

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE  
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
**Work Session**–Wednesday, January 16, 2013  
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 16, 2013, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Miller made a motion to appoint Mr. Paul DeAngelo as the Recording Secretary for tonight's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dingle, and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**ROLL CALL**

*The following members were present on roll call:*

Messrs. Buckman, DeWilde, Parker, Stout, Miller, Worob, Dingle, and Ms. Kartal

*Members absent:* Mr. Stoneburner

*Quorum Present:*

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William Ferrara, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Mr. Donald Harm, Educational Advisor for Administration; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; David Truelove, 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 tonight's meeting.

Mr. Miller stated that an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting in regards to litigation and personnel. He also stated that an Executive Session was held last Wednesday night in regards to litigation. Mr. Miller stated that the Board has a Retreat scheduled for Monday, January 21, 2013,

### **School District/Borough Committee Reports**

#### **Joint Borough/School Board Committee – Ms. Kartal/Mr. Miller**

Ms. Kartal stated that at the January meeting they set their meeting schedule for the entire year, and the meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month. She stated that Ms. Berry Johnson and Mr. DuPell finished the processing of the Safety Grant. Ms. Kartal stated that the Borough is working on getting new pedestrian crossing signs, which is part of the PennDot program.

Mr. Miller stated that they discussed establishing a Traffic School Zone. He stated that they also discussed the properties at Manor Park and M. R. Reiter.

Ms. Kartal discussed a posting regarding a backup Crossing Guard, and also the Winterfest for next year.

#### **Finance Committee – Mr. Dingle**

Mr. Dingle stated that the Finance Committee met last evening and discussed future opportunities for the District. He stated that the next meeting will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Facilities Committee – Mr. Parker**

Mr. Parker stated that they discussed the RFP for properties and he asked that they move forward on this item.

#### **Human Resources – Mr. DeWilde**

Mr. DeWilde stated that it was their first meeting and they looked into developing some job duties and responsibilities for the administration, volunteers and extracurricular positions. He stated that they looked at advantages and disadvantages of administrative interns and various ways of using personnel within the District. He stated that they also discussed two options and talked about various ways to use the administration/interns.

Mr. Miller asked anyone that may have suggestions regarding these matters to get in touch with the various committees.

**Education Committee – Mr. Miller**

Mr. Miller handed out information to each Board member and Administrator listing the highlights from last Tuesday’s meeting. He stated that they discussed options for the future of the District which involved tuitioning out the high school students and the pros and cons. Mr. Miller stated that they also discussed the District remaining status quo and the pros and cons for this option. He stated that they also discussed proposed class sizes for next year. Mr. Miller stated that they decided to make this an administrative regulation and tack it onto the School Board Policy #126 so that the administration has guidelines. Mr. Miller stated that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI.

**Student Spotlight**

- Two of our Intermediate students will be singing at the meeting

**Student Representatives to the Board**

**Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF**

**PTO Report**

**Superintendent/Administrator’s Reports**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- September 26, 2012 Monthly Business Meeting
- October 17, 2012 Monthly Agenda Meeting
- October 24, 2012 Monthly Business Meeting

**INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCIAL/HUMAN RESOURCES**

**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Board action is requested to approve the Use of Facilities by the Morrisville Little League.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

None at this time.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

- Contracted Salary and Insurance Payments – Superintendent and Business Administrator
- Confidential Employee Agreement

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Board action is requested to approve AESOP Substitutes
2. Board action is requested to approve tuition reimbursement.
3. Board action is requested to approve appointments as follows:
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Hires
  - Coaches

## **BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

- 2013-14 Budget Presentation
- 2011-12 Financial Statement Presentation – BBD

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Board action is requested to approve the Resolution regarding Act I millage or the Preliminary Proposed Budget.
2. Board action is requested to approve the release of the Bucks County Tech School Escrow.
3. Board action is requested to approve the 2011-12 Financial Statements.
4. Board action is requested to approve the Workers Comp Panel for 2013.
5. Board action is requested to approve the release of the Transportation RFP for 2013-14.
6. Board action is requested to approve the release of the Trash Removal RFP for 2013-14.
7. Board action is requested to approve the release of the Snow and Landscaping RFP for 2013-14.
8. Board action is requested to approve an Account for the Class of 2016.
9. Board action is requested to approve an Account for the Science Symposium.
10. Board action is requested to rescind the STS Agreement for Substitute Teachers.
11. Board action is requested to approve the acceptance of a donation from PAB's (music books).
12. Board action is requested to approve the 2012 Stipends for the Board Secretary and the Board Treasurer.
13. Board action is requested to approve the Food Service Attestation Statement for the 2013-14 final year of contract.
14. Board action is requested to approve the IU Homestead/Farmstead Agreement.
15. Board action is requested to approve the Disability Insurance with Assurant.
16. Board action is requested to approve the Excess Items for January.

## **BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS (continued):**

17. Board action is requested to approve Budget Transfers.
18. Board action is requested to approve the Treasurer's Report.
19. Board action is requested to approve the Investment Report.
20. Board action is requested to approve Payment of Bills.
21. Board action is requested to approve the Development of an RFP for Real Estate.

Mr. Buckman stated that he objected to Item 6.2 being placed on the agenda. He stated that it is in response the inappropriate resolution that was put forth by the Tech School where they actually threatened that if we did not pay them, we would not be able to have our students go to their school. Mr. Buckman stated that he does not believe that they have the right to deny a student public education. He stated that this is an inappropriate quote and the case number that they quoted on the resolution is not proper, but he did not have the information with him this evening with the correct information.

Ms. Kartal discussed Item 6.11 and stated that the motion should be corrected to state the donation of music books is from Winston Emmons of Needham, Mass to the music department.

Mr. Miller asked for an explanation of the Science Symposium. Mr. Jones stated that the Science Symposium is an after school program which is done through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant and Wheelabrator in the subsidy area of Waste Management. This program gets young students involved in researching a science related topic which is pertinent to their area, mainly environmental, and then the students get to go to Florida to present their project. He stated that most of this is paid through Waste Management and Wheelabrator, which is part of Waste Management, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant, and the account is being set up for any money that is raised for this program. Mr. Jones stated that he and Ms. Glaum-Lathbury are both involved in this project.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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

- Administrative Guidelines for Class Size Policy (SB# 126)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade start time to match elementary start time
- Changing of classes – Grades 3 through 6

Mr. DuPell discussed the self-contained classroom vs. departmentalizing, looping, and the pros and cons regarding these issues. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to see some sort of policy or procedure established, if we do choose to go with looping, where the parents would have a choice to have their child moved to a different teacher if they feel that there is a conflict with that teacher and their child.

Mr. DuPell stated that looping would involve 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders only, and Mr. Dingle asked why the Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders would not be involved. Mr. DuPell stated that since there is no testing in these grades, he and Mr. Ferrara felt that looping would not be necessary for those lower grades since there is no data to measure the success/failure of looping for these students.

Mr. DuPell stated that another option would be to have the teachers departmentalize themselves.

Mr. Ferrara explained that a self-contained classroom would mean that the students would have the same teacher all day, every day. Looping would mean, for example, the third grade teacher would move to fourth grade the following year along with the students. Mr. Ferrara stated that this would give us more flexibility if there is a problem with a student and their teacher, and procedures or policies would be developed to handle this type of situation. Mr. Ferrara stated that the key to a self-contained class is the amount of time on task which would greatly increase for our students at the elementary level. He stated that two thirds of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are already involved in looping, and we have found that since we have been doing this the tests scores for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have gone up, and the amount of material that can be covered has increased since we don't have to go back to square one.

Ms. Kartal stated that, from her own personal experience with her child, she has seen the advantage of looping in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Board action is requested to approve the 2013-14 School Calendar.
2. Board action is requested to approve William Ferrara's attendance at the Bucks County Superintendent's Retreat in Hershey, PA on April 10, 2013 through April 12, 2013.

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

None at this time.

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to see the removal of the stipends for the Board Secretary and Board Treasurer. To his knowledge, they have never been given directly to the person and have been donated back to the School District or an outside organization.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational Educational School
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC SESSION #2**

Mr. Miller apologized for not asking if anyone would like to speak at Public Session #1, and asked if anyone would like to speak at this time. There were no speakers.

There were no speakers for Public Session #2.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. DeWilde, and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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Damon Miller, President

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Wanda Kartal, Secretary