

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Work Session – Wednesday, February 15, 2012
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 February 15, 2012, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. DeWilde, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to appoint Mr. Paul DeAngelo as Temporary Recording Secretary for tonight's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Buckman and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

ROLL CALL

The following members present on roll call:

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

Members absent: Ms. Marone

Ms. Marone could not make tonight's meeting due to the fact that she was in attendance at the Health Care Consortium meeting at the IU.

Quorum Present:

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William Ferrara, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Ms. Laurie Ruffing, Elementary/Intermediate Principal; Mr. Donald Harm, Secondary Principal; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Thomas Profy, IV, Esq., Solicitor; media, MEA representatives and members of the community.

PUBLIC SESSION

There were no speakers for Public Session.

Mr. DeWilde stated that the Board members met prior to tonight's Agenda Meeting for an Executive Session to discuss the collective bargaining agreements that are pending at this time.

Student Spotlight

Mr. Ferrara stated that, as Ms. Kartal has requested, beginning with the February Business Meeting, we will have a student representative from the Tech School along with a student representative from the high school speak at the Board meetings.

Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF

Superintendent/Administrator's Reports

INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCIAL/HUMAN RESOURCES

INFRASTRUCTURE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve the annual week control agreement with Armour.
2. Board action is requested to approve the agreement and resolution for the Bucks County IU #22 WAN project.

Mr. Ferrara stated that information regarding the WAN project was provided to the Board members in their Friday packets explaining the project, costs, and services provided.

Mr. Miller questioned the timeline of 60 months from Synesis when the other timelines were for 36 or 39 months. Mr. DeAngelo stated that this was done because the costs for providing internet services keeps going down and they didn't want to lock it in for the term of the contract.

3. Board action is requested to approve the release of bids for the following:
 - a) Snow Plowing
 - b) Landscaping
 - c) Trash Removal
 - d) Transportation

Mr. Miller questioned the reason for the bid for transportation and what this bid involved. Mr. DeAngelo stated that the transportation bid is for the shuttle service, athletic trips, etc. in the Morrisville School District. Mr. DeAngelo informed the Board members that bids are annual proposals, and that he will provide the Board members with a three year listing of bids that have been submitted in each of these areas.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve the following appointments:
 - a. AESOP Substitutes
 - b. 21st Century Hires
 - c. Personal Care Assistant
 - d. Long-Term Substitute (Secondary Math)
 - e. Long-Term Substitute (Special Education)
 - f. Title I Coordinator
 - g. School Psychologist Intern for the Pupil Services Department for the 2012-13 school year
 - h. National Honor Society Advisor
2. Board action is requested to approve tuition reimbursements.
3. Board action is requested to approve Childrearing Leave.
4. Board action is requested to approve the posting for a Van Driver position.

Mr. Ferrara discussed the Van Driver position posting and stated that this information will be placed on the website and on Penn Link and through an email to all district employees. Mr. Miller asked that it also be advertised in the newspaper. Mr. Ferrara stated that once the applications are received, they will be screened, interviews will then take place which will include a Board member as part of the interview team, and, hopefully, a qualified candidate will be selected, along with a substitute Van Driver. Mr. Gesualdi stated that he feels that we could save approximately 50% of what it costs the district by hiring a Van Driver and setting up a third route to transport some of our own students rather than contracting this service through the IU.

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 2012-13 Budget Update (Review of categories 1100 Instruction and 1200 Special Education)

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve Plgit agreements as listed below, upon solicitor's review and approval:
 - Arbitrage
 - Plgit Arm
2. Board action is requested to approve the acceptance of the Auditor General's Audit Report.
3. Board action is requested to approve the Bucks/Montgomery Healthcare Consortium.
4. Board action is requested to approve Provident Energy for Natural Gas for the years of 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, upon solicitor's review.
5. Board action is requested to approve the Treasurer's Report.
6. Board action is requested to approve the Investment Report.
7. Board action is requested to approve Budget Transfers.
8. Board action is requested to approve Payment of Bills.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that he will provide Board members information regarding the Healthcare Consortium in their Friday packets. Mr. DeAngelo stated that there are deadlines to meet regarding this Consortium; February is the resolution, and March is a lock in which gives them our commitment and initial money to be included in the equation.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Ferrara discussed the Secondary Course Selection, which started on Monday. He stated that students in Grades 8 through 11 received two phone blasts notifying them of this process. Parents will have the ability to log onto the Genesis website in Morrisville, view which courses were selected by their children, hopefully avoiding having the District to mail this information out to parents.

Mr. Ferrara discussed the Keystone Grant and stated that we are not eligible to apply for this grant. Mr. Ferrara has sent a letter to our Senator office requesting information regarding our ineligibility. Mr. Ferrara stated that he believes our ineligibility is due to the fact that we made AYP, but will update the Board when more information is received.

Mr. Ferrara stated that the Board members will receive information regarding the Peace Center in their Friday packets. He stated that this is an initiative by the County Commissioner's working with the District Attorney's Office that was presented at the December Superintendent's meeting. This item does not need Board approval and the funds are available through Guidance. This is a program for students to report bullying in their schools. Mr. Buckman stated that he feels that this is a great idea, because sometimes students do not want to come to the school with issues regarding bullying and prefer to go to an outside source. Mr. Ferrara stated that small schools, such as Morrisville, pay a fee of \$500, while larger schools pay a fee of \$1000 to participate in this program.

Mr. Ferrara stated that PSSA preparation has started. Ms. Ruffing has spoken individually with all of the students to inform them of the importance of the PSSA testing. At the secondary level, some eleventh grade students and their parents have been notified that they are participating in remediation during the day and that they are missing their elective classes. Mr. Ferrara stated that there are catch up days at the secondary level that are built in throughout the year which allow teachers to review the results of their pretests and to gear instruction in the areas of deficiency and to also push the students who are at the top to go further. Mr. Ferrara stated that the District gets looked at two ways; one, your PSSA scores, and Pennsylvania also uses a Value Added Assessment System, which shows growth over the year. Breakfast will be provided for the students on the days that testing will take place and a full schedule will be forthcoming. Mr. Ferrara stated that it is a total community effort to make sure that our students get the recognition they deserve as being one of the top districts in Bucks County.

Mr. Ferrara stated that he had the opportunity to speak at an event held at the YMCA in Fairless Hills last week. He stated at this event that he believes that the students at Morrisville, within the next five years, will be the best in Bucks County. He believes we have the best mix of great students and teachers who are all supported by the community.

Mr. Miller asked if there would be a course selection guide available as there has been in the past. Mr. Ferrara stated that the course selection guide is available on line.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The calendar for 2012-13 was adopted in January 2012. Board action is requested to approve the following designated local holidays, per Section 1502 of the School Code:
 - November 23, 2012 – Day after Thanksgiving
 - December 26, 2012 – Day after Christmas
 - January 21, 2013 – Martin Luther King’s Birthday
 - February 18, 2013 – President’s Day
 - March 29, 2013 – Friday before Easter
2. Board action is requested to approve William Ferrara’s attendance at the Bucks County Superintendent’s Retreat in Hershey from March 8, 2012 through March 10, 2012.

POLICY COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ferrara stated that the Board members will be receiving in their Friday packets the legal RFP. Input was received from one School Board member, and he asked that any other Board members that would like to submit any information do so as soon as possible, so they can get the RFP out no later than next Tuesday.

Mr. Ferrara discussed the Walk-Ability Study, and asked Board members if this study should include both the Intermediate/High School and Grandview. Ms. Kartal stated that the Grandview address should be the one listed on the application. Mr. Ferrara stated that the administration will work up three routes for the study and send the routes selected to the Board members for their review. The Board discussed who would be selected to participate in the actual walking of the routes as part of the study. Mr. Miller questioned the number of students that walk to school. Mr. Ferrara stated that, by his observations, he believes that over 50% of our students drive or are driven to our schools. Ms. Ruffing stated that she also believes that over 50% of our students are driven to our schools.

Mr. Worob asked that in order to save time and money, the request for an RFP be removed from the agenda. Mr. Worob stated that the district has many other issues that they are involved in at this time such as the Tech School matter, contract negotiations, etc. He asked the new Board members to get to know our current solicitor for at least a year, and if they feel it’s necessary, to make changes after that time. Mr. Parker and Mr. Ferrara stated the RFP has been structured so that if it is decided to hire a new solicitor, that new solicitor would not take over until December

of 2012. The RFP states that the new solicitor would work with our current solicitor at no charge from September 2012 until December 2012 to be informed/caught up on all matters currently being handled by our solicitor. Mr. Worob does not see why we need to look for a new solicitor at this time if we are happy with our current solicitor's services. Mr. Ferrara stated that every school district in the area that has newly elected Board members have requested RFP's. Mr. Parker stated that he does not see anything wrong with taking a look at other solicitor's. Mr. Ferrara stated that since we have begun this process, we should continue on this path with no strings attached. Mr. Parker stated the he feels that there were some things done with the prior Board that were extremely questionable as far as soliciting advertisements regarding a political newsletter, and for this reason, he feels that we should continue with the RFP and take a look at other solicitors. Mr. Ferrara stated that the new Board has done a great job coming together, doing some good things, and we should continue to let the process of looking at other solicitors continue.

Mr. Ferrara stated that Ms. Kartal had asked if a traffic study had ever been completed, and one was found from July of 2009, which was done by the Transportation Management Association of Bucks. This report will be sent to the Board members in their Friday packet.

Mr. Profy stated that there was an expulsion hearing matter that was tabled at the last meeting that needs to be put back on the agenda for next week's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kartal discussed the request made at last month's meeting to start up the Middle School Football Team again. She asked if the estimated costs for starting up this program have been determined. Mr. Ferrara stated that the costs should be available for the March Board meeting.

Ms. Kartal also asked if a decision has been made on how anyone requesting the distribution of flyers by the district to the community would be handled. Mr. Profy stated that once you open up the school for dissemination of information from one organization, you are opening the door for dissemination from all organizations that seek to use the district for that purpose. Mr. Profy stated that a policy would need to be put in place to insure that the dissemination of the information is in tune with the applicable laws that deal with content and other matters. Mr. Profy was asked by Mr. Ferrara to look into the matter in greater detail and have this information available for next Wednesday's meeting.


Mr. Miller asked if the Board would be voting on who would be on the Advisory Panel and Mr. Profy stated that this does not have to be voted on, but should be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Miller asked if the committees could possibly start giving their committee reports at the agenda meetings beginning in March. Mr. DeWilde stated that since the committees have now been formed and have been meeting, that they have enough information and can start giving reports in March.

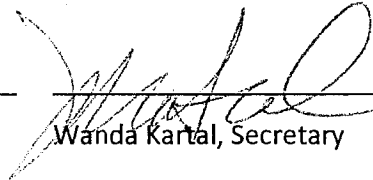
Mr. DeAngelo asked the Board how they would like the budget presentation to take place at the future Board meetings. It was determined that it would be done by budget categories.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote.



John DeWilde, President



Wanda Kartal, Secretary