

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Work Session – Wednesday, September 19, 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 September 19, 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 stated that there was an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss on-going negotiations. Mr. DeWilde also stated that there will be another Executive Session after tonight's meeting to discuss Solicitor information.

Mr. DeWilde appointed Mr. DeAngelo as Temporary Recording Secretary for tonight's meeting.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present on roll call:

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

Quorum Present:

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William Ferrara, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Mr. Donald Harm, Educational Advisor for Administration; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Thomas Profy, IV, Esq., Solicitor; media, MEA representatives and members of the community.

Student Spotlight – MECCA Group

Student Representatives to the Board

Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF

PTO Report

Superintendent/Administrator's Reports

School District/Borough Committee Reports

PUBLIC SESSION #1

Ms. Docker – 687 Hillcrest Avenue

Ms. Docker stated that she is a mother of 4 children and a Morrisville resident. She has two children who are presently attending our schools in Morrisville, another in Pre-K Counts, and she also has a toddler at home. Ms. Docker stated that she is also a local business owner of a Children's Consignment store in Levittown, PA. She stated that her business will be expanding and approaching schools for fundraising where they would use the schools facility and pay the school a percentage to have consignment events at the schools. Ms. Docker explained how the events are run and how the school could make money from these events.

Mr. Ferrara explained to Ms. Docker what she would be required to do in order to request use of our facilities. Mr. Ferrara stated that after the event was held, there would have to be Board action taken to accept the donation of any money that would be given to the District.

Mr. Ferrara stated that it sounds like it would be a great event for the people of Morrisville to come out and support a worthy cause, which would also be a great fundraiser. He informed Ms. Docker to contact Barbara Bucuy at 215-736-5261 for completion of the required facility use paperwork.

Mr. Miller stated that this information could also be posted on the website. Mr. Ferrara agreed and stated that we use phone blasts for much of our information rather than having things mailed or sent home with students.

INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCIAL/HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve the ratification of the purchase of a cafeteria freezer compressor and installation from Corestates in the amount of \$5,500, and the approval of a 4 Year Warranty in the amount of \$350 (Fund 10).

INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCIAL/HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS: (continued)

2. Board action is requested to approve Tim Lastichen's attendance at the Facilities Management Conference in Harrisburg from September 25th through September 27th. (Cost for pre-conference on the 25th is \$75.00 and the cost for the conference on the 26th and 27th is \$220)
3. Board action is requested to approve Mary Hendershot's attendance at the 21st CCLC Cohort 6A Grantees' Mandatory Training from September 17th through September 18th.
4. Board action is requested to approve the quotes for the Intermediate School Playground.
5. Board action is requested to approve the Environmental Lab at Grandview.
6. Board action is requested to approve the renewal of School Weblocker.
7. Board action is requested to approve the renewal of Studydog.
8. Board action is requested to approve the renewal of Study Island.
9. Board action is requested to approve the renewal of Nutrikids.

Mr. Buckman asked for an explanation of what Studydog is about. Mr. Ferrara stated that Studydog and Study Island are both software packages that we use for the assessments. He stated that they are aligned with both Core States and PSSA content and we are able to identify areas of weaknesses for students and also areas of strength so we can make the instruction more suitable for the students. Mr. Ferrara stated that Studydog is the elementary version of Study Island.

Mr. Buckman asked for an explanation of what Nutrikids is about. Mr. DeAngelo stated that this is the software that is used for our Food Service.

Mr. Stout stated that he would like to see the bills for the \$5,500 compressor for the cafeteria freezer mentioned in Item #1. Mr. DeAngelo stated that this information will be provided in the Friday packet.

Mr. Stoneburner asked if Item#1 could be split into two motions; one for the compressor and one for the warranty. Mr. DeWilde stated that it would be made into two motions as requested for the business meeting next week.

Mr. DeAngelo asked that Item #3 be changed from approval to ratification.

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. Secondary Coordinators
 - c. School Nurse
 - d. 7 Hour Nurse's Aide
 - e. Long Term Substitute Teachers
 - f. Personal Care Assistant (Elementary)
 - g. Paraprofessional (Secondary)
 - h. 21st Century Hires
 - i. Accounting Assistant
 - j. Sixth Grade Team Leader
2. Board action is requested to approve tenure.
3. Board action is requested to approve tuition reimbursements.
4. Board action is requested to approve volunteers as follows:
 - a. Student Interns
 - b. Environmental Lab
5. Board action is requested to approve the MEA Contract (2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15).
6. Board action is requested to approve Maternity/Childrearing Leave.
7. Board action is requested to approve rescinding motion 5.3, Approval of Change of Employment Status, for Nicole White and Lisa Colon Rivera, at the rate of \$14.22 per hour, approved at the June 27, 2012 meeting.
8. Board action is requested to approve the Change of Employment Status for Nicole White and Lisa Colon Rivera at the hourly rate of \$13.93 per hour.
9. Board action is requested to approve Medical Leave.
10. Board action is requested to approve the appointment of a substitute to fill the vacancy for a brief medical leave.

Mr. Buckman asked for an explanation of Items #7 and #8. Mr. Ferrara explained that the motion approved at the June 27, 2012 meeting had the incorrect salary. Therefore, the motion that was approved at that meeting must be rescinded and a new motion approved reflecting the correct salary. Mr. Gesualdi stated that when looking at the grid for the salaries, he did not take into consideration that there was a payroll freeze last year, and took the incorrect figure for this year's salary.

Mr. Ferrara asked Mr. Gesualdi if there is any possibility that we will have a candidate to recommend to the Board for the 2 hour a day Nurse position for next week's meeting. Mr. Gesualdi stated that he is in the process of holding interviews, and will hopefully have a qualified candidate to recommend to the Board for next week's meeting. Mr. Ferrara explained to the Board that we are looking for someone to fill the 2 hour a day Nurse position, in addition to hiring a full time Nurse, to cover giving out medications because by contract, our current Nurse has a lunch and a prep and that period of time needs to be covered. Mr. Ferrara stated that we have been fortunate because Ms. Lelli who has recently left our District, was picking up this 2 hour time frame each day. Mr. Ferrara stated that the 2 hour Nurse position was budgeted for and as soon as they do find a qualified candidate, they will be bringing it to the Board for approval.

Mr. Ferrara stated that another issue the administration may be bringing to the Board concerns regarding class size in a fourth grade classroom, as brought to their attention by a Board member. He stated that Mr. DuPell has been very helpful, as has Mr. Harm, with working to possibly add a paraprofessional into this classroom. Mr. Ferrara stated that they will be working with Mr. King to be sure that it is done in the appropriate way. If needed, this paraprofessional position will also be brought to the Board for approval in the future.

Ms. Kartal asked if there are only concerns with class sizes in the fourth grade, or if there concerns in other grades. Mr. Ferrara stated that at this time, the fourth grade class size seems to be the only concern. He stated that there is one science class at the secondary level which is at 29 students at this time, but they have been able to work through that situation with no additional expense to the District. Mr. Ferrara stated that today is the tenth day of school which is the time that class sizes settle a little bit and they will continue to monitor the class sizes and work through this process. Ms. Kartal asked for an update by next week's Board meeting on the class size situation.

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 27th Pay Receivable

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve a 21st Century Credit Card.
2. Board action is requested to approve Fund Transfers.
3. Board action is requested to accept donations.
4. Board action is requested to approve a copier trial (SHARP) from IPS.
5. Board action is requested to approve Target Take Charge of Education.

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS: (continued)

6. Board action is requested to approve PECO rebates.
7. Board action is requested to approve the Service Agreement with Interquest.
8. Board action is requested to approve excess items.
9. Board action is requested to approve the Treasurer's Report.
10. Board action is requested to approve the Investment Report.
11. Board action is requested to approve Payment of Bills.

Mr. Ferrara explained Item #7 stating that our District, like many other Districts, have canine searches in the schools twice a year. He stated that we have been very fortunate in the past four years with nothing being found in our schools during the searches. Mr. Ferrara stated that the cost of this service agreement is \$200.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 7th and 8th grade specials

Mr. Ferrara stated that Mr. Harm and Ms. Nemeth and Ms. Burkhardt have been working to make sure that we are changing what we have been doing here where the 7th and 8th graders have not had the opportunity to take one of the core electives (Art, Physical Education, Music). Mr. Harm explained that the students will now have a rotating schedule in order for them to be able to participate in these core electives, which would possibly free up one of our key staff members who could then be used in one of our Science classes in which we are having issues. Mr. Harm stated that they are still working on this project and hopefully will have it in place very shortly.

Ms. Kartal asked if the Board could have some sort of diagram of this new procedure once it is in place. Ms. Kartal asked if currently 8th graders are not scheduled to receive Physical Education and if the 7th graders are not scheduled to receive Art. Mr. Harm stated that with our current schedule that is correct, and that is why they are looking into changing the schedules. Ms. Kartal asked when this new scheduling will be ready, and Mr. Harm stated that hopefully by next Wednesday they should have it completed.

ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

POLICY COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve the 1st Reading of Policy 008.
2. Board action is requested to approve the 2nd Reading of Policy 103.

Mr. Buckman stated that he believes the Organizational Chart is different now and that he would like to see it. Mr. Ferrara stated that Mr. DeAngelo will see that both of these policies are provided to the Board in the Friday packet.

Mr. Ferrara referred to Item #4 regarding the copier trial from IPS and stated that Mr. Myat did a great job getting the trial period extended from one month to two months at no cost to the District other than having to purchase toner for this machine. Mr. Buckman asked if this copier would be purchased to replace a current copier, and Mr. Ferrara stated that it would be a replacement.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. DeAngelo thanked Mr. May for putting up the snow fence at Grandview.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeWilde stated that he wanted to make the public aware that Monday night the Borough Council voted to revoke the one way traffic in front of the Grandview Elementary School. He stated that the Board members were not aware of this item being voted on, and now that they are, they are working to control the traffic as much as they can. He stated that nothing has been removed at this time as far as he knows, and they have been in contact with the Council to see why they voted this way and if they have any further plans. Mr. Buckman stated that if the parents follow the rules they way they are set up, there is no problem with people travelling both ways on Grandview Avenue in front of the school. Mr. Buckman stated that the problem is when parents leave their child off on the left hand side of the road, and then let them walk across the road. Mr. Buckman stated that he believes they won't be able to do this now with the cars coming the other way. Mr. Buckman stated that if the parents go in the loop the way they are supposed to and wait in line patiently, there will be no problems. Mr. Buckman stated that since we have less students there now, the traffic should be a little lighter.

Mr. Stout stated that the Board members heard nothing about this until after it was approved and were not aware that the Council had planned on voting on this matter. Mr. Stout also stated the line of traffic to drop off students can become very long, and if someone coming the other way wants to turn into the parking lot they cannot do so. Mr. Buckman stated that they should have an agenda similar to what our Board uses. Mr. DeWilde stated that they do not have Agenda Meetings at the Council, but in any case, the Board is trying to work out the best solution that they can and control what they can, and the committees that we have that work with the Borough will be discussing this matter with them.

Mr. Miller stated that he agrees that if everyone follows the rules there should be no problems, but he also agrees with Mr. Stout regarding the traffic situation. Mr. Miller stated that he thinks that one thing we need to make clear to all of the parents with students at Grandview, is to enforce the use of the shuttle, to be sure that no one is parking by yellow curbs, and to approach Grandview from the Bridge Street side. He stated that there is no easy solution to this issue, and he hopes that prior to the barriers coming down on Grandview Avenue, we are notified so the parents can be informed of this change so that it can be made effectively for the safety of our students.

Mr. Stout stated that he feels that the change came about because people that live on that street could not park there and went to the Council and complained. Mr. Miller stated that the signs in the area have been changed which state that there is no parking within certain hours, so if any resident along that street that is parked in the yellow curbed areas within those hours they will be fined, and he just wishes that the conversations regarding this matter would have continued between the Board and the Council before this vote was made.

PUBLIC SESSION #2

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller, and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

John DeWilde, President

Wanda Kartal, Secretary