

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Work Session—Wednesday, March 20, 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 March 20, 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. DeWilde, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present on roll call:

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

Members absent: Mr. Parker

Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Parker informed him that he would be unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Quorum Present:

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William Ferrara, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; David Truelove, Esq., Solicitor; media, MEA representatives and members of the community.

Mr. Miller stated that the following areas will be covered at the Business Meeting next week.

Student Spotlight

- Chorus Director, Shelley Zuckerman, and the chorus members will be performing

Student Representatives to the Board

Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF

PTO Report

Superintendent/Administrator's Reports

Enrollment Report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION ITEMS:

December 3, 2012 Monthly Agenda Meeting

December 12, 2012 Monthly Business Meeting

PUBLIC SESSION #1

There were no speakers for Public Session #1.

EDUCATION

Education Committee – Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller stated that the committee met last Tuesday and discussed the following:

- Homework – Mr. Ferrara stated that one of the things that he really stresses with teachers is that students receive their grades based on what they know. He stated that they want to limit homework to a portion of 5% or less for the student's overall grade. Mr. Ferrara stated that if the teachers do give homework, it should be quality not quantity and should be an extension of what they have learned and/or reviewed so the teacher knows what information they retained so they will be able to plan their next lesson from that.
- Kindergarten surveys that were done were discussed. Mr. Miller stated that there were 40 surveys completed by those that were enrolling into kindergarten next year and he reviewed the results of the answers on the surveys received. Based on the results, there was no clear cut opinion from the parents on whether or not they would be interested in self-pay day care after school or an extended day-care services or educational services. Under the comment section, 5 parents stated that they would prefer full-day kindergarten and 1 stated that they would find an alternate after care program. Out of the 15 kindergarten students attending our current program, only 5 surveys have been returned. Mr. Miller read the comments submitted by these parents.
Mr. Worob stated that if this Board does decide to only offer half-day kindergarten that we should offer before/after day care services. Mr. Miller agreed with Mr. Worob stating that it will be an inconvenience to our parents by only offering a half-day kindergarten program.

Mr. Stout stated that it is his understanding that if we do have a full-day kindergarten program, half of it would be nap time. Mr. Ferrara stated that we do not have nap time. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to see gym and some form of the art program worked into the curriculum as much as possible, not necessary on a daily or weekly basis. Mr. Ferrara discussed the PA Performance Indicator and stated that the emphasis next year in kindergarten will be improving student's literacy and improving their math scores.

Mr. Ferrara stated that a screening process was performed this year for anyone enrolling in kindergarten, the results of which Mr. Gesualdi and Mr. Dupell will be reviewing. If we do decide to go to a half-day kindergarten, we will also be providing a half-day kindergarten plus class for those that need more help.

- At the committee meeting they also discussed the future of the education in the District.
- Continuation of discussion regarding the Cyber options.
- Mr. Miller discussed two articles from a PSBA magazine regarding some Cyber options and how other Districts have handled that. There will be further discussion regarding Cyber options at next months meeting. Mr. Miller stated that a resident brought up some concerns regarding Cyber schooling and health risks with Wi-Fi.
- At the meeting they also discussed the possible merge with Pennsbury. Mr. Miller stated that we have been granted the opportunity to give a written proposal to the Pennsbury School District explaining the advantages for the Pennsbury School District if a merge would happen. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to have the Education write this proposal with input from any of the Board members, administration and community members. Mr. Miller stated that there is no timeframe for this proposal to be submitted. Mr. Worob asked if we could possibly ask for help from the State regarding this matter, and Mr. Miller stated that we could look into that. Mr. Miller did state that he attended a Board meeting at Pennsbury and discussed with them the advantages for them if we were to merge and he discussed those advantages.
- The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on April 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI.

At next week's Board meeting Mr. Miller stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Education Section:

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Announce Graduation Date
- Tech School Enrollment

It was decided that the Tech School Enrollment will be discussed at tonight's agenda meeting. Mr. Ferrara stated that we currently have 11 slots, but can now have 12 slots allotted at the Tech School for 9th grade students. Mr. Ferrara discussed the handout which he gave to each Board member regarding our enrollment in past years at the Tech School, cost per student, and payments made to the Tech School. Mr. Ferrara asked for the Board's opinion regarding our 9th grade allotment figure and how it should be handled in the future. Mr. Miller stated, based on the information provided by Mr. Ferrara, one additional slot would cost us approximately \$11,000 more.

Mr. Buckman asked if we have a student that wants to go to Tech, but cannot because we don't have enough slots. Mr. Miller stated that we have a waiting list of students that want to go to the Tech School. Mr. Miller stated that the next person picked in the lottery would be reviewed for this slot if it becomes available. Mr. Buckman stated that he does not see any problem with sending an additional student to Tech. Ms. Kartal stated that the 11 slots at Tech were capped by previous Board members.

The Board members all agreed that it should be up to the Board every year to determine the number of slots at the Tech School that they want to pay for based on what the number that we have been allotted.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Truelove for his feedback on how this matter should be handled and whether or not it should be approved by a motion or just verbally approved. Mr. Truelove stated that since it involves expenditure, it should be approved through a motion. Mr. Miller stated that a motion to approve the addition of one slot for 9th graders at the Tech School will be added to the agenda for next week's Board meeting.

Ms. Kartal asked for a clarification of what our current cost per student is at the Tech School. Mr. Stoneburner asked Mr. DeAngelo if he feels that the Tech School's budget is fairly stable at this time in order to keep the per student costs from rising drastically in the future. Ms. Kartal stated that the only areas that may be increasing in costs at the Tech School would be the EMS costs and possible renovations of bathrooms into classrooms, but other than that the budget at the Tech School is fairly stable.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve Half-Day Kindergarten for the 2013-14 School Year.

FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE

Facilities Committee – Mr. Stoneburner

Mr. Stoneburner stated that the following items were discussed at the Facilities Committee meeting:

- Grandview Garden Project
- They also discussed a number of issues from an educational and facilities standpoint
- Auditorium lighting and ways to control the lighting
- They will be putting together questions for the Architect interviews, and will hopefully have a recommendation for an Architect by April.
- Facility Committee meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, and the next meeting will be held on April 4th.

Mr. Miller stated that we have received quotes in the past to upgrade the sound and lighting in the auditorium in the amount of \$150,000. He stated that there have been a number of organizations and school events that have raised money to go towards the upgrades in the auditorium and he would like to see us come up with a goal amount in order to inform the public of where we stand in reaching that goal. Mr. Stoneburner suggested that we put out RFP's for upgrading/replacing the lighting and sound systems in the auditorium to come up with a goal.

Ms. Kartal asked for input from Mr. Jones and Dr. Scott, regarding the upcoming play and concert, if there is anything that is needed to make this production better such as spotlights or other types of lighting. Mr. Jones stated that a gentleman from Pro Line wants to bring in speakers and set them up for the play to show the Board what his sound system would sound like in the Auditorium. Ms. Kartal and Mr. Stoneburner stated that this would be great and Mr. Stoneburner asked if this gentleman could possibly give us a quote of what it would cost to upgrade the sound system in the auditorium.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that Mr. Donovan has been able to talk to three different contractors, and for the same price that he had presented to the Board before, he may be able to get the cafeteria, gymnasium and auditorium to each have their own separate sound system for the same price, some of which the 21st Century may be able to pay for.

Mr. Jones stated that the gentleman from Pro Line suggested putting an amp in each of the three locations and speaker mounts and then the speakers would be able to be moved. There would be 6 mounts in the auditorium, 2 in the cafeteria and 2 in the gym. We would only buy 6 speakers and two would be left in each place, but when there was a concert or play in the auditorium, all 6 speakers would be moved to the auditorium. The Board stated that the suggestion of the speakers being set up for the play on a trial basis is a good one and will discuss it further once this is done.

Mr. Stout stated that the auditorium has an echo and this needs to be addressed. He suggested possibly installing cork board on the walls.

At next week's Board meeting Mr. Stoneburner stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Infrastructure Section:

INFRASTRUCTURE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval, 2013-14 Transportation RFP
2. Approval, 2013-14 Trash and Recycling RFP

BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCE

Finance Committee – Mr. Dingle

Mr. Dingle stated that the Finance Committee met last evening and discussed the following:

- Line by line review of discretionary items report received from Mr. DeAngelo. The committee is trying to find areas where expenditures can be lessened.
- The next meeting will take place on April 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI.

Mr. Miller distributed to the Board members a spread sheet that he came up with regarding the Group II Contract. Mr. Miller discussed the figures on the spread sheet. He stated that we are looking to approve a two year agreement so it would be the same percentage increase each year. Mr. Miller stated that additional days off could be added to the contract making it in line with the current teacher schedule. For example, Mr. Miller stated that if a 1-1/2% increase was given each year with two days added for a total of four, it would bring the grand total to an approximate increase of \$30,500. Mr. DeAngelo stated that this amount is in line with the budgeted amount.

At next week's Board meeting Mr. Dingle stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Business Operations/Finance Section:

1. Approval, Healthcare Consortium
2. Approval, Group II Contract
3. Approval, 2013-14 Schedule of Contracted Costs Agreement with IU #22
4. Approval, Corrective Action – Auditor General Responses
5. Approval, Budget Transfers
6. Approval, Excess Items
7. Approval, Treasurer's Report
8. Approval, Investment Report
9. Approval, Payment of Bills

Regarding Item #1, Approval of Healthcare Consortium, Mr. Buckman stated that the last he heard there was no final decision regarding the consortium and asked if we would be voting on this item next week. Mr. Miller stated that we need to make a decision and that is why it will be on the agenda for a vote. Mr. Ferrara stated that if we vote down the Healthcare Consortium, another plan would then be presented the following month. Mr. Buckman thought that he received something from the Business Manager that stated that we have to vote on this item this month in order to take advantage of the \$180,000 discount. Mr. Ferrara stated that we don't technically have to join the Healthcare Consortium until June, but if we join before April 1st, then we have equal representation on their Board. Mr. DeAngelo stated that the current proposal from the Healthcare Consortium brings us back to our 12-13 healthcare costs. Mr. Buckman stated that he never received the information he requested regarding GEM and asked that he receive it prior to next weeks meeting. The Board members discussed the other plans available other than the Consortium.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Committee – Mr. DeWilde

Mr. DeWilde stated that the committee met on the 11th and discussed the following:

- Looking for job description information from Darletta

At next week's Board meeting Mr. DeWilde stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Human Resource Section:

1. Approval, Tuition Reimbursement
2. Approval, Appointments
 - a. 21st Century Hires
 - b. AESOP Substitutes
3. Approval, FMLA
4. Approval, Resignation

Ms. Kartal asked for an updated tuition reimbursement report.

Mr. Ferrara stated that the Board had requested job descriptions for the three positions that we are looking into for next year, and he and Mr. DeAngelo are working on those job descriptions and they will share this information with the Board members at next weeks meeting.

Mr. Ferrara stated that Mr. DeAngelo received a contract proposal from MESPA and he would like to have that proposal presented at the Human Resource meeting and hopefully have it ready for an agenda item at the April Board meeting. Mr. DeWilde stated that he will follow up with the committee members on a future meeting date at which time the proposal can be discussed.

School District/Borough Committee Reports

Joint Borough/School Board Committee – Ms. Kartal

Ms. Kartal stated that a meeting was held on March 3rd at which time the following items were discussed:

- Reviewed Advisory Board membership requirements in order to administer the Safety Grant. They are still in need of a community non-parent representative for the committee. Ms. Kartal stated that they will need two additional parent/student reps to cover the 1st and 4th ward. These reps will walk and observe the safe routes that will be established by the Advisory Board.
- Ms. Kartal stated that they are having a problem getting the pedestrian signs reordered and she does not know what the delay is. They may be looking into reconfiguring some of the members to get people who may be able to attend more meetings and be able to follow up on items.
- The Mayor, Rita Ledger, is working on getting a rep from the Police Department.
- The next meeting will be held on April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI.

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Kartal to forward to him the information regarding the parent/student reps needed so he can have it posted on the website and cable channel.

At next week's Board meeting Mr. Miller stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Policy Committee Section:

POLICY COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval, 2nd reading of Policy 005, Organization

Public Relations/Communications Committee – Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller stated that in speaking with Mr. Donovan, he feels that he is trying to do something that is beneficial to the school in trying to secure a real identity for the school, and that goes from the actual colors that we are using, logos, and if our name is correct. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Donovan has developed a survey that can be taken on line and distributed a copy of the survey to the Board members for their review. Mr. Donovan will be setting up a laptop in the cafeteria in order for the student's to take this survey, and any community member may participate. The link to the survey will be posted on the website.

Mr. Miller stated that the most recent newsletter has been posted on the website. He stated that the newsletter will be done every other month. Ms. Kartal thanked everyone for stepping up and adding information to the newsletter, and also thanked those that are keeping our website up to date. Mr. Miller stated that we have made some great strides in getting information out there and hopes that we can keep the momentum coming.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

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

Mr. Buckman asked for an update on the third Dean position for next year. Mr. Ferrara stated that the position was approved at the last Board meeting and it will be posted as of tomorrow. Mr. Ferrara stated that they have gone through a final job posting at the Cabinet meeting today to make sure everything was in there. Mr. Ferrara stated that it will be an internal position due to the fact that it will be a teacher on assignment, as Mr. Dupell and Mr. Gober are now.

Ms. Kartal asked for an update on making donations on our website. Mr. Truelove and Mr. Ferrara stated that they are still working on the process and it should be completed soon. Mr. Miller stated that he has seen another District's website in our area where there is the capability of making donations on the website. Ms. Kartal stated that she has also seen other school district's websites where you do have the capability to make a donation on the website. Mr. Miller will send the link regarding this information to Mr. Truelove for his review.

Mr. Miller discussed having a community page that allows for listings of preschools and after-care programs for anyone interested. Mr. Miller stated that he would send the link regarding this matter to Mr. Truelove for his review.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kartal stated that there is a parent group putting together Cinderella's Closet for the Morrisville School students. Donations can be dropped off tomorrow from 7 – 8 p.m. at the side entrance of the high school. Donations can be shoes, accessories, dresses, purses, etc. The second donation date will be held on March 28th from 7 – 8 p.m. at the same location. On April 5th the students will be able to come in and shop for free for dresses and accessories from 6 – 8 p.m. and again on April 6th from 10 – 12 p.m. Ms. Kartal asked any businesses that would like to donate a door prize (e.g. up do's, nails, flowers, transportation, tuxes for the guys, etc.) may do so for the drawings to be held for the students. Mr. Miller stated that this information is also on the website.

PUBLIC SESSION #2

There were no speakers for Public Session #2.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. DeWilde, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Damon Miller, President

Wanda Kartal, Secretary