

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Work Session– Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Large Group Instruction Room
Morrisville Intermediate/Senior High School
7:00 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 November 14, 2012, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. DeWilde, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. DeWilde stated that tonight we will hold the Agenda Meeting, take a break and have an Executive Session for personnel and legal matters, and then hold the Business Meeting.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present on roll call:

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

Members absent: Messrs. Stout and Worob ***Mr. Stout arrived at the meeting at 7:22 p.m.***

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.

School District/Borough Committee Reports

Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF – Mr. Dingle

Mr. Dingle stated that the Winterfest is coming up on December 1st. He stated that they are looking for donations that can be sent in for the auctions and events and they are still looking for volunteers. Mr. Dingle stated that each of the Board members was given a letter from MOEF discussing the details.

PTO Report – Mr. Dingle

Mr. Dingle stated that the Fall Fundraisers ended and the orders need to be picked up by November 16th. He stated that the Halloween celebrations went well. The PTO is working with the elementary school for the yearbook, Market Day pickup is November 30th at the high school, they are taking \$1 student donations for them to wear their school colors on Friday and the donations will go to the Intermediate Playground, Burger King night will be held on November 29th from 4 to 9 and all benefits will go to the District, and so far Box Tops have earned \$1100 with a goal of \$1900. Mr. Dingle stated that there are pumpkins that were left over from the holiday parties which have all been converted into pies and if anyone is interested in a pie to please contact the PTO.

Finance Committee – Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller stated that he has nothing to report at this time. He stated that they still need to confirm some sort of date, hopefully soon, because there are a few issues that he would like to bring up in regards to this years budget.

Education Committee – Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller handed out to each Board member a copy of the minutes from their meeting. He stated that they met last night and discussed class sizes and stated that the committee decided that they would prefer to have a guideline vs. a strict policy. He stated that they are trying to do a range of students breaking down by grade (K-3 structure, 4-8 structure, 9-12 structure breakdown by subject). Mr. Miller stated that the guideline allow class sizes to be determined by the Superintendent within the range specified within the guidelines, the Board would be notified when the class sizes fall out of that range, and this would allow checks and balances to be sure that everything is being followed. Mr. Miller stated that before the next meeting the Administration is going to look at the previous policy to see what the wording is and what the recommendations were at that point in time, and then come up with new recommendations.

Mr. Miller stated that they also discussed the future educational structure of the District. He stated that the committee, administration and members of the community came up with the following nine options were as follows: 1) leaving the District as status quo; 2) Changing from a 6 period day to a 5 period day; 3) Utilizing cyber courses to increase educational offerings; 4) Increase the number of students attending the Tech School; 5) Tuition out the high school students to other area high schools; 6) Find affordable methods to increase dual enrollment at the Community College; 7) Merge with another District; 8) Develop a split schedule day; 9) Work together with other districts and combine resources through Cyber classes. Mr. Miller stated that at this point in time, there is no plan to utilize any of these for next year. He stated that all options are open at this time, details of each will be determined and discussed, the will weigh the pros and cons, and they are also accepting other options. He asked anyone from the community or Board or administration to offer any other options by contacting any of the committee members (Mr. Miller, Mr. Dingle or Mr. Buckman). Mr. Miller stated that input will be accepted by anyone and feels that the meeting went pretty well last night and he appreciates everyone's involvement. He stated that the next meeting is scheduled to be held in early to mid December and asked everyone to check the District's website for details.

Student Spotlight – Kindergarten Student – Cheer

Student Spotlight was held during the Agenda Meeting so that the student and family members would not have to wait until the Business Meeting this evening.

Mr. Gesualdi introduced Natalie Morales, stating that she is one of our Kindergarten students who excels in all of her subjects, loves extracurricular activities, especially cheerleading. Natalie performed several cheers for everyone's enjoyment.

School District/Borough Committee Reports (continued)

Borough Committee – Ms. Kartal

Ms. Kartal stated that there was no meeting in November and the next meeting will be held in December.

Ms. Kartal stated that last night's Education Committee Meeting was excellent and thanked everyone for being honest and stated that a lot of information was presented and she was happy to be in the audience at that meeting and be able to listen and felt it was well represented.

Human Resource Committee – Mr. DeWilde

Mr. DeWilde stated that they haven't met yet and are currently working on a date for the meeting. He stated that one of the items they will be discussing will be the makeup of the administration for next year. Mr. DeWilde stated that they have a deadline of January 2013 and will be posting this information as soon as they can.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Stoneburner

Mr. Stoneburner stated that a meeting was held on November 7th. He stated that they discussed a number of topics, mostly outdoor things for the kids around the schools (improvements to the Athletic Field, Basketball Court at Grandview). Mr. Stoneburner stated they also discussed security issues at the high school, the Ecological Garden at Grandview, the playground at the high school and plans for the Auditorium. He stated that they also began to

discuss what we may want to do with the placement of third grade and asked for input from the current second and third grade parents. Mr. Stoneburner stated that they don't know if they will change where the third graders currently go to school next year, but are looking for input regarding their placement on a long term basis. Mr. Stoneburner stated that the next meeting should be held within the next two weeks and asked anyone interested in attending the meeting to watch the website for the date of the next meeting.

Mr. Stout arrived at the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Student Representatives to the Board

Mr. Ferrara gave this report stating that the Morrisville High School student representative had a prior commitment. He discussed the following:

- Congratulations to Jhamir Ibezim and Juliana Manning who were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at the football game vs. Jenkintown on October 19th.
- Congratulations to the following Varsity Field Hockey players who made the Bicentennial Athletic League:
 - First Team
Sidney Knott, Delila Mena, Beatrice Avege
 - Honorable Mention
Anna Smolinski
- Congratulations to the following members of the Varsity Soccer team who made Penn Jersey All League Honors
 - First Team:
Ronnie Fratti, Anderson Louis-Jean, and Niasia Boone.
 - Second Team:
Jesse Hollopeter
- The next SAT will be taken on November 5th.
- The Superintendent's Advisory Meeting was held on November 7th.
- NEA Celebrates American Education Week November 11–17, 2012 and "Invite Parents to School Day" is November 13th.
- Report cards will be distributed on November 15th.
- The Student of the Month Breakfast will be held on November 20th honoring students from September and October.
- Parent/guardian conferences will be conducted on November 20th. The conferences can be scheduled between 12 noon and 7:30 pm. Parents/guardians must have an appointment. A phone blast and email will be sent to all parents. All parents will also be notified of the upcoming early dismissal on the 21st.
- There will be a Community Pep Rally held in the Morrisville High School gym at 6:00pm on November 21st.
- Schools are closed for Thanksgiving on November 22nd and 23rd.
- THANKSGIVING DAY FESTIVITIES
The Annual Morrisville Student Loan Breakfast will be held in the H.S. Cafeteria 7:00am to 10:00am. The Annual Thanksgiving Day Football Game vs. Bristol will take place at the A-Field in Morrisville at 10:30am.
- There will be a Thursday night football game tomorrow evening vs. Conwell-Egan at 7 pm.

Superintendent/Administrator's Reports

William Ferrara, Superintendent

Mr. Ferrara stated that the end of the marking period has come and gone and teachers have reported that 90% of our students in grades 7 through 12, in all topics, have shown an increase of 10% over their post tests scores. He stated that this a great contribute to our teachers and students.

He stated that there was a phone blast sent our regarding student drop offs in the mornings and the safety of our students, and he thanked the parents for their cooperation in this matter.

Mr. Ferrara stated that the makeup days for Hurricane Sandy will be discussed at the Superintendent's meeting this Friday and they will find out if the Governor is going to issue a waiver for the missed days. Mr. Ferrara stated that he did contact PDE and they will give us a waiver for Grandview only for Friday. He stated that once they come back with the information from the meeting on Friday, he will make a recommendation to Board on how this situation will be addressed.

On behalf of the School District, the administrative team, faculty, students and staff, Mr. Ferrara wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. He asked everyone to take time to reflect on what you should be thankful for in your life and to spend time with those who are important to you.

Donald Harm, Educational Advisor for Administration

Mr. Harm discussed training taking place at the elementary level. He also stated that Hurricane Sandy played havoc with the Halloween festivities at the elementary level causing them to be rescheduled. Mr. Harm stated that this week is American Education Week and discussed the events held at the elementary schools. He stated that 21st Century tutoring began this month and is being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mr. Harm stated that elementary picture makeup day will be held on November 27th.

Paul DeAngelo – Business Administrator

Mr. DeAngelo stated that moving forward the Board will be provided with an overview of our Revenues and Expenditures on a monthly basis. He stated that as of this date our Revenues are at 10.8 million and our Expenditures are at 4 million. Mr. DeAngelo stated that last year at this time our Revenues were at 11.1 million and our Expenditures were at 4.3 million.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that all of our Grant reporting has been completed and he thanked Ms. Darletta Berry-Johnson and Todd Dupell for their work with the Title I programs as well as the Cohort Grant.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that work will begin tomorrow on the playground by removing equipment from M. R. Reiter, and work will then begin at the high school once the ground dries from the recent rain.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that one of the School Board Directors requested a tour of M. R. Reiter and he asked the Board to choose some dates and times, and then Mr. May will be coordinating this tour.

Anthony Gesualdi – Director of Special Education/Pupil Services

Mr. Gesualdi discussed the Special Education Connection Newsletter and stated that this newsletter is also published on the website, along with the guidelines for Section 504, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Mr. Gesualdi discussed these guidelines. Mr. Gesualdi also discussed the fluctuation of the budget regarding special education and how it can change so quickly by giving examples of recent student incidents, both special education and regular education students in our District, and how these change in placements increased the budget by \$70,000 which we had not budgeted for. Mr. Gesualdi stated that in addition to this, on the agenda this evening, we are asking the Board to approve the addition of a Personal Care Assistant for a student that has moved into our District with a physical handicap. This PCA will increase the budget by \$15,400, which we also did not budget for. Mr. Gesualdi told the Board that he wants to give them a realistic look at what we deal with every day and how the special education budget fluctuates, mainly increasing.

⇒ **Enrollment Report**

| District Enrollments as of November 7, 2012 | | | |
|--|----|---------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Student Population</u> | | | |
| Pre-Kindergarten | 18 | | |
| Kindergarten 56 + 15 | 71 | GRANDVIEW | 340 |
| Grade 1 | 90 | INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (4-5) | <u>154</u> |
| Grade 2 | 78 | | 494 |
| Grade 3 | 83 | | |
| Grade 4 | 83 | INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (6-8) | 228 |
| Grade 5 | 73 | HIGH SCHOOL 9-12 | <u>210</u> |
| Grade 6 | 88 | | 438 |
| Grade 7 | 69 | | |
| Grade 8 | 71 | TECHNICAL SCHOOL | 39 |
| Grade 9 | 59 | HOME SCHOOLED | 16 |
| Grade 10 | 60 | CHARTER SCHOOLS | 34 |
| Grade 11 | 45 | Regular Ed | 26 |
| Grade 12 | 46 | Special Ed | 8 |
| | | OUT OF DISTRICT | 70 |
| | | Regular Ed | 18 |
| | | Special Ed | 52 |
| TOTAL ENROLLMENT | | | 1091 |

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Minutes

1. Board action is requested to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2012 Monthly Business Meeting.

INFRASTRUCTURE/FINANCIAL/HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- SEPA Equipment Grant – IU #22

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve Enernoc – Demand Response.
2. Board action is requested to approve the contract with J. Aspromonti Concrete.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Discussion (Updates on new student placements and the hiring of a PCA)

ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Confidential Secretary Agreement

Mr. Ferrara stated that he has contacted some Superintendent's in Bucks County to get some feedback regarding whether their Personal Assistant or Administrative Assistant is in the Act 93 Group. The recommendation will be brought to the Board to have this position come out of Act 93 due to confidentiality of the correspondence that comes out of the Superintendent's office and the Business office. Mr. Ferrara stated that they will also take the old description of this position and update it to match the responsibilities now being performed by the person in this position. He stated that this information will be in the Friday packet prior to the next meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES (continued)

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve Child Rearing Leave for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year.
2. Board action is requested to approve tuition reimbursements.
3. Board action is requested to rescind a motion.
4. Board action is requested to approve the following appointments:
 - a) Paraprofessional (Secondary)
 - b) AESOP Substitutes
 - c) 21st Century Hires
 - d) Personal Care Assistant (Elementary)

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Food Service RFP – Release and Schedule
- Insurance Claim due to Hurricane Sandy

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve excess items for October and November.
2. Board action is requested to approve the Treasurer's Report.
3. Board action is requested to approve the Investment Report.
4. Board action is requested to approve Payment of Bills.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve a waiver to a Due Process (Expulsion) Hearing for Student X and Student Y.

POLICY COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board action is requested to approve the 1st Reading of Policy #246, Administrative Regulation Change.

LIAISON REPORTS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Ms. Kartal
Ms. Kartal stated that the next meeting will be held after the holidays.
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mr. Parker
Mr. Parker stated that their meeting will be held next week.
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mr. Buckman
Mr. Buckman stated that he had nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Alio Intelligence Update
- Healthcare and IU Consortium – April Deadline for seat @ IU
- MESPA - ERIP

NEW BUSINESS

Action Items

1. Board action is requested to approve the Little League Baseball Proposal.

PUBLIC SESSION

Valerie Pursell – 411 Clymer Avenue

Ms. Pursell asked for an update on what is going on with the Manor Park School. She also asked about the traffic pattern at Grandview Elementary. She stated that normally during school hours it had been a one way street and during the past few days the signs were not up and it has been a two way and she almost had a head on collision with another vehicle.

Mr. Miller asked if there were any cones or one way signs on Grandview Avenue and Ms. Pursell stated that they have not been there for a few days.

Ms. Kartal stated that this is a big concern and asked Ms. Pursell what time she arrived at Grandview this morning. Ms. Pursell stated that she arrived there between 8:23 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Miller thanked Ms. Pursell for bringing this to the Board's attention.

Mr. Stoneburner stated that they looked at Manor Park last spring to check out the structure, but they have come to no conclusions on what they want to do with the school. He stated that they are expecting a report any day regarding M. R. Reiter and what can or could possibly be done with the school and that Manor Park has been put on the backburner because that is our ace in the hole if we need down the road some pressure relief if our student population grows considerably over the next couple of years. Mr. Stoneburner stated that they want to keep it in its current condition as opposed to it degrading, but we don't have the money to put into it what would need to be put into it to upgrade it and bring it up to standards. Mr. Stoneburner stated that Manor Park needs to be reconditioned if it were going to be used again, but not to the extent that M. R. Reiter needs to be reconditioned. Mr. Stoneburner asked Ms. Pursell if she had a specific question about Manor Park, and she stated that we have a number of students who live in that area that we currently bus to Grandview and she was trying to figure out if it would be more cost effective to have these students attend Manor Park rather than be bussed. Mr. Stoneburner stated that it is far more cost effective for us to keep Grandview and the high school fully occupied than to bring on another building if we don't seriously need the space, which right now we don't. Ms. Pursell stated that she has noticed that many new families are moving into the Manor Park area with younger children and Mr. Stoneburner stated that he and Mr. Miller noticed this during the last two campaign noticed this also. For this reason, Mr. Stoneburner stated that several of the committees are looking at the population numbers in the future and what that is going to mean to the School District as a whole.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DeWilde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

John DeWilde, President

Wanda Kartal, Secretary