

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

The regular monthly meeting of the Morrisville Board of School Directors was held in the LGI located in the Morrisville Middle/Senior High School, 550 West Palmer Street, Morrisville, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. William Hellmann, President, called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm with the following members present on roll call:

In attendance: Mr. Radosti; Mrs. Mihok; Mr. Kemp; Mr. Hellmann; Mrs. Heater; Mr. Buckman and Mr. Farrell.
Absent: Mrs. Worob and Mrs. Reithmeyer

Quorum Present.

Also attending this evening's meeting was Dr. Elizabeth Yonson, Superintendent; Mrs. Reba Dunford, Business Administrator; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Supervisor of Special Education; Mr. William Ferrara, Secondary Assistant Principal; Mrs. Huggins, Substitute Elementary Principal; Michael Fitzpatrick, Esq., Solicitor; MEA representation, and media.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Representative to the Board

Speaker: Michael Leather

- This summer at the Middletown Grange Fair, Keith Loux and Rachel Amoss placed first and second respectively, in the furniture making contest with projects that they made last year in Advanced Woodworking.
- School started on September 3rd for all students.
- On September 16th, Varsity Cross Country had its first home meet in almost thirty years and that Thursday, the 18th, had it's first win in the same amount of time. Michael Leather and Keith Loux finished first and second overall in the meet respectively.
- Varsity Football is expecting a good season, with a young team being lead by Sophomore Quarterback Matt Cookson, who is currently one of the top passers in Bucks County.
- Varsity Soccer has had a good start to their season with their first victory since 2000 and are currently 3 and 6.

Thank you for your continued support for our student activities

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

⇒ Re-Registration/Enrollment Report

District Enrollments as of August 19, 2008

Elementary Students.....	443
Secondary 6-12.....	435
Technical School.....	49
Home Schooled.....	17
Out-of-District Placements.....	93
Total	1037

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

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Dr. Yonson explained that all students that did not re-register were accounted for through request for transcripts. Mr. Hellmann noted that there is an approximate decrease of 45 in population compared to June. Dr. Yonson advised that last year we had 36 preK students; this year we have one program with 18 students which accounts for a decrease of 18. The graduation class was large and the number enrolling in K was less. Mr. Hellmann noted that the in-school population went from 975 to 878.

Next week is Rosh Hashanah and schools will be closed.

Mr. Gulla, Health Care Representative, – gave a brief explanation on the benefits of joining the Delaware Valley Health Care Consortium.

⇒ This week in our Schools

Elementary Report

- Students have completed the baseline testing in Dibels (primary grades) and 4Sight (intermediate grades).
- Back to School Nights were held at Grandview and Reiter. Parent turnout at both buildings was excellent.
- The PTO sponsored the first assembly of the year titled the Magic of Reading and History. While students were awed by magic tricks the message of the importance of reading in every day life was conveyed.
- Teachers have begun working with Lindsey Sides of the BCIU on science curriculum.

Secondary Report

- Congratulations to Garrilynn Martin for winning the Peace Poster Contest this summer.
- The staff returned on August 27th. The faculty and staff participated in professional development training. Presentations included Compass Learning and Kids Voting.
- Camp Get2KnowU was held for the 6th grade students on September 2nd. Camp Get2KnowU is an orientation for incoming 6th graders. All students returned to school on September 3rd.
- 4 Sight testing for grades 6 thru 11 was held during the week of September 8th to September 12th. The results will be used to direct instruction.
- A Scholastic Book Fair was held from September 5th to September 12th. We are receiving all our proceeds in books for the middle/senior high school library.
- Back to School Night was held for the middle/high school on September 9th. It was well attended and parents were pleased with the start of school and meeting the faculty.
- Schools will be closed on September 30th.

PUBLIC SESSION – Agenda Related Items

Gayle Haug, 260 Harper Ave.

Need for the part time nurse's aide – safety issue
Continue Assistant Principal position

Damon Miller, 249 W. Franklin

Explain the re-registration results
Questioned payment to Wick, Fisher, White
The parents of Morrisville thanked Mrs. Dunford for her dedication

Sharon Hughes, 121 Mercer

Part time nurse's aide is a good idea
Board is about value for our dollars
Mr. Ferrara is capable of handling the high school

ACTION ITEMS:

2.1. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2008 regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors.

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

Board adjourned for an executive session on a personnel matter.

**3. HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE Mrs. Robin Reithmeyer,
Chairperson**

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS

3.1. Approval, Resignation

The Board approved a motion to accept the resignation, with regret, from Mrs. Denise Buschman, R.N., from the position of 2-Hour/Day Aide to School Nurse, effective September 11, 2008.

Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

3.2. Approval, Rescind Appointments

Items 3.2.a. and 3.2.b. were moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

3.2.a. The Board approved a motion to rescind the August 27, 2008 appointment of Mrs. Assunta Deliman and Mr. Ken Kelman from the position of secondary newspaper advisor for 2008-2009.

3.2.b. The Board approved a motion to rescind the August 27, 2008 appointment of Holly Prickett from the position of one-to-one paraeducator.

3.3. Approval, Request to Hire

3.3.a. The Board DEFEATED a motion to direct Administration to solicit qualified candidates for the position of Secondary Assistant Principal.

Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; DEFEATED by a roll call vote of 6 nays; one aye (Mr. Kemp).

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Mr. Kemp commented that this is a vital position and has helped the district improve in recent years to its current academic status.

3.3.b. The Board approved a motion to direct Administration to solicit qualified candidates for the position of two-hour/day aide to the school nurse.

Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

3.4. Approval, Appointments

3.4.a. Approval, Extra-Curricular Appointments

The Board approved a motion to appoint the following individuals to extra-curricular activities for 2008-09:

Bethany Elliott.....	Safety Patrol Advisor.....	1,125
Ken Kelman.....	Secondary Newspaper Advisor.....	1,350
Dave Vaccaro/Sean Haines.....	Gym Night Advisor.....	625/ea.
Christin Sauers.....	National Jr. Honor Society Advisor.....	200
Nellie Plummer.....	Elementary Chorus Advisor.....	1,125

Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

Dr. Yonson advised these are contractual positions. Mr. Hellmann would like to see more volunteers filling these positions.

3.4. Approval, Appointments

3.4.b. The Board approved a motion to hire Mr. Tom Padden as Interim Business Manager, for 3 days per week, effective ~~October 13, 2008~~ immediately at an hourly rate of \$75.00.

Item 3.4.b. was moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

3.4.c. Instructional Paraeducators at the rate of \$12.12/hour per group II salary and benefits
Tammi Bresnen..... effective August 27, 2008one-on-one as required in IEP

Mr. Hellmann asked if it is a legal requirement to hire this position relating to an IEP. Mr. Fitzpatrick affirmed.

3.4.d. Hiring of per diem substitutes, as needed, during the 2008-2009 school year. Compensation will be in accordance with district policy #429.

Anne Baccari	Bethanne Boggs	Sera Braun
Elizabeth Colijn	Megan Connelly	Karon Daniels
Laurie DeMatteo	Rosemary Ferro	Edward Gaittins
Matthew Gill	Carolyn Joniak	Danielle Kilmer
Gail McMaster	Nicole Milinichik	Jennifer Molnar
Diane Rice	Erin Ryan	Eva Trauscht
Alice Urbanski	Rhonda Wilkinson	

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Items 3.4.c. and 3.4.d. were moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

All appointments are contingent upon completion of district employment requirements and verification of PA Department of Education Certification.

3.5. Approval, Tuition Reimbursements

The Board approved a motion to approve payment of tuition reimbursement to the individual as listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>College/School</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dan Fox	Increasing Student Responsibility	Gratz	3	\$500

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

4. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS Joe Kemp, Chairperson

The Education Committee presents the following items for consideration.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

4.1. Approval, 2008-2009 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Grant

The Board approved a motion to approve the 2008-2009 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Grant in the amount of \$3,294.

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

Funds from this grant are used to train our HEART Team and SAP Team members.

4.2. Approval, Resolution to Stop Requirement of TB Testing for School Students

The Board approved a motion to approve a resolution to stop the requirement of TB testing for students entering school.

Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

Dr. Yonson explained that in 1997 a law was passed no longer requiring this testing; our district has never formally approved this change.

5. BUSINESS OPERATIONS Bill Hellmann, Chairperson

The Finance Committee presents the following items for consideration.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Contracts approved by the Board are available for viewing in the Business Office.

ACTION ITEMS:

5.1. Approval, Addendum to Contract with Delaware Valley High School

The Board approved a motion to approve an addendum to the contract with Delaware Valley High School (upon review of Solicitor).

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

This addendum takes us from 8 seats to 12 seats. Del Val has revised their program and it now meets the needs of our students better than it had in the past. This placement is more cost effective. A question was asked about the duration of the contract. Dr. Yonson will check on this.

5.2. Approval, Disposal of Excess Items

The Board approved a motion to approve the disposal of the excess items as presented by the Administration.

BOOKS

<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
18	Math Books, McGraw Hill, 2002	HS Library
2	Making Music Your Own, 1965	HS Library
1	Mathematics Connections, 1994	HS Library
96	Understanding Mass Media, 1996	HS C-13

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

The above books are outdated and no longer used. Books will be discarded or sold, based on condition.

5.3. Approval, District to Join Delaware Valley Health Consortium

The Board approved a motion to approve Morrisville School District joining the Delaware Valley Health Consortium.

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

Mrs. Mihok commended the Board and Mr. Hellmann for their efforts in this cost-saving endeavor.

5.4. Approval, Establish Student Activity Accounts for Transportation

The Board approved a motion to approve establishing a student activity ~~accounting for transportation funds for each of the district schools.~~ fund for the following schools:

- a. M. R. Reiter Elementary School
- b. Grandview Elementary School
- c. ~~Morrisville Middle/Senior High School~~

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

5.5. Payment of Bills

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

Miscellaneous Disbursement: (8/27/08 – 9/17/08)	\$148,763.56
Athletic Fund (8/29/08 – 9/22/08)	2,940.00
Cafeteria Fund:	-0-
Accounts Payable (9/25/08)	96,154.69
Capital Projects (September 08)	36,945.69
Capital Reserve	-0-
Procurement Cards (June/July 2008)	39,413.42
Procurement Cards (August 2008)	2,931.06
Penalty for late payment	32.50
Payroll & Benefits (August 2008)	<u>590,926.23</u>
 TOTAL BILLS	 \$917,339.65

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

Mr. Hellmann questioned the check for Mr. Joe Mills. Dr. Yonson advised he is a math consultant that comes to the district for staff development. This is part of a 3-year contract which terminates this year.

6. POLICY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Worob, Chairperson

INFORMATION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Approval, Policies

The Board approved a motion to approve

- a. Revisions to Policy #217 – Graduation Requirements
- b. Revisions to Policy #137 – Home Schooling
- c. Rescind Policy #248.1 – Bullying and Cyberbullying
- d. Adoption of Policy #249 – Bullying and Cyberbullying (replacing 248.1)

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

7. INFRASTRUCTURE/FACILITIES – Mrs. Heater, Chairperson

7.1. Approval, Bid Request for Renovations to High School Auditorium

The Board presented a motion to authorize the Business Administrator to advertise for bids to upgrade the auditorium of the Morrisville Middle/Senior High School. Phase One Bids are being sought for painting of the walls; cleaning and repainting the ceiling; preparation and painting of the concrete floor; replacement of the aisle and front of the auditorium floor covering.

There was discussion that some of the painting would be damaged if done prior to other work proposed. Consequently,

The Board TABLED item 7.1 above. Moved by Mrs. Heater; seconded by Mr. Kemp; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes.

8. LIAISON REPORTS

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Mr. Buckman
 - *Mr. Buckman advised that Mr. Parks, Administrative Director of the Technical School fell from a ladder and suffered a concussion.*
 - *Student reps attended this month's meeting and were very informative.*
 - *A pasta dinner sponsored by the Parent Booster Club will be held October 17 from 5-7 pm.*
 - *Mr. Hellmann and Mrs. Mihok attended a funding meeting last week. Talks will continue in an effort to change the funding formula. All 6 schools must agree on a change.*
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mrs. Mihok
 - *The I.U. Education Foundation Partnership will host a workshop at the Sheraton on November 19 related to Cultural Intelligence. Board members are invited to attend, free of charge.*
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mrs. Worob
 - *Mrs. Worob was not in attendance.*

Mr. Buckman advised that he and Mr. Hellmann will be meeting with Senator McIlhenney to pursue a grant to enumerate proper people who live in the Borough declaring income tax. Mrs. Dunford explained the thorough efforts the district uses goes through to be precise with the Act 80 report. Mrs. Heater offered to come to the office so that Mrs. Dunford can go over the process with her.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Farrell commented on a recent newspaper article stating that Centennial S D will save on fuel costs this year because they chose not to join with some other districts in the IU fuel bid. He suggested Morrisville stop depending so heavily on the IU.

- CAP Meetings – Dr. Yonson read the minutes of the June 24 and July 22 meetings (See Addendum A & B).

- Mrs. Mihok advised that the 501c3 committee – Morrisville Opportunity Educational Foundation -- met yesterday and tonight we will be signing the incorporation papers. Thank you to Mr. Fitzpatrick for his help in putting this together for the district.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Buckman advised that the Philadelphia newspapers recently published a survey in which Morrisville was rated 68 out of 105 schools in the area. Our cost per student was 2nd to the highest. Ratio stated was 13:1. Cost for high school student was \$21,574. Our elementary schools rated very well but our high school has some places to go. Teacher salary is about average. Dr. Yonson referenced an article she had with her tonight which took information from Philadelphia Magazine that rated Morrisville 68. However, she noted that the districts rated higher were all from a better socio-economic area. She is going to look into this publication.

Mr. Farrell spoke about a recent alleged car accident involving one of our students. He was concerned that the board was not informed when it happened. Dr. Yonson explained in full the incident which took place and advised that it was not a car accident as reported. Mr. Farrell asked that in the future the Board be informed of matters of importance in a timely manner. The Administration will make efforts to remind the students to walk on the sidewalks.

PUBLIC SESSION – Non-Agenda Items
There were no speakers at this public session.

Future Meetings and Items of Interest

- Monday, October 6, 2008 7:00 pm – CAP meeting in LGI
- Wednesday, October 8, 2008..... 6:30 pm – Infrastructure/Facilities Committee
..... 7:00 pm -- Finance Committee
- Wednesday, October 15, 2008..... 6:30 pm – Policy Committee
..... 7:30 pm – Monthly Agenda Meeting

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Wednesday, October 22, 2008..... 6:30 pm – Education Committee
..... 7:00 pm – Human Resources/Negotiations Committee
..... 7:30 pm – Monthly Business Meeting

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

11. Adjournment

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.

William R. Hellmann, President

Marlys Mihok

Transcribed by Jeanne Corrigan

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ADDENDUM #A

MORRISVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S ACTION GROUP (CAP)

June 24, 2008

Submitted on behalf of the committee

By JoAnn Perotti

Director of Strategic Planning

Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Serving as External Facilitator

The meeting focused on the Facilities Section of the plan.

The following was the consensus of the committee:

- All K-12 students should not be housed in one building.
- Consider renovating one elementary building to ADA compliance. The M. R. Reiter School was discussed for renovation, as it is centrally located in the borough.
- Eliminate one elementary building. Consider selling the building. Discussion was held on razing the building and the costs, which would be incurred.
- Keep the high school building, with renovations where necessary.
- Look at all mechanical systems.
- Construct and follow through with a plan.
- The majority of the members favor not sending the students to other schools on a tuition basis.
- The following concerns were discussed: no control over the cost of tuition, busing, lowers enrollment figures, receiving school closes, etc.
- If the board chooses to discuss tuition, the committee recommends holding meetings in an open forum. It is recommended the board gather information concerning the total costs of a student being sent to another school.

ADDENDUM #B

MORRISVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S ACTION GROUP (CAP)

July 22, 2008

Submitted on behalf of the committee

By JoAnn Perotti

Director of Strategic Planning

Bucks County Schools Intermediate Unit

Serving as External Facilitator

- Group discussion concerning closing one elementary school.
(Which would be more feasible?)
- Committee recommends that the district keep at least one elementary and the middle-senior high school building.
- Committee given information concerning the student/teacher ratio, which is mandated, by the state.
- Committee believes information concerning our group and their recommendations should be disseminated to the public via school website and local reporters.

Also, an attending board member will summarize our findings and make the board aware of our discussions/ideas.

- Suggestions:
 - a. Put a link on the website for the group information.
 - b. The Superintendent will include information in a monthly report at School board meeting.
 - c. The Superintendent will include information in the Friday Letter.
 - d. Have engineering firm do a full study of the facilities.
- Recommendation:
Give committee members floor plans of schools, class size, which rooms are being utilized, cost analysis of renovating/closing schools.

The group was divided into three sections, with recommendations similar to each other:

1. Feasibility/engineering study/overall master plan to determine:
 - A. Which elementary school would be best to close/renovate?
 - Give company specific directions to perform cost analysis of building vs. renovating.
 - Hire company with un-invested interests.
 - Possibility of constructing new elementary school on Reiter's playground (school could remain in session with less disruption to school setting)
2. Devise overall plan with sub divisions that can be addressed/completed in Short term tasks.
3. Look at all mechanical systems
4. Preventative maintenance plan