Public School Code.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Buckman, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

2. **SPECIAL EDUCATION**
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:
ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

3. **HUMAN RESOURCES**
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:
ACTION ITEMS:

3.1.a **Approval, Resignations**

The Board approved a motion to accept the resignation of Julie Shemelia, effective August 4, 2012, as Accounts Payable Clerk.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Ms. Kartal, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. Ferrara stated that it is with regret that we accept this resignation. He stated that Ms. Shemelia, along with everyone else in the Accounting Department, works very hard to make sure we get things done. He stated that she produces accurate work and she will still be staying with the District as the Medical Access person, in which she has done a phenomenal job in bringing financial resources to our District.

3.1.b *The Board approved a motion* to accept the resignation of Ivan Colon, effective July 10, 2012, as Softball Coach.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Worob, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. Ferrara thanked Coach Colon for his 20 years of service. He stated that, as a softball coach, he has made the Morrisville Softball Team and Program a reputable program in the area and we consistently challenged for the BAL Championship and we have also had success in getting to District 1.

4. **BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCE COMMITTEE**
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:
ACTION ITEMS:

4.1 **Approval, Payment of Bills for June 2012**

The Board approved a motion to approve payment of bills for June 2012, as listed, subject to final audit by the Business Administrator in the amount of :

Miscellaneous/General Disbursements:	\$73,456.17
Capital Reserve Fund (previously approve at June meeting)	(\$51,741.55)
Capital Projects Fund	\$51,741.55
TOTAL BILLS	\$73,456.17

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. DeAngelo explained that the reason for the Capital Reserve is that it what cut out of the wrong fund, so they are holding the check pending the

final punch list items on the lighting project payable to Green Tech, and that this would be the final payment.

4.2 Approval, Excess Items

The Board approved a motion to approve excess items.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. DeWilde asked what the excess items are and Mr. DeAngelo stated that they were in the Friday packet.

**5. EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

⇒ Discussion of how the District will offer kindergarten to students who enroll after July 16, 2012

Mr. Ferrara stated that we are fortunate enough to have this special meeting to further discuss this item. He stated that we were looking for some way to control the costs of kindergarten, due to the fact that last year we had a large enrollment after July 1st which required us to add another full day kindergarten class, which cost the District an additional \$50,000 to \$70,000 for salary, benefits and supplies. Mr. Ferrara stated that we do not have the opportunity to repeat that this year due to the lack of room space at Grandview. A few things were put out there by the Board members, one being that we cap the full day program because in the floor plan there is currently funding for four full day teachers and there is room set aside for a fourth class. Mr. Ferrara stated that if we capped the number at 75 students, anyone who registered for kindergarten, once we reached that number, would not be able to send their children here for kindergarten. Mr. Ferrara stated that another proposal that was on the table was that we offer half day kindergarten to anyone who enrolled after July 16th, and anyone who enrolled prior to that date would be guaranteed full day kindergarten. Mr. Ferrara stated that this information was put out via phone blasts, newspapers, and public notification. As of July 16th, there were 64 students enrolled in kindergarten, which means we are probably looking at three full day kindergarten classes, having 22 students in each class. Mr. Ferrara stated, as of today, three more students have enrolled for kindergarten after the July 16th deadline for the guaranteed full day classes, and if we follow what happened last year, he believes there will be more students enrolling.

Ms. Kartal asked what the plans will be for the fourth teacher. Mr. Ferrara stated that the fourth teacher would be used for a half day kindergarten class, and then we would have a .6 Gifted Teacher position that we would have to fill, which that person would be able to do. Mr. Ferrara stated that in order to be a Gifted Teacher you just have to be certified to be able to work with the age group of whatever gifted students you are addressing.

Ms. Kartal asked if we still have our Art. Mr. Ferrara stated that the .4 Art position has been posted, and the regular teachers will also be providing Art within the classroom. Ms. Kartal asked if there will be an aide in the kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Ferrara stated that he has not looked at this yet. Ms. Kartal asked if we would need help in these classrooms, if we have anyone available or would we have to hire someone. Mr. Ferrara stated that we have paraprofessionals and PCA's assigned to our special needs students, but we do not have any unassigned. Mr. Ferrara stated that we do not have any non-paraprofessionals at the elementary level except Ms. Tusina who is here in the Intermediate School. At the high school level we have Ms. Ebert who does high school in-school suspensions, and Mr. Hubiak who does Middle School in-school suspensions. Ms. Kartal stated that her concern is an aide or some sort of assistance for those classrooms.

Ms. Kartal stated that if we have one half day kindergarten class, it would seem that we would have to cap the number of students who could enroll in that class. Mr. Ferrara stated that if we would happen to get 50 students enrolling after July 16th, we would now have to have 2 half day kindergarten classes. He stated that the .4 Art Teacher would then have to do the Gifted, and become a full time teacher, which is Plan B. Ms. Kartal asked if this .4 teacher becoming full time is in the budget. Mr. DeAngelo stated that the addition of the .6 is not in the budget.

Ms. Kartal again asked if we would have to cap the number of students enrolling in half day kindergarten. Mr. Miller stated that our numbers seem to never warrant having to go beyond having a fourth kindergarten class, whether it is a full day or half day. Mr. Miller stated that his feeling is that if we find a cap for the full day, and the ones that have registered afterwards would be eligible for the full day if we were to get to around 75 students, which would be 25 per classroom, and if that is as far as we go we can consider ourselves lucky. He stated that we would then have a teacher that we were thinking that we would need for half day kindergarten who could be used in other ways. Mr. Miller stated that if we go over that number of students, we could have a half day program, and then the families that enrolled in the full day could be offered the chance

to enroll in the half day program and then we could have openings in the full day to offer to the half day parents.

Mr. Ferrara stated that what he would like to do if the Board approves a half day kindergarten, would be to send a certified letter to each of the students who have enrolled already for full day, to see if they would be interested in half day. Mr. Ferrara stated that we have to be real careful with wording any motion, because then we would have to stick to that motion. Mr. Miller stated that we have already passed a motion stating that if you enrolled by July 16th, you were guaranteed full day kindergarten. Mr. Miller stated that we never said that after July 16th you were only going to get half day.

Mr. Kartal asked if the three students who enrolled after July 16th would be placed in one of the full day kindergarten classes, if we don't get any more students enrolled for kindergarten. Mr. Ferrara stated that they would be placed in one of those classes, and then we would have to look for an aide or assistance for those classes.

Mr. Miller asked what the cap would be for the three full day kindergarten classes. Mr. Ferrara stated that he would not go over 22 students per class. Mr. Ferrara stated that we will not run a half day program if no further students enroll, and the three students that enrolled after July 16th would be placed in one of the three full day classes.

Mr. Ferrara stated that a motion should be made this evening so they can plan for what they want to do.

The Board approved a motion to offer half day kindergarten to any Morrisville resident who is five years of age before September 1, 2012 who has enrolled after July 16, 2012.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Ms. Kartal stated that she is concerned about Library since we do not have a volunteer at this time to take the cart around Grandview. She stated that she understands that there may be a couple of volunteers who expressed concern through PTO people. Mr. Ferrara stated that he will have Ms. Ruffing work on this.

⇒ Discussion regarding moving the Pre-K to the Intermediate School
Mr. Ferrara stated that the administration has proposed our Plan A for utilization to have the Pre-K program, which services 18 students, located in the Intermediate School, preferably where H-2 is located. He stated that there are a lot of issues with this proposal, but he stated that we need to understand that there are many high schools in Lower Bucks County who have the opportunity for their students to have pre-school in the high school, and we would like to have the same opportunity. He stated that there will not be an issue where there are students who are older than 5th grade in the same area as the pre-school students. He stated that the high school students who would be scheduled to work with them as an elective, will have supervised access to the area where the Pre-K would be. He stated that this would allow us to use the room currently assigned to the pre-school at Grandview as a home base for our students with special needs which is the best possible plan for those students. Mr. Ferrara that those students are students with IEP's in Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

Mr. Ferrara stated that Plan B, which does not have the best possible situation for our students with IEP's, grades K-2, would be to have the pre-school down in the computer lab at Grandview, and then we would have to move our special education students to classrooms that are not occupied while that group of students are in their specials. Mr. Ferrara stated that this is not something that the administrative team thinks is the best plan for all of our students involved, but is something that we will look into doing if the need be.

Mr. Ferrara stated that the administrative team always likes to present to the School Board at least two plans; one being the one we prefer, and one being the one we can make do with.

Mr. Ferrara stated that he understands that some parents would have concerns about their Pre-K four year olds being with fifth grade students, and this is a concern that the administration will address. Mr. Ferrara stated that he would like the Board to give our students the same opportunity that other students have to work with pre-school students as part of their curriculum.

Mr. DeAngelo referred to Plan A and stated that when we started with the construction project, they had discussed the possibility of creating a classroom at the end of E hallway, but that became very cost prohibitive, and the classroom in H Hall is ideal for this set up. He stated that this classroom is larger than most classrooms and is at end of H Hall.

Mr. Miller stated that it would be right inside the doors from where the playground would be located.

Ms. Kartal stated that originally she was not thrilled about Pre-K coming to the Intermediate School. She stated that as a parent you try to keep your young children away from the older children, but she does not have a fear of our children against children and she thinks that we have some great kids in this district from K through 12. Her concern is that we have the plans in place and that we move forward and promise the public the doors, the bathroom accessibility, the ability to get to a bathroom properly, accessibility to the Nurse, and not have any of these issues. She stated that what she really likes about this now that she has gone through the process of thinking about it, and she understands the housing problem at Grandview is an issue and she certainly would not want to have our special education children interrupted in their program and try to fit them into classrooms that we are currently using, is the fact that it would become an educational opportunity for our students to be properly cleared and learn early childhood education and development. Ms. Kartal stated that she feels that it may work and is glad that she looked over all of the information.

Mr. DeWilde stated that there will be a lot of opportunities for our students and he feels that it will keep the educational environment less impacted.

Mr. Stoneburner asked what the hours would be that these children come and go, his concern being with the kids in the parking lot, especially with bringing the third grade up to the Intermediate School and adding more traffic in the back parking lot. Mr. Ferrara stated that this is one thing that we would look at, probably staggering times a little bit. Mr. Ferrara stated that we can stagger the start and stop times of Pre-K, as long as we conform to the hours required in the Grant, and said that theoretically we could start them at 9:00 a.m. and get them out at 3:00 p.m. or 3:15 p.m.

Ms. Kartal stated that they had a Joint Board/Council meeting a week ago and one of the things that was discussed was the Walkability Study and what it means to the district and the traffic issues. She stated that we want to notify the parents in the Grandview area, but we also will be taking a month or so to see what is going to happen to the traffic pattern once the kids move. Ms. Kartal stated that they have some pretty good things that they have been talking about (Walkability Study, additional signs that we can get through PennDot, the lines are being redone, we've added some other additional lines that the Borough was working on), and

we won't know for at least a month, once they get into it, what other things need to be done.

Mr. Ferrara stated that the nice thing about the High School/Intermediate School is how the driveway is set up avoiding the traffic on the road. Mr. Ferrara stated that they will be getting larger stencils for the arrows pointing out the direction to turn, etc. and this information will be on the website, and will go out by phone blasts. Mr. Ferrara credited the parents of the students who attend our schools who have been very receptive to the traffic patterns, and we have had no issues.

Ms. Kartal stated that Mr. Miller is working on some mapping information, so that before the students return to school, this information will be sent to the parents in the back to school information packets. She stated that this information will also be discussed at Back to School Night, and at that time we will have a better idea of the traffic issues.

The Board approved a motion approving the move of the Pre-K class to the Intermediate School for the 2012-13 school year.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Buckman, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

6. POLICY COMMITTEE
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:
ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeAngelo stated that with the resignation of Julie Shemelia this evening, we need the Board's approval to post the position to replace her. He asked that this be posted as a full time position just so we can secure more applicants. Mr. DeAngelo stated that the last time they tried to hire a part time position we did not get a whole lot of candidates. Mr. DeAngelo stated that he would like to post this position tomorrow.

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Mr. Ferrara stated that once this position is posted on that site it will also be posted throughout the district as per our policy, and we will also reach out to other Business Administrators to see if they have anyone in mind.

The Board approved a motion to post the position of full time Accounts Payable/Accounting Clerk, on PA Career Link and other sources.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Buckman, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. DeWilde personally thanked Ms. Marone for her service. He stated that she really understood the importance of being a School Director, she really carried the position well, always spoke as a good advocate for our parents and our students, knew how to work well with others, and he enjoyed his time working with her. Ms. Kartal agreed.

The Board approved a motion to accept the resignation of School Director, Alana Marone, with regret, effective July 18, 2012.

Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Buckman, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

At this time, 8:28 p.m., Mr. DeWilde announced a short break prior to holding the interviews for the open School Board position.

The meeting resumed at 8:38 p.m.

INTERVIEWS

The following individuals were interviewed for the open School Board position: Edward Meigs, Beth Ellsworth, Stephanie Viramontes, Alfred Radosti, Daniel Dingle, Jon Perry

They were asked the following five questions, and their responses to each question is listed below:

Question #1 – What do you believe is the best characteristic of the Morrisville School District?

Question #2 – What do you believe is the biggest challenge facing the Morrisville School District?

Question #3 – Where do you see the Morrisville School District in the next five years?

Question #4 – There are additional responsibilities of School Board Directors other than attending monthly meetings. Does your current situation permit you to make this type of commitment?

Question #5 – What qualities do you possess that you believe would be beneficial as a member of the School Board?

Daniel Dingle – 344 Crown Street

Answer to Question #1 – Mr. Dingle stated that he is actually quite a fan of the size of the District. He stated that it is quite a bit of a point of contention often in discussion. He stated that one of the things that appealed to his family when they first moved to this town was its size. He stated that it meant that there was fewer people, you would get to know your neighbors faster, you would get to know your way around town and it had that more personal feel to it. Mr. Dingle stated that in the school what it meant was smaller ratios, and you knew who everybody was. He stated that he currently has three children, two of whom are currently enrolled and one is on his way up, and he didn't want them to be lost in the shuffle, or be a number, or have to do something so totally amazing to have their name printed somewhere in some obscure corner. He wanted them to know who their fellow students were, who their teachers were, who their administrators were, and also who their community members were. Mr. Dingle stated that you find all of this in a small town, and Morrisville has this and they fell in love with it when they moved in and they plan to stay for as long as possible.

Answer to Question #2 – Mr. Dingle stated that there is a number of them. He stated that you see it played out here at the Board meetings, and he appreciates the passion that he sees in the Board, the administration and the parents and taxpayers that are here at the Board meetings. He stated that he finds the root of it to be mainly in the facilities themselves. He stated that there seems to be a series of horrible, unfortunate events that have played out here simply related to the facilities. Mr. Dingle stated that we went from three schools to two schools, and it is a matter of survivability for the District (i.e. can we maintain the schools, will the buildings survive, etc.) He stated that there is no right or wrong answer, there just needs to be an answer. Mr. Dingle stated that it comes down to can we stand alone, or if we were to ever merge with another District, we would need facilities that are acceptable to a neighboring District that would want to actually want to use them. He stated that right now they seem to be more of an impairment rather than a benefit.

Answer to Question #3 – Mr. Dingle stated that where he would like to see our District get back to the point where you can say that you have pride in your school, and have that not be a political slogan, but actually say I have pride in my school, and I wear my colors and wear them proud, that I can I go to Morrisville, that my students go to Morrisville, my kids go to Morrisville, I live in Morrisville and we love it and we are better for it. Mr. Dingle stated that he wants to see the District have a plan short term to address the issues that the parents have, and he wants to see the communication improve between the public, the administration and the Board. He also wants to see the transparency grow where everyone has a comfort and a level of trust, rather than the mistrust that shows up in the dark corners of the internet and at meetings. He wants to see where everyone can come here and feel comfortable, have people stand up at the podium and feel comfortable, and have more people attend meetings that have something to say and to challenge the Board, and where the Board has so much to say to challenge the

administration. He wants to see everyone involved where everyone has something to say and that we are doing it as a community. Mr. Dingle would like to see us as one voice.

Answer to Question #4 – Mr. Dingle stated that he believes that it does. He stated that he is currently a member of MOEF and attends those meetings, and he shows up at the School Board meetings. He stated that as long as he gets his things done, he can be where he needs to be. Mr. Dingle stated that he has talked to his employer about his interest in becoming a Board member, and they have encouraged him to do it. He understands that it will take work on his own time to stay informed and to learn, and he is actually looking forward to going to the School Board training sessions that are available. He stated that he is interested in being on the different committees, but he is also sensitive to the fact that it can't take over everything. He stated that he can commit, but you don't want to over commit and sacrifice too much such as becoming so involved that you lose your job or ruin your family life. He stated that he is here for his family and ready to do what it takes to become involved as much as possible.

Answer to Question #5 – Mr. Dingle stated that he is an excellent communicator. He has no problem speaking publicly and he has no problem speaking his mind. He stated that he has no particular loyalties or disloyalties anywhere. Mr. Dingle stated that he has been in town long enough to be familiar with what is going on, but he hasn't been here long enough to be ready to seek vengeance. He can be here, he can communicate, he can be partial and look what's happening, look at the facts and make a sound, logical decision. Mr. Dingle stated that he can use his experiences in life to help with the facilities. With his current job and experience regarding facilities, he is used to the numbers, the needs, bidding, contract negotiations, etc., and feels that he could jump right in and help out.

Al Radosti – 123 Clymer Avenue

Answer to Question #1 – Mr. Radosti stated that it is a small district and the students have great opportunities.

Answer to Question #2 – Mr. Radosti stated that it would be the economy. He stated that the way things are today there is a large amount of unemployment and it makes the economy one of our biggest issues.

Answer to Question #3 – Mr. Radosti stated that he would like to see them at the head of the pact.

Answer to Question #4 – Yes.

Answer to Question #5 – Mr. Radosti stated that he is an ex member of this Board, he has had a good working relationship with the people in charge, and he believes that would be an asset.

Stephanie Viramontes – 43 E. Philadelphia Avenue

Answer to Question #1 – Ms. Viramontes stated that we need to seem approachable to every member of the community, every parent, or anyone who may have a concern, and everyone should feel comfortable coming to a meeting or going through the process of speaking at public session. She feels that we are very well organized in discussing the processes that the Board is going to take and what route they are going to take.

Answer to Question #2 – Ms. Viramontes stated that our biggest challenge is that is has been so wonderful that we have been able to continue the education without raising the taxes and that people may come to expect this in the future. She feels that this is a good

thing, but it can also make it very challenging to continue to advance in technology, as well as having increased class sizes, and it will be a major challenge to stay within a set budget and keep the community happy as well as keeping the standards improving and keeping a quality education.

Answer to Question #3 – Ms. Viramontes continues to see the District make adjustments as she saw tonight with the movement of Pre-K to the high school which will allow for extra classes for our high school students, and doing this with keeping the budget in mind. Also, the suggestion of using the electricians that we have hired to do the electrical work which is very important to keep the resources we already have before going out looking for others. Ms. Viramontes sees us continuing to improve education with the new things that are coming out, and we just keep moving forward.

Answer to Question #4 – She feels now is the perfect time for her to make this type of commitment. Ms. Viramontes does not feel that there would be a conflict of interest with a teaching job or any other job that she may have in order to get things done as a Board member.

Answer to Question #5 – She believes that her experience as a teacher and communicating with the parents would be beneficial as a Board member. She feels that she works very well with others, is very responsible and dependable. She feels that her qualifications as a teacher and a parent have taught her to listen and keep an open mind.

Ed Meigs – 4 Bowling Green Ave. Rear Apartment

Answer to Question #1 – He feels that the small size of the district, small class size and more individual attention to students throughout the school system are all great characteristics of the Morrisville School District.

Answer to Question #2 – The biggest challenge facing the School District would be trying to continue to progress as technology progresses since it is a smaller school district and we have less conventional resources and the challenge is to look for other resources and think outside the box to progress along with the other school systems.

Answer to Question #3 – In the next five years he sees the district growing and expanding and, hopefully, continuing to meet the needs the needs of our students in the best way as possible as our economy hopefully continues to improve.

Answer to Question #4 – Absolutely, yes.

Answer to Question #5 – He has very good organizational and communicative skills, he has been a former teacher and he is a parent. In his current job, he is a manager and supervisor, which also gives him the skills to work well with others.

Jon Perry

Answer to Question #1 – He feels that it is a small district where everyone knows each other and you have access to the teachers and administration. Mr. Perry also feels that there is a lot of school spirit.

Answer to Question #2 – The biggest challenge facing Morrisville would be trying to maintain quality education in a downed economic environment with reduced revenues at the State and Federal levels while being mindful of taxes.

Answer to Question #3 – With the uncertainty of State and Federal revenues, he does not see the tax base really growing here, so he sees the burden of a quality education falling

on to the taxpayers. He would like to see more educational offerings at the high school level and hopefully draw in and retain folks to stay in the system.

Answer to Question #4 – Mr. Perry stated that he has been coming to a lot of the meetings and he does not foresee any problems making the time commitment.

Answer to Question #5 – He stated that he has been pretty involved in School Board affairs over the last 10 years and he knows a lot of the issues and some of the history that has gotten us to where we are going today. Mr. Perry stated that he has a good memory, he is good with numbers and has a good basic knowledge of the bones of the school budget. He is well organized, is a good speaker and a good communicator. Mr. Perry stated that as a parent of a Morrisville student, he has a vested concern and is a public school supporter and cares a lot about this community.

Beth Ellsworth

Answer to Question #1 – She stated that Morrisville has small class sizes and teachers that care about their students, and they are involved in their students' lives more than just in the classroom, and they care about the whole child, not just the academics.

Answer to Question #2 – Ms. Ellsworth stated that she is a teacher and has an insight of how schools run. She stated that Morrisville is very diverse, which helps students to be able to work together with is a valuable asset. She stated that she would like to see more parent involvement with their students, but realized that in many cases both parents work.

Answer to Question #3 – Ms. Ellsworth sees the Morrisville School District working hard towards getting all students proficient in regards to the State testing.

Answer to Question #4 – She stated that she just finished her Masters last summer and she is available and ready to give the community and school district her dedication.

Answer to Question #5 – Ms. Ellsworth stated that she is organized, she likes to hear other people's opinions before making any decisions, and she is open minded which she feels is critical when working with so many different people bringing so many things to the table.

Mr. Stoneburner asked Ms. Ellsworth to elaborate on Question #3. Ms. Ellsworth stated that we need to work towards getting all of our students proficient. She also stated that we need to keep the arts involved and keep the whole child educated, not get rid of the computers, keep library on the cart, etc. and she knows that this is very difficult because space is an issue

Ms. Kartal asked for a few minutes so the Board members could go over their notes.

Mr. Profy stated that at this point in time, a memorandum was submitted to the Board President from himself dated today addressing the School Director vacancy issue. He cited in that memorandum two cases. One was about the North Star District School Directors from 1975 in a case where the court held a 30 day period within which the Board of School Directors may fill vacancies commencing with the resignation of a former Director is accepted by the Board, not when the resignation is submitted. The second case was involving the School District of McAdoo Borough which held that a vacancy must be filled by a majority vote of all remaining Directors. Mr. Profy stated that we will need five (5) votes to elect a new School Board Director this evening which

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will be by roll call vote. If no one receives five votes, the process may be repeated by notices given as the action to be taken during that 30 day period.

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to open the floor for nominations. This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. Buckman made a motion to nominate Al Radosti. This motion was seconded by Mr. Worob.

Mr. Miller made a motion to nominate Jon Perry. This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to nominate Daniel Dingle. This motion was seconded by Ms. Kartal.

Ms. Kartal made a motion to nominate Beth Ellsworth. This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller.

Having no further nominations, Mr. DeWilde made a motion to close nominations. This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. DeWilde thanked everyone for coming out and for their interest in being a School Board Director. He stated that it is an important position that everyone has taken very seriously. Mr. Buckman stated that the candidates that came out this evening were excellent.

Mr. Profy stated that, in the order of the nominations, a roll call vote would take place for each individual.

Roll call vote for Mr. Radosti:

Ayes – Buckman, DeWilde, Stout, Worob

Nays – Parker, Stoneburner, Kartal, Miller

Roll call vote for Mr. Perry:

Ayes – Parker, Stoneburner, Kartal, Miller

Nays – Buckman, DeWilde, Stout, Worob

Roll call vote for Mr. Dingle:

Ayes – DeWilde, Stoneburner, Kartal, Miller

Nays – Buckman, Parker, Stout, Worob

Roll call vote for Ms. Ellsworth:

Ayes – Parker, Stoneburner, Kartal, Miller

Nays – Buckman, DeWilde, Stout, Worob

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Ms. Kartal asked if the Board could have an Executive Session to discuss this matter, but Mr. Profy stated that it must be voted on and is something that cannot be decided in an Executive Session.

Due to the fact that each roll call vote for each nomination was tied with 4 ayes and 4 nays, Mr. Profy stated that the nominations would have to be reopened at this time.

Mr. DeWilde stated that the Board has 30 days to make a decision, they could think about it and then they could have another meeting.

Mr. Buckman made a motion to reopen nominations. This motion was seconded by Mr. DeWilde and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

The Board members discussed how they would like to handle the matter of voting for the candidates. Mr. Profy stated that the law states that you must open up nominations, submit names for nominations, and then you have to close the nominations and vote on each one until you have a majority of a vote.

Ms. Kartal stated that we have four individuals who were nominated, we have 8 adults on the Board, and she can't imagine why we can't have a conversation and highlight what notes you took, and then have a discussion. Mr. Buckman stated that he would prefer not to discuss what they think about the people. He feels that they were all nice people. Mr. Buckman stated that he knows Mr. Radosti and he feels that he is a great candidate. Ms. Kartal told Mr. Buckman that he was discussing one of the candidates and he stated he did not want to do this, and he said he would stop.

Again, the Board discussed how they wanted to handle the vote, and they decided to start over again.

Mr. Buckman made a motion to nominate Al Radosti. This motion was seconded by Mr. Worob.

Mr. Miller made a motion to nominate Daniel Dingle. This motion was seconded by Ms. Kartal.

Mr. Parker made a motion to nominate Beth Ellsworth. This motion was seconded by Mr. Stoneburner.

Having no further nominations, Mr. DeWilde made a motion to close nominations. This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Roll call vote for Mr. Radosti:

Ayes - Buckman, DeWilde, Stout, Worob

Nays - Parker, Stoneburner, Kartal, Miller

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Roll call vote for Mr. Dingle:

Ayes – DeWilde, Parker, Stoneburner, Kartal, Miller

Nays – Buckman, Stout, Worob

With a majority vote of 5 ayes and 4 nays, Mr. DeWilde congratulated Mr. Dingle as the new School Board Director.

Mr. Worob asked where the new rule of how we handle public session and the changes came from. Mr. DeWilde stated that this change was made at his request. He stated that he had checked with Mr. Profy to be sure it was okay prior to making this change. Mr. DeWilde stated that at the last meeting he lost control of everything and what was said was vicious and ugly and he couldn't believe what people were pulling out of the past and how in the world it was related to the education of our children. Mr. DeWilde stated that we are running the business meetings for the school district, and all of that information that was pulled out has no place at a School Board meeting. Mr. DeWilde stated that in order to protect freedom of speech and address everyone's concerns, he asked Mr. Profy to investigate how we could protect everyone's rights, get through our meetings, and still have everyone able to express their concerns. Mr. Worob stated that he voted to have Mr. DeWilde as President of the Board, not king of the Board. Mr. Worob asked why this was not discussed with the Board members, and why did he not get a consensus of the Board members to change this rule. Mr. Worob told Mr. DeWilde that he appreciates his concern about public attacks, but he feels that this doesn't address that. Mr. Worob asked Mr. DeWilde if we have 100 people show up who want to talk about the new school, and if it is not on the agenda, are we going to tell them that they can't talk about it. Mr. Worob stated that he feels that this is an arbitrary decision and he stated that Ms. Mihok read a letter to him tonight prior to the meeting that she was going to read at public session and it was not only about an agenda item but also about electing new Board members, but she didn't have the opportunity to speak long enough to get it out. Mr. Worob stated that they get 3 minutes to talk for the taxes they pay in this town. He agrees that we should stand up against personal attacks, but during public session, they should be able to talk about anything they want if it has to do with the school. Mr. Worob stated that no one should have that much power to do what went on here tonight and no one should restrict people from talking because no one knows if it has something to do with the budget, etc. Mr. Worob asked that we just end the personal attacks, and give the people their 3 minutes. Mr. DeWilde stated that he came out with the best intentions and just laid it out, but he would like to follow the will of the Board. Mr. Parker stated that he would like to have 2 public sessions, one on the agenda items and one on general topics. Mr. Parker stated the he too wants the personal attacks to end and agreed that at past meetings, these attacks had nothing to do with school and they were vicious and intended to hurt that person. Mr. Worob stated that we need to just enforce that there will be no personal attacks, but we need to let the people speak at public session about anything they want to talk about.

Mr. DeWilde stated that this is a work in progress and that we will vigorously enforce the policy, but that every single one of us has the personal responsibility to not respond negatively to anything that is said during public session. He stated that he knows that this

is difficult and he apologized for coming off as an authoritarian, but it was just done in the best interest of everyone. Mr. Worob stated that there is a difference in something we don't like hearing and a personal attack.

Ms. Kartal stated that when she was on the other side, there were two public sessions, the first to discuss only items on the agenda, and the second to discuss any other matters, and we are now doing basically what the old Board did. She stated that at the Tech school the same thing takes place. She stated that she agrees with Mr. Worob that the personal attacks have to stop. Mr. Worob asked who can possibly determine when someone begins speaking at public session, if we don't let them finish, if it possibly has something to with the school or the budget, etc.

Mr. Parker asked if we could possibly try this new rule for public session for a month and see how it works.

Mr. DeWilde told Mr. Worob that he does appreciate his experience and hopes that he does not feel challenged by anything that he has said.

Mr. DeAngelo asked the Board to consider a donation by Mr. Kevin Jones in the amount of \$1000 to be used towards the playground equipment.

The Board approved a motion to accept the donation made by Mr. Kevin Jones in the amount of \$1000 to be used towards the playground equipment.

This motion was moved by Mr. Buckman, seconded by Ms. Kartal, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Everyone thanked Mr. Jones for his generous donation.

Mr. DeWilde announced that there will be a brief Executive Session following tonight's meeting to discuss legal issues with a matter of litigation.

12. Adjournment

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Moved by Mr. DeWilde, seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

John DeWilde, President

Wanda Kartal, Secretary