

The regular monthly 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 Wednesday, December 15, 2010, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. Bill Hellmann, President, called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm with the following members present on roll call:

In attendance: Messrs. Buckman, DeWilde, Hellmann, Radosti and Stout, Mrs. Heater, Mrs. Ruthrauff and Mrs. Mihok.

Absent: Mrs. Worob.

*Quorum Present.*

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William J. Ferrara, Acting Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Acting Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services, Mr. Donald E. Harm, Acting Secondary Principal; Ms. Laurie Ruffing, Elementary/Intermediate School Principal, and Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Esq., Solicitor; media and MEA representation.

#### **ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION**

There was no Student Representative to the Board this evening. Our student reps are members of the basketball team and there are games being held this evening.

#### **Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF**

Ms. Jane Burger, President of MOEF reported that a fund raiser staged at the Winterfest Celebration (silent auction) raised over \$800 for the foundation. Participation at Summerseat and the Senior Center as well as partnering with the School District has broadened the perspective. The event is growing every year and MOEF is now a part of that.

The Foundation received EITC credit and received a \$6,200 donation from Waste Management. The Odyssey of the Mind program began on December 9 with Mrs. Beth Coleman as coach and Mr. Richard Boats serving as assistant coach.

MOEF is offering \$25 and \$50 Giant gift cards to the public. The Foundation receives \$5 for every \$100 sold. Ms. Burger asked that district supplies be purchased through the gift certificate fundraiser. Family and Consumer Science purchases will be through the Giant store so that the money can go back to benefit education. Supporting the Giant store helps to maintain a business in the Morrisville community.

#### **2009-2010 Audit Report – Firm of Briggs, Bunting & Dougherty**

Mr. Carl Hogan, CPA presented the School Board with the June 30, 2010 audit report. He outlined areas of interest during his presentation. The findings were a clean audit.

Mr. DeAngelo thanked the Board, Administration and Mary Hendershot for their input and assistance with the audit.

Following up on the PSERS comments, Mr. Hellmann advised that the School Leader News Act 120 of 2010 expects rates to continue increasing up to 2024. Based on the payroll the district has now, along with health insurance and future contribution rates there is no way the district can afford what we have right now. This would mean huge increases. Another thing that no one talks about is that interest rates for the past 10-11 years have earned about 3%. If we don't earn 8% these numbers could go a lot higher. The district has major problems going forward and everything runs off payroll. We have to get our payroll under control or we will be in trouble.

Today Harrisburg declared they are under financial distress which means they can't pay their bills. That can happen here also. Looking at the District's numbers, the costs have to come down.

## 1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### ⇒ This week in our Schools

- The annual hallway decorating contest was held and congratulations to the senior class for the winning entry.
- The community pep rally was held on 11/24. Thank you to the band, cheerleaders and football team, as well as community members for making this a success.
- The band, color guard, cheerleaders and their advisors along with the Bulldog and the Miss Winterfest girls participated in the Winterfest parade on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The intermediate/high school hosted day long activities, including a performance by the elementary chorus, musical play, silent auction, and a visit with Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Mrs. Yonkin's class baked cookies which was a welcome aroma in the building.
- Superintendent's advisory was held on 12/7. Forming an indoor track team was a topic of discussion. It was agreed to form a group of community members to look into a way to fund the program. Administration is looking for people to volunteer to assist with this project. Interested individuals may contact my office after the holidays.
- Performance Arts Boosters sponsored a trip to the Trenton Devil's game last week. Middle School cheerleaders and the marching band participated in presentations.
- The Mansfield College trip, sponsored by 21<sup>st</sup> Century, took place this week. This program is aimed at assisting low income student with college efforts.
- Recently, the Exxon Mobil Company representatives presented the Morrisville Middle Senior High School principal with a \$750.00 grant/donation. The proprietor of Exxon station on West Trenton Ave. recommended our school due to it being an excellent facility which is known for its innovative spirit and commitment to the educational advancement of its students.
- During the month of December, the MEA is collecting books for our school libraries. This is the fifth year the MEA is holding this event and they are hoping to surpass last year's goal.
- Winter sports have begun. Our girls and boys basketball teams as well as the middle school team had games tonight and last night. All teams were victorious.
- The following student-athletes players were named to the 2010 ALL Bicentennial Athletic League football team:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Team</b>	Matt Beyer.....Linebacker	Matt Kelvy.....Defensive End
	Julian Walker.....Wide Receiver	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Team</b>	Matt Cookson.....Quarterback	
	Matt Kelvy.....Center	Orlando Tirado.....Linebacker
<b>Honorable Mention</b>		
	Jaquan Billups.....Offensive Tackle	Austin Crist.....Linebacker
	Rich Laypo.....Defensive Back	Kevin McCleave....Defensive Back
- Breakfast with Santa was sponsored by Good Friends and held on December 5th.
- The Parent Advisory meeting was held on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- On December 15th students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will preview the Winter Concert at the high school.
- The band and chorus will showcase their work at the Winter Concert which will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> in the high school auditorium at 7:00 pm.
- Progress reports will be distributed on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Schools will be closed for the Winter Break from December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a ½ day on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. On behalf of the staff, faculty and administrative team we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.
- Classes resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup>

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dress Rehearsal for Winter Concert 9 – 11 am
- 4th - WINTERFEST at MHS (Community Event)
- Come see our 3rd - 5th grade students sing at 1 P.M.
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Physicals for K & 1 with Dr. Peck
- 10th - Bucks County Zoo visits students (PreK-5) 23rd - Holiday Party @ 10:00 a.m.
- Early Dismissal PreK @ 11:00 a.m.
- Kindergarten @ 11:15 a.m. 1st - 5th grade @ 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 15th Patti Gill with teachers
- Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – Progress Reports go home
- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> No tutoring, Homework Zone or After School Clubs
- Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> Early dismissal PreK 11:00 a.m. K 11:15 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade 11:30
- Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> Holiday Parties @ 10 a.m.
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Break

⇒ Enrollment Report

**District Enrollments as of December 7, 2010**

Student Population

Pre Kindergarten.....	18		
Kindergarten.....	74	GRANDVIEW .....	323
Grade 1 .....	80	INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 4-5 .....	<u>157</u>
Grade 2 .....	77		..... <b>480</b>
Grade 3 .....	74		
Grade 4 .....	92	INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 6-8 .....	185
Grade 5 .....	65	HIGH SCHOOL 9-12 .....	<u>213</u>
Grade 6 .....	60		..... <b>398</b>
Grade 7 .....	59		
Grade 8 .....	66	TECHNICAL SCHOOL .....	51
Grade 9 .....	47	HOME SCHOOLED .....	19
Grade 10 .....	53	CHARTER SCHOOLS .....	23
Grade 11 .....	53	OUT-OF-DISTRICT .....	49
Grade 12 .....	60		
		<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1020</b>

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

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Bill Minder, Crown St.**

Thanked the Board of their time and efforts.

***An Executive Session will be held at this time to discuss personnel, real estate and possible litigation.***

**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.*

**2.1. Approval of Minutes**

*The Board approved* the minutes listed below. Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 1 abstention (Mrs. Heater).

- 2.1.a. October 27, 2010 Monthly Business Meeting of the Board of School Directors
- 2.1.b. November 10, 2010 Monthly Agenda Meeting of the Board of School Directors
- 2.1.c. November 17, 2010 Monthly Business Meeting of the Board of School Directors
- 2.1.d. December 6, 2010 Re-organization of the Board of School Directors meeting
- 2.1.e. December 6, 2010 Monthly Agenda Meeting of the Board of School Directors

**INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES** Mr. Bill Hellmann, Chairperson

**3. INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**  
**ACTION ITEMS**

**3.1. Approval, Contractor Listing**

*Move to table motion 3.1.* by Mrs. Mihok; seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

*Mrs. Mihok would like to expand the list of contractors and review with the Administration. Mr. DeWilde requested that Mrs. Mihok share her findings with the members of the Board.*

**3.2. Approval, Act 77 Lighting Project PHM**

*The Board approved* PHM as consultant for the Act 77 Lighting Project board approved in 2009.

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

**4. HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**  
**ACTION ITEMS**

Items 4.1 to 4.7 were moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

**4.1. Approval, Extension of Child Rearing Leave of Absence**

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

*The Board approved a motion* to extend child rearing leave for Mrs. Cheri Tabit effective February 1, 2011 until school resumes in the fall of 2011.

**4.2. Approval, Tenure Eligibility**

The Following individuals are eligible for a Professional Contract/Tenure, having received satisfactory evaluations and having served three years under a Temporary Professional Contract.

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Date of Tenure</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Date of Tenure</u>
Christie Nemeth	8/31/10	Sandra Sims	1/4/11

*The Board approved* the above individuals for tenure and directed the Administration to issue a Professional Employee Contract.

**4.3. Approval, Appointment of Instructional Paraeducator**

*The Board approved* the appointment of Stephanie Greenberg as an instructional paraeducator in accordance with Group II Salary and Benefit Schedule at the hourly rate of \$13.52, effective November 18, 2010 (replaces Sharon Mastrosimone).

**4.4. Approval, Mentor for Teacher Induction**

*The Board approved* Sue Stetler to serve as mentor for Summer Branche for the Teacher Induction Program for the second semester of the 2010-2011 school year and the first semester of the 2011-2011 school year. Compensation in accordance with collective bargaining agreement is \$750.

**4.5. Approval, Appointment of Per Diem Substitutes**

*The Board approved* the appointment of the listed per diem substitutes in accordance with the District substitute policy #429.

Ann Baccari	Natalie Cardamone	Caitlin Hennessey	John Terlecki
Brittany Bigley	Christine Smeal	Sharon Mastrosimone	Amanda Matika
Meaghan Zentgraf	Flora Klein	Denise Glick	Albert Rogers IV
Steve Hedgepeth	James Sweeney	Brianna Spratt	Noelle Sabutes
Shawn McAllister	Sarah Banas	Meredith Cole	Yvonne Saxton
Jenna Davis	Matthew Dilts	Stephanie Gahagan	Maria Schmidt
Larry Haft	Debra Hufford	Cynthia Imhof	Tanya Idorchuck
Peggy Jackson	Theresa Kling Keefer	Desiree Smietana	Dana Sullivan
Joan Tucker	Marc Benson	Anthony Catanzaro	

**4.6. Approval, New Hires for 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*The Board approved* the hiring of the individuals listed below.

Kathleen McCormick.....	Intermediate Homework Zone Coordinator .....	\$18/hr.
Michael Johnson .....	Substitute Student Site Monitor .....	\$8/hr.
Orlando Tirado.....	Substitute Student Site Monitor .....	\$8/hr.
Jamie Schlosser.....	Substitute Site Monitor .....	\$9/hr.

**4.7. Approval, Acceptance of Resignations**

*The Board approved a motion* to accept the listed resignations.

- 4.7.1. Jim Gober.....Varsity Football Coach .....Effective 12/15/10
- 4.7.2. Brian Schaeffer .....Maintenance Employee .....Effective 12/31/10

**5. BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCE**  
**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

Items 5.1 to 5.6 were moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

**5.1. Approval, Treasurer’s Report – November 2010**

*The Board approved* the Treasurer’s Report for November 2010.

**5.2. Approval, Investment Report – November 2010**

*The Board approved* the Investment Report for November 2010.

**5.3. Approval, 2010-2011 Budget Transfers**

*The Board approved a* \$547.00 budget transfer from the general fund.

**5.4. Approval, 2009-2010 Auditor Report**

*The Board approved* the 2009-2010 Auditor Report.

**5.5. Approval, Acceptance of Donation**

*The Board approved a motion* to accept the donation of ninety (90) dictionaries from Morrisville-Yardley Rotary.

*Mrs. Mihok requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Morrisville-Yardley Rotary. Mrs. Ruffing advised that a letter has already been sent.*

**5.6. Approval, Disposal of Excess Items**

*The Board approved* the disposal of excess items as listed below.

- 9 Summer School Success Kits 2001 – Reading
- 2 Summer School Success Kits 2011 – Math
- 6 Classroom Library Kits
- 1 HP Laserjet 1300 – JPBGH02499
- 1 HP Printer CP 1160 – MY1B71W1FTNP
- 1 3M overhead projector #608542
- 1 HP Scanner C7690B – CN13P20437VE
- 1 UMAX scanner Astra 1220S – H830D18411608
- 1 HP Laserjet 4 Plus – JPFH012012
- 1 Samsung Monitor – H1AF404473

- 1 Acer Monitor 15" – 999087112113900407T52121
- 4 Acer Monitors AC711 – ES71102051514008C7ED02;  
ES71102051504001C1ED02; ES71102051504001D4ED02;  
ES71102051504001BFED02
- 1 Mitsubishi diamond plus 73 – 156075OYE
- 1 Apple EMac 3 unit

(all of these items are located at GV and are outdated or non functioning)

**5.7. Payment of Bills**

*The Board approved the* payment of bills, as listed, subject to final audit by the Business Administrator less a payment to the Bucks County Technical School in the amount of \$150,914 (check #39098). This amount to be placed in an escrow account.

Miscellaneous Disbursement: (11/11/10 – 12/8/10)	\$239,979.48
Athletic Fund (11/24/10 – 12/1/10)	2,346.00
Cafeteria Fund: (12/30/10)	38,578.20
Accounts Payable (12/16/10)	556,919.32
Capital Projects	-0-
Capital Reserve (12/16/10)	13,760.00
Procurement Cards	-0-
<b>TOTAL BILLS</b>	<b>\$851,583.00</b>

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

**ADDITIONAL PAYMENT**

*Mr. DeAngelo asked that two payments be added to the capital reserve in the amount of \$13,352.50. Final payment to Angelo Rago in the amount of \$5,000 and payment to Environmental Connections in the amount of \$8,352.50.*

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

**EDUCATION/POLICY COMMITTEE- Mrs. Brenda Worob**

**6. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**6.1. Approval, Student Disciplinary Waiver**

*The Board approved* a waiver for student X for disciplinary reasons.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed a voice vote of 7 ayes; 1 nay (Mr. DeWilde).

*Mr. DeWilde does not agree with this waiver since this is a zero tolerance matter and suggested it go through the due process hearing. Mr. Ferrara explained the waiver eliminates the expulsion process and the costs related to that. The district is responsible either way for the student's education. A regular education student's parent has 30 days to find an educational alternative for the student, whereas, a special education student's limit is 10 days.*

**7. POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**  
**ACTION ITEMS**

*The Board approved items 7.1.a, 7.1.b, and 7.1.c. Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.*

**7.1. Approval, Policies**

- 7.1.a. *The Board approved* the second reading of policy #126 – Class Size.  
7.1.b. *The Board approved* the second reading of policy #610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation  
7.1.c. *The Board approved* the second reading of policy #611 – Purchases Budgeted

**8. LIAISON REPORTS**

- a. **Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Mr. Buckman**  
*Mr. Buckman reported that he was unable to attend the meeting held on Nov. 22; however, at that meeting Dr. Poeske stated that Tech is currently examining the existing delivery system as well as alternate delivery systems. The reason we are looking at a schedule change is to make Bucks County Technical High School a better school; both academically and vocationally. Mrs. Rinker, Principal, is heading a committee to examine what the schedule would look like if we went to a half (½) day academic and a half (½) day technical rotation. The team is looking at continuity of instruction, and examining what is the best way to improve the school. There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.*

*We were given information of studies showing that schools already doing that are doing better.*

*December's meeting was held this evening at the same time as our meeting.*

- b. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mrs. Mihok**  
*Mrs. Mihok advised that there was no meeting held this month. At the January meeting a dinner made by the WOW "We are Wonderful Workers" students will be served and she is looking forward to the dinner.*
- c. **Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mrs. Worob**  
*Mr. Hellmann stated that in the Dec. 3 "School Leader News" the headline is Where will Corbett find \$4B? They are saying that the budget for July 1<sup>st</sup> is short by \$4B and they are asking where it will come from. Their suggestions are education and welfare. "To start, Corbett could slice off some of the approximately \$6B the state sends to schools for preschool and K-12 education" (this is our basic subsidy).*

*We have serious funding problems with the revenue side down and the expense side up.*

*Another thing he is thinking of doing is offering volunteer retirement incentives to state employees. They are doing the same thing we are trying to do here. They are trying to control their payroll.*



Future Meetings and Items of Interest

The below meetings will be held in the LGI

January 19, 2011 .....7:30 pm – Monthly Agenda Meeting

January 26, 2011 .....7:30 pm Monthly Business Meeting of the Board

***For Community and District Information***  
***Visit our community website [www.mv.org](http://www.mv.org)***  
***and Channel 28 on your Local Cable***

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**Parks and Recreation Open Space**

Mrs. Mihok advised that she came across the letter below which she urged Dr. Yonson to send to Bill Mitchell, Director of Park and Recreation Board in September 2009. I am giving a copy to our Acting Superintendent and our Solicitor.

Mr. Bill Mitchell  
Director of Park and Recreation Board  
901 East Bridgetown Pike  
Langhorne, PA 19047

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On August 24, 2009, an article was in the Courier Times entitled “Bucks seeks ideas for park spending.” The Morrisville Board of School Directors wanted to provide input to the County on a potential use of part of the \$18,000,000 in open space dollars for county parks.

Last December, a furnace exploded in one of our elementary schools. The board has closed the building for the school year and there is a possibility that the school will be closed permanently.

M.R. Reiter Elementary School is located at 150 Clymer Avenue in Morrisville on 3.096 acres. It is adjacent to historic Summerseat, the home of Robert Morris, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

One of the goals of the Park and Recreation Board is historic preservation. Our School Board believes that the location of M.R. Reiter and Summerseat would assist you in this important endeavor.

If the County is interested in discussing using the available funds to acquire this property, please contact me so that a meeting can be arranged.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Hammond Yonson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

When I had Dr. Yonson, former Superintendent, send this letter to Mr. Mitchell about open-space funds for M.R.Reiter, the following facts were abbreviated. Summerseat is listed on the National Historic Registry and was owned by Robert Morris and George Clymer who each signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Washington stayed at Summerseat in the winter of 1776 while making preparations for the battle of Trenton. Later, the home was owned by Thomas Barclay who was sent to Europe in 1791 to negotiate the first United States Treaty with Morocco which is still in place today.

While I have a copy of the letter that was supposedly sent to Mr. Mitchell, I have no knowledge of any reply from anyone in the Parks and Recreation Board. Also, please note that this letter was never dated or typed on Morrisville SD stationary.

I would like to have a follow-up letter sent to Mr. Bill Mitchell on the Parks and Recreation Board telling him that we are open to discussion, to sit down, about M. R. Reiter and open space.

*Mr. DeWilde commented that he was not aware of this subject matter and would like the Board to discuss this prior to sending a letter. Mr. Hellmann asked that this item be placed on the next agenda for discussion. Mrs. Mihok stated that she has heard rumors that townhouses will be built on the Reiter site.*

#### **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- Contract with Interquest Canines  
*Mr. Ferrara informed that for the past 2 years the District has had an agreement with Interquest Canines to provide 2 searches of our facilities and grounds and he would like to explore this again. This firm is used by most districts in the county. If there is an increase in cost, it would be brought back to the Board for approval.*
- Insurance 1<sup>st</sup> Look 15.5%  
*Mr. DeAngelo advised that this item is informational. This is the insurance increase we are looking at right now.*
- Accounting Intern  
*Mr. DeAngelo advised that he has selected a candidate, Shane Coulter, from LaSalle University for the pilot program. This will benefit the school district, the students and the business office.*
- Incident at School Board meeting in Florida  
*Mr. DeWilde suggested that we have someone speak to the Board regarding how to handle a volatile situation. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested this be handled in private.*

#### **11. Adjournment**

*The Board approved a motion* to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

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William Hellmann, President

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Marlys Mihok, Secretary