

Minutes of the Board of School Directors
November 19, 2008

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

The regular monthly meeting of the Morrisville Board of School Directors was held in the LGI located in the Morrisville Middle/Senior High School, 550 West Palmer Street, Morrisville, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. William Hellmann, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm with the following members present on roll call:

In attendance: Mr. Radosti; Mrs. Mihok; Mrs. Reithmeyer; Mr. Kemp; Mr. Hellmann; Mr. Buckman; Mrs. Worob; Mrs. Heater and Mr. Farrell.

Quorum Present.

Also attending this evening's meeting was Dr. Elizabeth Yonson, Superintendent; Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator; Mr. Tony Gesualdi, Supervisor of Special Education; Mr. William Ferrara, Secondary Principal; Ms. Laurie Ruffing, Acting Elementary Principal; Michael Fitzpatrick, Esq., Solicitor; MEA representation, and media.

Mr. Hellmann introduced our new Business Administrator, Mr. Paul DeAngelo.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Representative to the Board

- Students gave two presentations at the fall conference of the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium (attended by member school districts from PA, NJ, and DE). The high school students spoke to the teachers and administrators regarding their lives and how Morrisville has made a difference in their lives. Mr. Kelman was instrumental in having Morrisville selected as one of three schools invited to present at this conference.
- Several middle school students attended the Middle School Leadership Academy sponsored by the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium. This is a bi-annual event enabling students to hear motivational speakers address the need to begin their career paths by doing well in school.
- Several high school students will be attending a similar event on December 5, 2008.
- Two Interact students attended a day at the United Nations. The trip was sponsored by the Morrisville Rotary Club.
- Fall sports (with the exception of football) wrapped up their seasons.
- Basketball and bowling began practice on Monday
- The senior and junior class recently sponsored a "Flower for Friends" fundraising activity
- The junior class recently sponsored an after school bake sale
- Report cards were sent home today. There will also be a copy of the report card mailed to parents and guardians.
- Parent/Guardian conferences will be held at the high school on Tuesday, November 25, 2008. Parents/Guardians can contact the teacher via e-mail or by telephoning the school to arrange a conference. Teachers will not meet with parents/guardians unless they have scheduled a conference.
- Students will have a half-day of school on Tuesday, November 25, 2008. School will begin at the regular time and dismissal will be at 11 am.
- There will be no school November 26th, 27th, 28th, and December 1st (Professional Development Day)

- Thanksgiving Activities:
 - Students will be decorating the lobbies and hallway near the gymnasium
 - Community Pep Rally will be held on November 26th in the gymnasium. The Pep Rally will begin at 6 pm.
(There will be no Community Dance)
 - There will be a Pancake Breakfast on November 27th held in the cafeteria. Pancakes will be served beginning at 7 am.
 - The football game against Bristol will begin at 10:30 at the A Field.

1. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

⇒ Delaware Valley Minority Consortium. I have received many complements from members of the community about the students of Morrisville. A recent video presentation at the consortium will be broadcast on our cable station.

Today I attended Jennifer James, cultural anthropologist’s workshop. Mrs. Mihok was also in attendance. This presentation was very thought provoking and will be shared with our staff.

⇒ Acknowledgement of Volunteers for Re-registration Process

Dr. Yonson presented certificates of appreciation to Mrs. Buckman and Ms. Hughes for their volunteer efforts during the re-registration process. Additionally, on behalf of the School Board, Mrs. Mihok and Mrs. Worob presented them with appreciation plaques.

⇒ Enrollment Report

District Enrollments as of November, 2008

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Elementary Students..... | 440 |
| Secondary 6-12..... | 431 |
| Technical School..... | 54 |
| Home Schooled | 17 |
| Out-of-District Placements..... | 135 |
| Total | 1041 |

(NA students in out-of-district placements are housed in our district and are included only once in the

total)

New Enrollments 9

Withdraws.....7

⇒ This week in our Schools

Elementary Report

- Oct. 20th 5th grade to Constitution Center
- Pre-K and K visited Snipes Pumpkin Patch
- Staff Day: Teachers will be updated on I.S.T. changes, compass learning and teacher pages.
- Nov. 10 - 14 Book Fair at M.R.R.
- Nov. 12 E.S.L./Title I Parent night at M.R.R.
- Nov. 18 - 19 Parents and school board members are encouraged to visit the schools during American Education Week

Secondary Report

- The middle-senior high school students took part in Kids Voting on November 3rd during school hours. The winner of the Kids Voting election for the middle/senior high school students was Barack Obama.
- Staff Development for the faculty was held on November 4th and November 10th in the afternoon. Various technology workshops were held for the staff development meetings.
- Exams were held on November 7th and November 10th.
- The Parent Advisory Meeting was held on November 11th. Brian Black from A Woman’s Place was the guest speaker. Parent conferences were also discussed.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors
November 19, 2008

- American Education Week was held November 16th to November 22nd. Parents/Guardians were invited to “Invite Parents to School Day” on November 18th.
- Picture retake day will be held on November 17th for all students/faculty that did not have their pictures or ID’s taken.
- Report cards will be distributed on November 19th.
- Parent/guardian conferences will be conducted on 11-25-08. The conferences can be scheduled between 12 noon and 7:30 pm. There will be no drop ins and parents/guardians must have an appointment.
- Schools are closed for Thanksgiving on November 26th, 27th and 28th. The staff
- There will be a Community Pep Rally held in the Morrisville High School gym at 6:00pm on November 26th.
- 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 at 10:30am.
- The Color Guard is selling football mum corsages. (If interested - contact the front office of high school – orders must be received by November 19th. The cost is \$7.00. They can be picked up at the Community Pep Rally or the MSL Breakfast)
- The Student of the Month Breakfast will be held on November 25th in the cafeteria at 7:20am.

PUBLIC SESSION – Agenda Related Items

Mark Coassolo, 229 Melvin South

5013c educational foundation – renamed Morrisville Opportunity Education Foundation. The foundation has met several times. Mr. Coassolo advised that the foundation is looking for individuals to serve on the board (9-17 people) of the foundation. The next meeting will be held on December 3 at 3:30 pm in the G-Hall Conference Room.

Eric Christensen, 105 W. Maple Ave.

Mr. Christensen reported on an update of the lighting survey. He did not have a final report at this time; however, advised that the expected cost would be \$292,700 with a 10% contingency of \$29,270. He expects a 40% energy savings + maintenance and material savings.

Mrs. Heater confirmed that this lighting project is for every existing fixture currently in the HS. It does not take into consideration Mr. Hellmann’s plan that will be available in the beginning of the year; it does not consider movement of children or closing of schools or ADA compliance? Mrs. Heater suggested considering skylights in the building to save on lighting. She will send Mr. Christensen information on energy efficient lighting so that he may review it.

Damon Miller, 249 W. Franklin

Not in favor of dress code policy

Concerned about monies already spent on special education services

Ron Stout, 129 S. Delmorr

Repair and upgrade instead of renovate

Minutes of the Board of School Directors
November 19, 2008
School and town should work together for good of district

Mrs. Reithmeyer requested that all speakers be held to the same standard.

ACTION ITEMS:

2.1. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2008 monthly business meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 2 abstentions. Members abstaining were Mrs. Heater and Mrs. Worob.

Referring to page f of the minutes, second paragraph from the bottom, Mrs. Mihok stated that since she made that statement she has done a lot more research on black lines. Now she knows that this line does not have to be replaced even though it is 50 years old because this line never got any oxygen in it. It's impossible for water to rust in these pipes without oxygen. I understand that this is something that will be checked and not automatically replaced. This may be a cost savings to the district.

2.2. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2008 special meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 2 abstentions. Members abstaining were Mrs. Heater and Mrs. Worob.

2.3. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 agenda meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 6 ayes; 3 abstentions. Members abstaining were Mrs. Heater, Mrs. Mihok and Mr. Kemp.

The Board adjourned for Executive Session to discuss real estate, personnel and litigation.

**3. HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE Mrs. Robin Reithmeyer,
Chairperson**

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS

3.1. Approval, Leaves of Absence

The Board approved a motion to approve the leave of absence for the individuals listed below:

- 3.1.a. Extend child rearing leave for Jessica Polistina to include the second semester of 2008-09 school year
- 3.1.b. Extend child rearing leave for Michelle McCann to include the second semester of 2008-09 school year
- 3.1.c. Sabbatical leave for Wendy Craig – January 5, 2009 through June 18, 2009.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Kemp; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 9 ayes.

3.1.1. Approval, Acceptance of Resignation

The Board approved a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Timothy McCarthy from the position of elementary teacher, effective November 18, 2008.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Kemp; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 9 ayes.

3.2. Approval, Appointments

3.2.a. The Board approved a motion to appoint Kimberly Gallagher as long term substitute special education teacher for Jessica Polistina, effective December 1, 2008 until the leave affecting this position terminates (expected June 2008). Compensation will be in accordance with district substitute policy for the first 15 consecutive days. On the 16th consecutive day placement on the salary schedule on Bachelor level, step OA at \$42,661.
Pending completion of employment documents

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Kemp; passed by a voice vote of 8 ayes; 1 nay. Member voting nay was Mrs. Mihok.

3.2.b. The Board approved a motion to appoint Christina Kremer LPN as 2-hour aide to school nurse, effective upon completion of employment documents. Compensation for this position will be in accordance with group II salary and benefits at \$20.10/hour. (replaces Ms. Buschmann).

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a voice vote of 9 ayes.

3.2.c. The Board approved a motion to appoint Lisa Colon to the extra-curricular position of junior varsity girls' basketball coach for 2008-2009. Compensation for this position in accordance with collective bargaining agreement will be \$2,175. (replaces Ms. Blisko)

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a voice vote of 9 ayes.

3.3.d. Approval, Appointment of Speech and Language Therapist

The Board approved a motion to approve the appointment of Donna Walsh to the speech and language therapist position to work with a student with special needs, not to exceed a total of two (2) hours per week effective for the 2008-2010 school year. This position is requested to implement the services listed in a special needs child's IEP and will be paid for through IDEA funds..... Donna Walsh: \$70/hour

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Kemp; passed by a voice vote of 9 ayes.

Mr. Gesualdi explained that we have a budget with IDEA funds based on the December 1 count of the previous year. Funds may be spent on special education related items.

3.3.e. Approval, Appointment of Behavioral Consultant/ Specialist

The Board approved a motion to approve the appointment of Janice Melchiondo to the behavior consultant/ Kids Space specialist position at \$75/hour to work with a student with special needs, not to exceed a total of six (6) hours per month effective for the 2008-2010 school year. This position is requested to implement the services listed in a special needs child's IEP and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Kemp; passed by a voice vote of 9 ayes.

3.3.f. Approval, Appointment to Behavioral Support Positions

The Board approved a motion to approve the employment of a behavioral specialist to work one-on-one with a special needs student, not to exceed a combined total of 30 hours per week effective the 2008-2010 school year. These positions are requested to implement the services listed in a special needs child's IEP and will be paid for through IDEA funds Elizabeth Anne Cipriano at \$30/hour.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Kemp; passed by a voice vote of 9 ayes.

3.3.g. The Board approved a motion to hire of per diem substitutes, as needed, during the 2008-2009 school year. Compensation will be in accordance with district policy #429 (\$94/\$100 per day).

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Elizabeth Ashton | Lorie Becker | Maureen Belinski |
| Mark Blasko | Veronica Hicks | Alfred Miller |
| Karyn Miller | Deborah Perisho | Katherine Scheck |
| Gargi Seshadri | Francine Weiner | Jane Leppo |
| Jane Konefsky | John Hood | Tracy Humbert |

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a voice vote of 9 ayes.

4. BUSINESS OPERATIONS Bill Hellmann, Chairperson

The Finance Committee presents the following items for consideration.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Contracts approved by the Board are available for viewing in the Business Office.

ACTION ITEMS:

4.1. Award of Electrical Bid

The Board approved a motion to award the bid for electrical work to MJF Electrical Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$220,800.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 2 nays. Members voting nay were Mrs. Heater and Mrs. Reithmeyer.

4.1.1. Submission of Non-Reimbursable PDE-3074 Application at Morrisville High School

The Board approved a motion that the Board of School Directors approves the submission of Non-Reimbursable PDE-3074 Application forms to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the following project: **Electrical Bid – Morrisville High School**

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a voice vote of 8 ayes; 1 nay. Member voting nay was Mrs. Reithmeyer.

Mr. DeAngelo advised this is a state requirement for any non-reimbursable projects over \$10,000. This is too small of a project to submit because of the 20-year rule which would tie up reimbursement money for any projects a future board might entertain.

4.2. Approval, Disposal of Excess Items

The Board approved a motion to approve the disposal of the excess items as presented by the Administration as listed below.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 9 ayes.

Printer Supplies

| <u>Qty.</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 4 | Xerox Drum Cartridges | HS, G-6 |

The Xerox cartridges are outdated and no longer used. They can be used on HP printers with the following model numbers: 5009, 5009 R/E, 5307, 5308, 5309, 5310.

4.3. Appointment of Owner’s Representation for Construction Work

The Board PRESENTED a motion to appoint Angelo Rago as owner’s representation for the construction work specified by Vitetta. Compensation will be \$110/hour (estimated at \$4,800/month).

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman.

After conferring with Mr. DeAngelo and Mr. Lastichen, Dr. Yonson asked the board if we need an owner’s rep because of the size of the project and in an effort to save the district money.

Mr. Hellmann would like to have a second set of eyes on the project. He stated that after just looking at the contract Mr. Rago has saved us a potential \$60,000.

Mr. Fitzpatrick advised that Mr. Rago would provide construction oversight to ensure that what is in the bid specifications actually ends up in the building.

The Board discussed the inclusion of the electrical work in this proposed contract. It was decided that this motion would be amended to include the electrical work.

The Board approved a motion to AMEND this motion so that Mr. Rago has a second set of eyes on the electrical work. Also to appoint Angelo Rago as owner’s representation for the construction work specified by Vitetta. Compensation will be \$110/hour (estimated at \$4,800/month).

Motion to amend moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 2 nays; Members voting nay were Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Reithmeyer.

4.4. Payment of Bills

The Board approved a motion to approve payment of bills, as listed, subject to final audit by the Business Administrator in the amount of:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Miscellaneous Disbursement: (10/22/08 – 11/12/08) | \$115,602.35 |
| Athletic Fund (10/21/08 – 11/18/08) | 1,949.00 |
| Cafeteria Fund: (October) | 47,840.10 |
| Accounts Payable (November 2008) | 353,593.54 |
| Capital Projects (October 2008) | 21,227.80 |
| Capital Reserve | -0- |
| Procurement Cards (Oct. 2008) | 4,772.42 |
| Payroll & Benefits (Oct. 2008) | <u>789,757.93</u> |
| TOTAL BILLS | \$1,334,743.14 |

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a voice vote of 8 ayes; 1 nay. Member abstaining was Mrs. Heater.

4.5. Approval, Transfer of Accounts

The Board approved a motion to transfer \$100,000 from the District’s Pligit account to the Wachovia account.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors
November 19, 2008

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a voice vote of 9 ayes.

This money is being transferred based on the current position of Wachovia Bank.

4.6. Approval, 2009 Calendar of Agenda and Business Meetings of Board of Directors

The Board PRESENTED a motion appoint to approve the 2009 Calendar for meetings of the Board Directors as shown on page 13 of this agenda.

Dr. Yonson suggested we reconsider this schedule to give consideration to the scheduling of budget meetings. She also suggested we have committee meetings as a whole. This change would be a time saver for board members. Therefore,

The Board TABLED this motion. Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 9 ayes.

5. POLICY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Worob

Mrs. Worob reported that a policy committee meeting was held. She informed that the district is mandated by law to have a Right to Know Officer appointed by January 1, 2009.

Mr. Buckman stated that he had concerns about purchasing procedures, but has since discussed this with Mr. DeAngelo and is comfortable with Mr. DeAngelo's knowledge on this matter. He suggested the Business Manager look into options for purchasing supplies separate from the IU.

5.1. Approval, Uniform Dress Code Policy

The Board approved a motion to approve the creation of a uniform dress code policy for students.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a voice vote of 8 ayes; 1 nay. Member voting nay was Mr. Kemp.

Mrs. Worob noted that uniform dress has been considered several times in the past with support of the Administration.

Dr. Yonson advised that in 2007-08 wearing of uniform dress was optional. About 50% of the elementary students started the year in uniform; unfortunately, the numbers dwindled down as the year progressed. Dr. Yonson will confer with Mr. Davis at Bristol Borough to discuss what is contained in their policy. In Bristol Township the uniform dress is widespread.

Mr. Farrell's concern is that the district be stringent with the dress code. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested including caveats in the policy to address students with religious beliefs contradicting the policy or students with financial stressors.

Mrs. Mihok stated that uniforms would remove cliques; promote pride in school; eliminate distractions and wearing of gang clothing. She would like to form a committee to explore the use of uniform dress in the district and present their findings to the board for consideration.

6. LIAISON REPORTS

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Mr. Buckman
The Tech School held a successful 50th anniversary open house. If Mr. Buckman is chosen as representative next year he will be serving on the budget committee. Tech will be working toward a lean budget next year. Mr. Buckman suggested that Mr. DeAngelo attend future meetings which will be held to review the funding formula.
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mrs. Mihok
Mrs. Mihok attended the IU meeting last evening. She advised that #2 fuel oil bids would be opened today and suggested Mr. Lastichen share this information with Mr. Hellmann.
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mrs. Worob
Mrs. Worob advised that her recent absence from board meetings was due to medical issues. On the state level, Mrs. Worob informed that Catherine Baker Knoll recently passed away as well as Senator Rhodes who advocated for education. Mr. Stephen Stetler was recently appointed Revenue Secretary.

From the Legislative report of November 13, Mrs. Worob advised that “Standards for courses, high school graduation requirements and state exit/course exams rarely translate into readiness to succeed beyond high school. And while every state has adopted standards for what students should know and be able to do, the process by which standards are developed frequently encourages breadth over depth and rigor. As a result, American education is a mile wide and an inch deep, covering far more material than teachers can ever hope to deliver, while giving students only a shallow understanding of complex topics. Teachers and students alike are overwhelmed by standards that are sometimes reasonable but oftentimes excessive. Under such circumstances for students and teachers, we should not be surprised that many students are turned off and tuned out.”

7. OLD BUSINESS

- *Mrs. Reithmeyer requested information on the research on regional economics. Mr. Fitzpatrick advised that Mr. Hellmann and he had discussions with several school districts in the areas related to their census and number of students in the 70s and 80s versus today’s population. Mr. Hellmann stated he has nothing to report. He is spending all his time on finances of the district.*
- *Mrs. Reithmeyer requested a copy of the Vitetta letter referenced in an email earlier this month. Mr. Hellmann stated he would supply her with a copy.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC SESSION – Non-Agenda Items

Ron Stout, 129 S. Delmorr Ave.

- Dress code
- Plan Con Requirements
- Sony Playstations

Kathryn Panzitta, 401 Hillcrest

- Dress code
- Mr. Stout’s comments
- Welcome Mr. DeAngelo
- Budget meeting schedule

Gayle Haug, 260 Harper

- Dress Code
- Rumors about classes moving

Damon Miller, 249 W. Franklin

- Dress Code
- Rumors about housing students
- Nov. 5 facility meeting
- Come up with a plan

Future Meetings and Items of Interest

Minutes of the Board of School Directors
November 19, 2008

November 27 & 28 School closed in observance of Thanksgiving
Monday, December 1, 2008..... 7:30 pm – Reorganization of the Board
Wednesday, December 3, 2008 6:30 pm – Infrastructure/Facilities Committee
..... 7:00 pm -- Finance Committee
Wednesday, December 10, 2008 6:30 pm – Policy Committee
..... 7:30 pm – Monthly Agenda Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2008 6:30 pm – Education Committee
..... 7:00 pm – Human Resources/Negotiations Committee
..... 7:30 pm – Monthly Business Meeting

For Community and District Information
Visit our community website www.mv.org
and Channel 28 on your Local Cable

9. Adjournment

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm.

William R. Hellmann, President

Marlys Mihok

Transcribed by Jeanne Corrigan