

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, February 25, 2009, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. William Hellmann, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the following members present on roll call:

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

Absent: Mrs. Reithmeyer

Quorum Present.

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Supervisor of Special Education; Mr. William Ferrara, Substitute Superintendent/Secondary Principal, Ms. Laurie Ruffing, Acting Elementary Principal; Michael Fitzpatrick, Esq., Solicitor; MEA representation, and media. Dr. Yonson is currently on a leave of absence.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Representative to the Board – Ana Ramierz

Due to the January 28 snow day, this report will consist of event from both January and February.

- Junior Varsity Boys basketball team won their Michael Hardifer Christmas tournament
- Both Varsity Boys and Girls basketball teams made it to their playoffs.
- Varsity bowling players Drew Wallace and Tiffani White are participating in the BAL regional championship.
- Drew Wallace was also named BAL MVP of the 2008-2009 season.
- Mr. Jones' advance wood shop class made 2 sets of toy alphabet trains that were donated to the Elementary Pre-k and kindergarten classes.
- 3 members of Morrisville FBLA members qualified for the state competition which is taking place in the week of March 30th.
- 5th, 8th, and 11th graders took their writing portions of the PSSA's during the week of February 9th.
- Preparations for the Wizard of Oz play have begun.
- Preparations for Gym Night have begun and Gym Night will be held next Friday, March 6th
- Harlem Ambassadors, a professional basketball team comparable to the Harlem Globetrotters, will be coming to play against Morrisville faculty and community members on March 24th. School board member Mr. Farrell will be a referee for this event. Tickets are on sale Monday through Thursday in the front office.

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- ⇒ Enrollment Report
- ⇒ This week in our Schools

District Enrollments as of February 18, 2009

| | |
|--|------|
| Elementary Students | 430 |
| Secondary 6-12 | 414 |
| Technical School..... | 54 |
| Home Schooled..... | 17 |
| Out-of-District Placements | 118 |
| Total | 1013 |
| (NA students in out-of-district placements are housed in our district and are included only once in the total) | |
| New Enrollments..... | 2 |
| Withdraws..... | 9 |

Elementary Report

- February 6th & 17th Pre-Kindergarten transition conferences were held with parents and district staff
- February 9th – Lindsey Sides from Bucks County IU met with the teachers to revise the current Science Curriculum.
- February 9th – 12th - 5th grade students took the PSSA Writing Assessment
- February 12th – students in grades Pre-K – 5 had their annual Valentine’s Day Ice Cream Party
- February 18, 2009 16th – District closed in observance of President’s Day
- February 23rd & 27th – members of the NOVA team will meet with the elementary students to discuss topics such as bullying and personal safety.
- February 28th – all district students/staff our encouraged to visit Chick~Fila on Oxford Valley Road for Morrisville School District Spirit Day. A portion of all sales will be returned to the district.

Secondary Report

- Report cards were distributed on February 6th.
- On February 7th, our school was the host for the BAL Cheerleading Championship. Area high school cheerleaders competed in this event.
- School was in session on February 13th which was a snow make up day.
- PSSA Writing tests were given to students in grades 5, 8 and 11.
- Course selection for the 2009-2010 school year took place for the students in grades 8 thru 11. Counselors met with all students to arrange their schedules. and the course selection has been completed.
- Schools were closed in observance of President’s Day on February 16th.
- The Varsity Boys Basketball team played in the 1st Round District Playoff at Calvary Baptist High School on Tuesday, February 17th
- The Varsity Girls Basketball team will began their 1st round District 1 Playoff action on 2-18-2008 versus Sacred Heart.
- The students who had perfect attendance during the first semester were rewarded with a pizza lunch on February 18th.
- The Student of the Month Breakfast will be held on February 24th

Mr. Ferrara, Substitute Superintendent, summarized the recent class moves at the district. He individually complemented the staff members for their contributions to the success of the recent educational disruption. Student behavior and contributions were outstanding.

Kindergarten Registration will be held on March 4, 5 and 6 in the LGI of the Middle/Senior High School between 9-11 am and 1-2:30 pm.

PSSA Testing for grades 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11 will be held March 16-19.

Dr. Yonson is home and resting comfortably. She is in contact with us on a daily basis.

Tony Gesualdi, Special Education Coordinator reported on the success of the recent special education audit. He commended the efforts of his staff and the regular education staff for their preparation and cooperation during the audit.

PUBLIC SESSION – Agenda Related Items

Mark Coassolo – Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation Report

At last month's meeting acting officers were selected: Darletta Berry-Johnson as Communications Chair; Gayle Haug as Financial Chair; Jane Burger as Co-Chair and Mark Coassolo as Chair. The next scheduled meeting is March 11 at 3:30 pm.

Jermaine Jenkins, 371 Plaza Blvd.

Influence of staff during this transition was strong; Community involvement will move us forward.

Jeff Danbury, 215 W. Palmer

Moved to Morrisville because of small town charm and small school district; Behavior of school board; Interests of school board

Melissa Danbury, 215 W. Palmer

Attitude of school board; Provide best education possible; Listen to residents; we want to make choices

Damon Miller, 249 W. Franklin

Positive comment on students' demeanors; Vitetta proposals; Cancellation of committee meetings/chairpersons

Ann Perry, 43 Fairview

Reiter -- Vote on closing; answer to questions; 4th grade move

Jon Perry, 43 Fairview

School personnel doing fantastic job; Problem with board; Asbestos problems; Primary election

Sharon Hughes

Public Sessions; Asbestos incident; Taxes cut; educational testing improved

Gayle Haug, Harper Ave.

Test scores result of last several boards; Change in periods of instruction; Show equal interest in education and finances

ACTION ITEMS:

2.1. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2009 special meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 1 abstention (Mrs. Worob).

2.2. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2009 Monthly Agenda Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 1 abstention (Mrs. Worob).

2.3. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2009 Month Business meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 1 abstention (Mrs. Worob).

2.4. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2009 Special Hearing to Close M. R. Reiter Elementary School.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Copies of written statements received by the District following this meeting were received by Board members and included in the official minutes.

2.5. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2009 Monthly Agenda Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

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

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS

3.1. Approval, Acceptance of Resignations

The Board approved a motion to accept, with regret, the resignations listed:

Pamela Montanya from the position of certified school nurse, effective 2/5/09
Christopher Barone from the position of Technology Administrator, effective 4/14/09

Moved by Mrs. Worob; seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.2. Approval, Appointments

The Board approved a motion to approve the appointments listed. Moved by Mrs. Worob; seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

| | Individual | Position | Effective | Compensation | Replaces |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|---|-----------------|
| 3.2.a. | Lauren Lang | One-on-One Instructional Paraeducator for 2 special needs students | 2/26/09 | In accordance with group II salary and benefit policy. <i>Paid through IDEA Funds.</i> | New position |
| 3.2.b. | Victoria Roache-Lelli | Certified School Nurse | 2/26/09 | In accordance with collective bargaining agreement; B, step 1 = \$44,420 | 2/26/09 |
| 3.2.c. | Lynn Palumbo + Kim Worrell | Teacher Induction Mentor for Sandra Sims | 2008 | In accordance with collective bargaining agreement = \$750/each | Contractual |
| 3.2.d. | Assunta Deliman | Teacher Induction Mentor for Amy Keeling | 2009 | In accordance with collective bargaining agreement = \$1,500 | Contractual |
| 3.2.e. | Lisa Colon | Middle School Softball Coach | 2008-09 | \$1,950 | Bernie Derby |
| 3.2.f. | Jason Bresnen | Middle School Baseball Coach | 2008-09 | \$1,950 | Dan Fox |

3.2.g. Hiring of per diem substitutes, as needed, during the 2008-2009 school year. Compensation will be in accordance with district policy #429 (\$94/\$100 per day).

Charles Buxton
Judith Feist
Bernard Menta
Pamela Newitt
Debra Walerski

Brian Cohen
Bradley Hess
Courtney Nash
Lauren Phillips
Allison Zemanek

Lauren Davison
Karen Hauser
Joseph Naylor
Camilla Rawlings
Richard Brown

Moved by Mrs. Worob; seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.3. 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> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Cheri Tabit | Assertive Discipline | Indiana Wesleyan | 3 | \$435 |
| Lynn Palumbo | Contemporary Education Theory | Holy Family | 3 | \$500 |

Moved by Mrs. Worob; seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.4. Approval, Child Rearing Leave

The Board approved a motion to grant unpaid child rearing leave to Jill Osterhout, effective for the first semester of 2009-2010.

Childrearing leave will be in accordance with Article Nine of the current collective bargaining agreement, without pay and benefits of all natures and descriptions.

Moved by Mrs. Worob; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3. EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS – Joe Kemp, Chairperson

4.1. Approval, Restructuring District

The Board approved a motion to approve the restructuring of the Borough of Morrisville School District, effective July 1, 2009. Grandview Elementary School will house grades PreK through 3. Morrisville Middle/Senior High School will become the Morrisville Intermediate/High School and will house grades 4-8 as “Intermediate School” and grades 9-12 as “High School.

Moved by Mr. Buckman; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a roll call vote of 6 ayes; 2 nays. Members voting nay were Mrs. Heater and Mr. Kemp.

Mr. Buckman commented that even under the best of circumstances he does not believe we would have Reiter ready to open by fall.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that this is a separate issue than closing of a school; therefore, the board should consider it. Mrs. Heater stated she would support this as long as it is separate from closing a school. Mr. Kemp requested that a layout of this plan could be shared. Mr. Ferrara described the plan as discussed by administration.

Motion to table presented by Mr. Kemp

The Board DEFEATED a motion to table motion 4.1 – to approve the restructuring of the Borough of Morrisville School District, effective July 1, 2009. Grandview Elementary School will house grades PreK through 3. Morrisville Middle/Senior High School will become the Morrisville Intermediate/High School and will house grades 4-8 as “Intermediate School” and grades 9-12 as “High School.

Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; Motion to Table DEFEATED by a roll call vote of 6 nays; 2 ayes (Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Heater).

Mr. Kemp would like to see a plan documenting this motion.

4.2. Approval, 2009-2010 School Calendar

The Board approved a motion to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar (See Addendum A).

Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. Farrell noted that the graduation date is not listed on the calendar; however, it is expected to be decided by March.

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, Proposal from Vitetta Architects for the Infrastructure Upgrades to Grandview Elementary School

The Board approved a motion to approve the proposal from Vitetta Architects for the infrastructure upgrades to Grandview Elementary School. The total cost is not to exceed \$165,000.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

The Board would like to see the boilers at Grandview replaced ASAP. Mr. Kemp is concerned that this does not solve the population problems at Grandview. Ms. Ruffing explained several of the space adjustments that have been made at Grandview. Mr. Buckman noted that the inside of the modulars are very nice. Mrs. Worob stated that the new school would have been 10,000 sq. ft. less than what we have now.

5.2. Approval, Proposal from Vitetta Architects for “Architect of Record”

The Board approved a motion to approve the proposal from Vitetta Architects making them “Architect of Record” for the Morrisville School District. The hourly billing rates are included in their proposal.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

5.3. Approval, Disposal of Excess Items

The Board approved a motion to approve the disposal of excess items as presented by Administration. **This motion was revised to remove the playstations + programs.**

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

BOOKS

| <u>Qty.</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 15 | Mathematical Connections Houghton Mifflin, 1994 <i>No longer used</i> | HS, H-15 |
| 1 | Algebra I Holt, 1992 <i>No longer used</i> | HS, H-15 |

EQUIPMENT

| <u>Qty.</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Powr-Flite 28" Wide Vacuum Sweeper Model # PF2008 <i>11 years old, not in working order, too costly to repair</i> | HS |
| 62 | Sony Play Stations, cases, controllers, adapters <i>Out of date, not used</i> | GV Computer Lab |
| 60 | Play Station Games <i>Out of date, not used</i> | GV Computer Lab |

Mrs. Worob asked that the play stations + games be removed from this motion. These items were paid for with bond money that we are still paying for. She asked for an accountability of these items. Ms. Ruffing stated that there are more units stored at Reiter that we can not currently access. Mr. Buckman commented that he was told that these Lightspan programs are very educational.

5.4. 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: (1/28/09 – 2/18/09) | \$334,505.09 |
| Athletic Fund (1/29/09 – 2/23/09) | 1,856.00 |
| Cafeteria Fund: (January) | 37,604.43 |
| Accounts Payable (2/26/09) | 148,052.78 |
| Capital Projects (1/29/09 – 2/26/09) | 37,293.64 |
| Capital Reserve | -0- |
| Procurement Cards (January 2009) | -(167.38) |
| Payroll & Benefits (January 2009) | <u>757,496.98</u> |
| TOTAL BILLS | \$1,316,641.54 |

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

7. LIAISON REPORTS

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Mr. Buckman
Tech School is presenting “Little Shop of Horrors” on April 2, 3, and 4 in the new auditorium. Six students received awards at the Deca contest. Students received 13 gold medals, 14 silver and 8 bronze medals at the Skills America competition.
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mrs. Mihok
*Per Jack Brady, general assembly is currently in recess while the appropriations committee is conducting hearings on the commonwealth’s budget. There is no call for any broad-based tax increases. However, it does include certain targeted taxes such as tobacco products. A committee will be formed to determine how best to move 501 school districts to no more than 100.
Monies from the stimulus plan are expected to provide a 2% special education increase.*
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mrs. Worob
*Mrs. Worob asked the board and public to think about any platform issues for discussion at the PSBA convention. Mr. Hellmann added that Gov. Rendell is trying to consolidate school districts to make them more efficient; this is what our board is trying to do. Mrs. Worob explained this could take 2+ years to achieve.
Mrs. Worob would like to attend the April PSBA convention.*

8. OLD BUSINESS

Update on Uniform Dress Policy – Mrs. Mihok/Mrs. Worob

This item will be discussed at the next meeting. We are gathering information and would like to form a committee. Please contact Mrs. Mihok or Worob if you are interested in serving on a committee.

Letter from Mrs. Bratton – Mrs. Mihok commented on a portion of a letter she received from Mrs. Bratton; namely, that no member of the school board visits the school. Mrs. Mihok advised that on the day the students made the move she toured the building with Dr. Yonson.

9. NEW BUSINESS

ADDITION TO AGENDA – Amend Terms of Employment

The Board approved a motion to amend the terms of employment for Mr. Anthony Gesualdi to reimburse Mr. Gesualdi ½ of the monthly cost to his current health insurance plan.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT on above motion

Damon Miller, Jon Perry, Gayle Haug, Sharon Hughes

Cost of this expenditure; Inconsistent cost saving; Mr. Gesualdi doing good job for district

Statement from Mrs. Mihok (See Addendum 1).

Note Worthy: Morrisville Historic Society will be hosting early American arts and the life and times of the civil war soldier activities on Friday May 8 from 9-3. A civil war encampment re-enactment is scheduled for May 8, 9, 10. These events will be held at Somersear. For more information please call the Morrisville Library.

Mrs. Worob read into the record

“There will be one public comment session at the beginning of each business meeting related to the business agenda. If there is new business that is not on the agenda and will be voted on the board will hold another public comment session prior to the vote. Public comments at these supplementary sessions will be limited to the new business that will be voted on. There will be a second session of public comment at the end of the meeting on non-agenda items.”

Mrs. Worob will be presenting this information at the Policy Committee meeting so that it may be addressed.

Mrs. Worob requested that arrangements be made for her to attend the upcoming PSBA conference in Harrisburg.

Mr. Buckman advised that this district is very fortunate to have Mr. Gesualdi working with our district.

Mr. Farrell urged the students to walk on the sidewalks and not the middle of the streets.

PUBLIC SESSION – Non-Agenda Items

Damon Miller

Community Trust; CAP meetings; future of schools

Jon Perry

Picture taking ineffective; educational hallmarks; defeasement; re-structuring district

Ron Stout

Investigate Sony Play Stations

Gayle Haug

Lack of transparency; inconsistent spending; blame others, Superintendent’s contract

Future Meetings and Items of Interest

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 6:30 pm – Infrastructure/Facilities Committee
..... 7:00 pm – Finance Committee
Wednesday, March 18, 2009 6:30 pm – Education Committee
..... 7:00 pm – Human Resources/Negotiations Committee
..... 7:30 pm – Monthly Agenda Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2009 6:30 pm – Policy Committee Meets
..... 7:30 pm – Monthly Business Meeting

9. Adjournment

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm

William Hellmann, Board President

Marlys Mihok, Board Secretary

Good Evening,

Many times in my position as a school board director I have been unable to respond to questions from audience members posed directly to me during the public comment portion of our meetings due to time constraints or simply too many topics on our agenda.. For the first time I find it necessary to explain my position on an accusation that was directed to me by a pro-school parent at the December 17th, 2008 school board meeting.

It was my honor to represent the school board at the joint borough council / school board meeting on Thursday evening December 10th, 2008 along with fellow board members Vice President Al Radosti and Robin Reithmeyer with Council President Nancy Sherlock, David Rivella , and Ed Albertson for the borough. This meeting came after the first incident of fumes at M.R. Reiter when children were sent home early and the first day school was closed due to the continuing problems with the furnace. Mr. Radosti and myself had only been notified of the school closing that afternoon, Mr. Radosti by a phone call about 3pm, myself by way of an e-mail at 2:48 pm, and Mrs. Reithmeyer stated she had not been notified at all. It was blatantly obvious that the parents shouting out of turn from the audience were far more informed than members of the school board. I personally felt heartbroken for our students, sympathetic to our parents, and blind sided by our superintendent, and at a loss to answer questions that I should have had knowledge of well before this meeting. M. R. Reiter aside, every topic discussed concerned the health and safety of our students and how the council and the school board could mutually contribute to improve or alleviate ongoing problems.

At this time I brought up my perpetual safety issue of students walking in the middle of our streets on the way to school. Some of the children actually try to defy traffic to go around them rather than move to the sidewalk. My greatest fear is that one of our students will be seriously injured, so I do everything in my power to prevent a tragedy from happening. About fifteen years ago the administration advised me to take pictures of students as they walked in the street on the way to and from school to make it easier for the public safety officer to identify these individuals. The administration then sends a letter home to their parents or guardian to inform them that their children are putting themselves at risk for injury or worse. Everyone present at that meeting heard this discussion including pro-school parent and defeated school board candidate Jon Perry. However when Jon Perry spoke at the microphone at the emergency school board meeting just a few days later his recollection was distorted to the point of perversion.

Jon Perry stated he knew I was taking pictures of our students for years and with inflection in his voice asked why I would do that and questioned what I did with the pictures. This invoked an "ooooh" from the audience deserving of a sick child predator with a camera stalking their next innocent victim. The look of shock on the faces of the audience made me feel as though I had suddenly been branded a pedophile. The ability of Jon Perry to twist my taking photographs of reckless behavior by our students for there own safety into questioning my reason when he was fully aware of my cause is inexcusable.

How Jon Perry came up with this word manipulation from me being a child safety advocate to a sleazy pedophile was a new low even for him. This clearly shows the depths he will sink to for the political gain of his favored few in the upcoming primary election.

Marlys Mihok

January 28th, 2009, February 11th, 2009

ADDENDUM # A