

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Work Session–Wednesday, September 18, 2013
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 18, 2013, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Miller asked everyone to pause for a moment of silence for the recent passing of one of our faculty members, Cindy Garritt, who passed away this past Monday. He stated that our thoughts, hearts and prayers go out to her family, friends and colleagues. Mr. Ferrara stated that Morrisville has lost a great educator, and a great person that many of her colleagues used to call The Rock because during tough times they would go to see Ms. Garritt. She displayed enough courage in those situations to be open and honest with people and share what she thought they needed to do to make the situation better. Ms. Garritt fought the disease that took her away from us with the same tenacity. Mr. Ferrara stated that he shared with all of the faculty members that although he had several opportunities to work with Cindy, he never had the privilege of being able to call her a friend. For those who had that opportunity and privilege of having Cindy as a friend, he asked them to cherish the memories they have. Mr. Ferrara stated that due to the number of staff that will be attending Ms. Garritt's funeral services tomorrow, it has determined that the District will be closed. This decision was made based on not being able to provide a safe environment and quality education to our students with the number of employees that will be absent. Mr. Ferrara apologized for any inconvenience this may cause to our students and families.

Mr. Jones spoke on behalf of the MEA and thanked the MEA, School Board, administration and the parents for the understanding and cooperation in this matter. He stated that Ms. Garritt was an important part of the Morrisville community, and it is very important to the staff to be able to attend the services and they are very appreciative.

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

ROLL CALL

The following members were present on roll call:

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

Member(s) absent:

Mr. Worob

Mr. Stout stated that Mr. Worob is on vacation.

Quorum Present:

Also attending this evening's meeting was Mr. William Ferrara, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Felicity Hanks, Esq., Solicitor; media, MEA representatives and members of the community.

Mr. Miller stated that several Executive Sessions have been held as follows:

August 28, 2013 to discuss personnel

September 3, 2013 to discuss regarding litigation

September 16, 2013 to discuss personnel

Student Spotlight

To be determined by next week's Business meeting.

Student Representatives to the Board

Will be done at next week's Business meeting.

Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation – MOEF – Mr. Dingle

Mr. Dingle reported on the following:

- The first meeting of this school year was held earlier this evening
- The EITC Grant was approved
- Educational Project Funding, specifically the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce and the Summer Youth Leadership Program
- MOEF is looking to fill some available seats for any interested community members

PTO Report – Mr. Dingle

Mr. Dingle reported on the following:

- Last week the PTO had their Meet and Greet with the parents and it was well attended
- PTO will be involved in the Back to School activities with a table set up with information, sign up sheets, etc.
- Market Day pick up will be on the 20th
- The Book Fair for Grandview will be held on the 30th of this month

Mr. Miller suggested that the last day to order for Market Day should be added to the calendar.

Joint Borough Council/School Board Report – Ms. Kartal

Please see Attachment A to these minutes for the Joint Borough Council/School Board Report given by Ms. Kartal.

Ms. Kartal reminded everyone that these meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI at the Morrisville High School. These meetings are immediately followed by a Safety Grant Meeting, which will be ending shortly.

Public Relations/Communications Report – Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller discussed the following:

- Looking into being part of a larger nationwide newsletter to be done by Mr. Kelman, Advisor.
- Updating links on the Morrisville website

The following areas will be covered at the Business Meeting:

Superintendent/Administrator's Reports

Enrollment Report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION ITEMS:

- May 15, 2013 Monthly Agenda Meeting
- May 22, 2013 Monthly Business Meeting
- June 19, 2013 Monthly Agenda Meeting

PUBLIC SESSION #1 (Agenda Items Only)

There were no speakers for Public Session #1.

INFRASTRUCTURE

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Facilities Committee – Mr. Stoneburner

Please see Attachment B to these minutes for the Facilities Committee Report given by Mr. Stoneburner.

The Board members discussed what the property at M. R. Reiter could be used for in the future (CS1).

Mr. Buckman stated that he is impressed with the new weekly maintenance report. He stated that this information is very important and useful to the Board members.

At next week's Board meeting Mr. Stoneburner stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Infrastructure Section:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval, Boiler Bid (Bid Opening September 20th).

Mr. DeAngelo stated that the Board members will receive a copy of the bid results from each contractor in their Friday packets.

HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Human Resource Committee – Mr. DeWilde

Mr. DeWilde reported on the following:

- Services offered by the IU to see if there is any opportunity to enhance what is offered to our school district employees.

At next week's Board meeting Mr. DeWilde stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Human Resource Section:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval, Appointments
 - a. 21st Century Hires
 - b. AESOP Substitutes
 - c. Personal Care Assistant
 - d. Extra-Curricular positions (Winter Coaches)
 - e. Paraprofessionals
 - f. Long-Term Substitute
2. Approval, Tuition Reimbursements
3. Approval, Long-term Substitute for a leave that was approved in August

BUSINESS OPERATIONS/FINANCE COMMITTEE
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Finance Committee – Mr. Dingle

Mr. Dingle stated that the Finance Committee normally meets on the Tuesday prior to the Agenda Meetings, but there was a conflict this Tuesday with Back to School Night. The meeting has been rescheduled for September 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI , and Mr. Dingle will have a report next week.

At next week's Board meeting Mr. Dingle stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Business Operations/Finance Section:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval, Budget Calendar
2. Approval, Treasurer's Report
3. Approval, Investment Report
4. Approval, Payment of Bills

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Education Committee – Mr. Miller

Please see Attachment C to these minutes for the Education Committee Report given by Mr. Miller.

ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.

POLICY COMMITTEE
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS:

At next week's Board meeting Mr. Miller stated that the following items will be on the agenda under the Policy Section:

1. Approval, First Reading of Policy #103.1 – Non-Discrimination in School and Classroom Practices (Qualified students with disabilities).

LIAISON REPORTS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a. Bucks County Technical School – Ms. Kartal

This report will be given at next week's Business Meeting since the meeting has not been held yet.

b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mr. DeWilde

Mr. DeWilde reported on the following which was discussed at the last meeting:

- New teacher observation procedure
- Personnel action
- Services that the IU provides by District (Mr. DeWilde will provide a copy of this listing for the Board members in the Friday packet)
- Various services offered by the IU that may be available to our district employees and students

Mr. Ferrara discussed our current procedures for observing teachers and the teacher evaluation process.

c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mr. Buckman

Mr. Buckman discussed the Legislative Report dated September 6, 2013. Please see Attachment D to these minutes.

Mr. Ferrara discussed and explained the new federal accountability system as mentioned in the Legislative Report and how it will affect our district.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ferrara asked that the following items be added to the agenda for next week's Business meeting under Education:

1. Approval, New School Calendar with September 19th being designated as a day that schools were closed, and April 17, 2014 being designated as schools being in session. This is due to the schools being closed tomorrow for the services for Ms. Garritt.
2. Approval, Agreement with Student regarding a Special Education Case that was begun last year by Mr. Gesualdi. Mr. Ferrara is recommending a short Executive Session after tonight's meeting to answer any questions that the Board members may have about this case.

Mr. Buckman stated that today he had the pleasure of speaking to a custodial grandparent who has nothing but praise for our school district. The student that he brought here came from Pennsbury School District and stated that while in our district he has made great improvements. He also felt that the three Dean system is a great improvement, because then Mr. DuPell can stay in the Intermediate School and the Elementary School can have someone there all the time. Mr. Buckman stated that it was very uplifting to hear how well his grandchild has done in our system.

Mr. Miller discussed the purchase of flowers for landscaping at Grandview as mentioned in Mr. Stoneburner's Facility Committee report. The Board decided to cap the cost of the flowers not to exceed \$50 which can be taken out of the facilities budget area.

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to have an RFP developed for a Real Estate Broker to market the M. R. Reiter property. It was decided that a motion will be added to next week's agenda under Facilities for approval of the development of the RFP .

PUBLIC SESSION #2

There were no speakers for Public Session #2.

Mr. Miller reminded the Board members that following tonight's Agenda Meeting there will be brief Executive Session in regards to litigation.

Mr. Stout asked if the Flea Market was still taking place this Saturday in the parking lot of the High School. Mr. Miller stated that it has been moved to the Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dingle, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Damon Miller, President

Wanda Kartal, Secretary