

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, January 28, 2008, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. William Hellmann, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the following members present on roll call:

In attendance: Mrs. Mihok; Mrs. Reithmeyer; Mr. Kemp; Mr. Hellmann; Mr. Buckman (arrived a few minutes late); Mrs. Worob; Mrs. Heater, Mrs. Worob, and Mr. Farrell.

Absent: Mr. Kemp

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.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Representative to the Board

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- ⇒ School Director Recognition Month
Dr. Yonson read a proclamation recognizing School Directors and distributed certificates to each board member.
- ⇒ Mr. DeAngelo presented a visual state of the district financial report. This information will be posted at www.mv.org.
- ⇒ Update on the Morrisville Opportunity Foundation – Mr. Coassolo reported that the committee met on 1/21. Still shy of a few board members. Chose LOGO for foundation. Next meeting February 4 at 3:30.
- ⇒ Enrollment Report (January figures are not available)
- ⇒ Report from Mr. Bill Corfield, Vitetta Engineering – replacement of boilers, air handlers, windows, piping, as necessary.
- ⇒ This week in our Schools

District Enrollments as of December 12, 2008 (January figures are not available)

Elementary Students	434
Secondary 6-12	421
Technical School.....	53
Home Schooled.....	18
Out-of-District Placements	131
Total	1035
(NA students in out-of-district placements are housed in our district and are included only once in the total)	
New Enrollments.....	3
Withdraws.....	17

Elementary Report

- Dec. 16th - Grandview Elementary had their Winter Chorus Concert at the Middle/High School
- Dec. 24th - Jan. 4th - District winter break
- Jan. 6th - Grade 3 - 5 teachers worked with Lindsey Sides from Bucks Co. IU on Science Curriculum
- Jan. 16th - PTO Elementary Family Fun Night in the Middle/High School Gymnasium
- Jan. 21st & 22nd - Joe Mills worked with district staff on Math Curriculum and visited classrooms
- Jan. 29th & 30th - Teacher only days
- Dec. 22nd - Men of Harmony sang songs for Kindergarten and grades 3 - 5 at GV Elementary School.

Secondary Report

- The Parent Advisory meeting was held on January 13th.
- 4Sight testing was held during the week of January 12th.
- The FBLA members went to the regional competition at BCCC. There were three students who qualified for States. The FBLA State Competition to be held in the end of March.
- A Coaches vs. Cancer Day was held on January 9th. The faculty and staff donated over \$ 225.00 which along with the proceeds from the January 9th boy's basketball game will be donated to the Coaches vs. Day. All Bicentennial League members are participating in this project.
- There was no school on January 19th, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Exams will be held on January 27th and 28th.
- There will be staff development meetings on January 29 and 30th.
- Student of the Month Breakfast will be held on January 27th at 7:20am in the high school cafeteria.

Mr. Fitzpatrick reminded the public that there will be two rounds of public comment. The first addresses the agenda, the second addressing other items. Comments should be presented respectfully in accordance with policies 901, 902, and 903.

PUBLIC SESSION – Agenda Related Items

Ann Perry, 43 Fairview

Summary of your year in office: taxpayers 1st, children a distant 2nd.

We have continuously asked for your plan. BCCT reports Mr. Fitzpatrick is talking to Pennsbury – there's a difference between a wish and a plan.

These disruptions have impacted our children the most. Space is inadequate. Traffic worries.

Damon Miller, 249 W. Franklin

What types of windows are planned? What is the budget for the windows?

Capping 4.1 increase does not need to be done. Concerned about locking it in. Do not feel you have the best interest of students in mind.

Board needs to be open so community can come together. Reading about it in the paper is unfair.

Kathy Panzitta, 401 Hillcrest

These statements are my own opinion. Ron Stout delivered Mrs. Mihok's letter to Borough Council on 1/20. It began as a personal statement but totally related to a recent school board meeting. A copy of this letter was given to the Board and solicitor this evening. Marlys's letter stated she was subjected to over 3 hours of indignant inappropriate remarks from me. At no time did the meeting stop because of my supposed inappropriate behavior. The letter further stated I

prompted a school board member on what to say – let me state clearly -- I have no control over the thoughts or actions of any person. This slanderous, personal attack is geared to reflect the attention from the real issues; namely, the business of the Morrisville School Board, the education of our students and the future of the public education in Morrisville Borough. It is my right as a citizen to attend and speak at board meetings. I have a personal and financial interest and I will continue to attend committee meetings as I have done since 2005.

How can this board put on the agenda to vote on a budget cap without having any public discussions?

How will the board make up the revenues generated from the defeasance of the bond used in last year's budget without added tax increase this year?

Will the board have the asbestos report corrected to reflect PA laws and not NJ?

Jon Perry, 43 Fairview Ave.

When will Vitetta report for renovations at HS be available? What is the budget estimate for these renovations? Vitetta representative should have been here to answer public's questions. Mr. Perry stated that Mrs. Mihok lied last year about the 4.1% increase – he was removed from the meeting at this time.

ACTION ITEMS:

2.1. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2008 special meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

2.2. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2008 monthly business meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

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

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Approval, Appointments

3.1a. The Board approved a motion to approve the reassignment of Corey Latsch as a one-on-one instructional aide, effective January 29, 2009 for approximately one month. Compensation in accordance with group II salary and benefits at \$12.12/hour.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.1.b. The Board approved a motion to appoint Kelly Marlin as long term substitute reading teacher effective February 5, 2009 for approximately 6 weeks or until the leave affecting this position terminates. 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. (replaces Mrs. Leedom).

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.1.c. The Board approved a motion to appoint Corey Latsch as long term substitute special education teacher effective February 5, 2009 for approximately 6 weeks or until the leave affecting this position terminates. 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. (replaces Mrs. Connell).

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.1.d. The Board approved a motion to appoint the following extra-curricular coaches:

Ivan Colon.....Middle School boys' basketball coach..... \$1,950
Anthony GencarelliJV boys' basketball coach..... \$2,325

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Addition to agenda

3.1.e. The Board approved a motion to appoint Amy Keeling to the position of full time secondary ESL teacher. Compensation on the B level, step OA = \$42,661. Continuation of this appointment for 2009-2010 is contingent upon Ms. Keeling receiving her English certification, effective approximately February 18, 2009 (replaces Mrs. Guidos).

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mr. Hellmann; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.2. Approval, Tuition Reimbursements

The Board approved a motion to approve payment of tuition reimbursement to the individuals as listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>College/School</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Christin Sauers	Differentiated Instruction	Gratz Univ.	3	\$500
Jessica Bateman	Kinesthetic Classroom	Gratz Univ.	3	\$500
Kristin Baranoski	Masters Internship	Temple Univ.	3	\$500
Bethany Elliott	Teaching Presidential Elections	Arcadia Univ.	3	\$500

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.3. Approval, Acceptance of Resignation

The Board approved a motion to accept the resignation of Marlene Guidos, secondary ESL teacher, effective February 15, 2009.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3.4. Approval, Election/Appointment of Representative to BCIU#22 Board of Directors

The Board approved a motion to elect/appoint Mrs. Marlys Mihok as representative to the BCIU#22 Board of Directors. Term of office is July 1, 2009 until June 30, 2012.

Moved by Mrs. Worob, seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

3. EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS – Joe Kemp, Chairperson

4.1. Approval of Revision to 2008-2009 School Calendar

The Board approved a motion to approve a revision to the 2008-2009 school calendar:
May 19, 2009, Election Day – No school for elementary students ONLY;
Middle/Senior High School students will report for a full day of instruction.

Moved by Mrs. Worob, seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

4.2. Approval, Costs for FBLA Students to Attend Competition

The Board approved a motion to approve the costs for 3 FBLA students to attend the state competition. Cost not to exceed \$1,700.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer, seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

5. 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:

5.1. Approval, Vitetta Architect to Proceed with Bid Specifications for High School Renovations

The Board approved a motion to approve Vitetta Architect to proceed with the bid specification documents for the renovation to the Morrisville High School. The bid documents include but are not limited to the replacement of the HVAC systems and windows.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann, seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

This report will be requested from Vitetta and placed on the website when received. Mr. Lastichen reported he has not seen this report although it will be on the boilers, ventilators, air handlers and windows.

Approval, Vitetta Architect to Provide Engineering Services for Renovations to Grandview Elementary School

The Board approved a motion to approve Vitetta Architect to proceed with the engineering services for the renovations to Grandview Elementary School.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann, seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

This pertains to the work as listed on our website.

5.3. Approval, Acceptance of AEDY Grant for 2008-09

The Board approved a motion to approve the acceptance of the 2008-2009 AEDY Grant in the amount of \$11,640.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann, seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

Mr. Gesualdi explained that this grant allows a \$1,000+ rebate for each student placed in alternative education (from the state).

5.4. Approval, Disposal of Excess Items

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

1	Computer Desk	1	Bookshelf
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The above items are broken and must be discarded

Moved by Mr. Hellmann, seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

5.5. 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: (12/18/08 – 1/21/08)	\$248,149.55
Athletic Fund (12/18/08 – 1/29/09)	2,892.00
Cafeteria Fund: (December)	36,129.32
Accounts Payable (1/29/09)	640,342.22
Capital Projects (12/16/08 – 1/15/09)	51,733.47
Capital Reserve	-0-
Procurement Cards (December 2008)	4,359.06
Payroll & Benefits (December 2008)	<u>1,160,426.20</u>
TOTAL BILLS	\$2,144,031.82

Moved by Mr. Hellmann, seconded by Mr. Radosti; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

5.6. Approval, Adopt Resolution To Not Raise Taxes By More Than Index

The Board approved a motion that the Board of School Directors adopts the resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the general fund budget for 2009-10 by more than the District's index pursuant to Section 311 (d) (1) of Act 1 of 2006 (the District's index for 2009-10 is 4.1%).

Moved by Mr. Hellmann, seconded by Mr. Buckman; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 1 nay. Member voting nay is Mrs. Reithmeyer.

Tomorrow is the deadline for this vote. Mr. DeAngelo stated that from his budget projection for this year there will be no tax increase this year. Mrs. Reithmeyer is not comfortable voting for this prior to seeing the preliminary budget. Dr. Yonson assured the board that administration has considered the tough economic times and it is felt that this will not impact the educational process that is currently in place. We have trimmed other non-educational items in the budget. We have worked very hard to trim areas that we have control over.

Mr. Hellmann stated this is a major school board tax control resolution. Spending money efficiently every day, in good times or bad times

4.1% is approximately 8 mills or \$500,000.

Mr. DeAngelo stated that we are fortunate that our contracts are solid through 2012.

Mrs. Mihok stated that she doesn't understand why several members of the audience and Mrs. Reithmeyer would be opposed to this if it doesn't raise taxes. Mrs. Reithmeyer replied that she was elected to this position and she trusts Mr. DeAngelo's statement, but she would like to "trust and verify" before voting. I don't want a tax increase anymore than anyone else, but I would like to verify the information.

**MORRISVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the "Taxpayer Relief Act" (hereinafter "Act 1");

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

WHEREAS, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the Morrisville School District index for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is 4.1%;

WHEREAS, the Morrisville School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Morrisville School District for the 2009-2010 fiscal year by more than its index.

AND NOW, on this 28th day of January, 2009, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Morrisville School District (hereinafter "District") Board of Directors (hereinafter "Board") the following:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2009-2010 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter "School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.

3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.

5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.

6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:

- (a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
- (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
- (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of School directors in lawful session duly assembled this twenty eighth day of January, 2009.

BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

By: _____
William Hellmann, President

ATTEST: _____
Marlys Mihok, Secretary

(SEAL)

6. LIAISON REPORTS

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Mr. Buckman
A dinner was held at the school last week; the meal was very good. Mr. Parks was present at the meeting. Dr. Poeske is doing a fine job and Mr. Snyder was brought back during this transition. Students have a tremendous pride in their school.
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mrs. Mihok
Happy School Board recognition month. Last week we held our annual Christmas dinner, served by students in the WOW program. No business was conducted.
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mrs. Worob
This is a legislative report for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, filed on Jan. 15, 2009.

“This week, the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee conducted a confirmation hearing with Arne Duncan, President-Elect Barack Obama's nominee for Secretary of Education. Duncan was well received by the committee and is expected to be confirmed by the Senate soon after the presidential inauguration next week.

Duncan, 44, is the chief executive office for the Chicago Public Schools. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1987, majoring in sociology. From 1987-1991, he played professional basketball in Australia, where he also worked with children who were wards of the state. Duncan returned to Chicago in 1992 to direct the Ariel Education Initiative, which seeks to create outstanding educational opportunities for inner-city children on the City's South Side. In 1998, he joined the Chicago Public Schools. In June 2001, Mayor Richard M. Daley named Duncan chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools.

The U.S. Department of Education finally has approved the Pennsylvania Department of Education's proposal for participation in the No Child Left Behind Growth Model Pilot Program after rejecting earlier versions of the plan.

A growth model program uses measures of student longitudinal growth as part of the calculations in determining whether Adequate Yearly Progress has been met. With the USDOE approval, the state can now use the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System to track student progress and give credit to schools for gains in student proficiency. In a news release issued by PDE, the department explains that PVAAS is a statistical analysis of PSSA assessment data that gives districts and schools more detailed information on students' academic growth to help guide local decision-making on student instruction. The data helps schools project individual student achievement and identify students who might need additional help in achieving proficiency.

Additionally, PDE says, the student achievement data collected through PVAAS enables the Department of Education to recognize achievements in schools where students have not yet reached proficiency targets but are projected to reach those targets in about two years. This differs from the existing constraints of No Child Left Behind, which take into account only those students who have reached proficiency, while overlooking those who have made significant gains towards proficiency. For more information, go to www.paayp.com.

Three other states' growth model plans also were approved by the USDOE this month. They are Colorado, Minnesota and Texas. Pennsylvania and Texas were conditionally approved provided they satisfy final requirements related to their accountability and assessment systems, respectively.

Gov. Edward Rendell will present his 2009-10 state budget proposal on Tuesday, Feb. 3, before a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives.

PSBA's Legislative Leadership Conference will be held on April 26-27, 2009, at the Hilton Harrisburg. The two-day event will begin on Sunday afternoon with an opening luncheon and include an array of sessions and workshops on timely legislative issues. Among the featured sessions will be an update on the governor's proposed state budget and the economy, the education agenda from House and Senate leadership perspectives for the new 2009-10 legislative session and a look at the federal education agenda. Workshops will provide updates on PSBA's efforts toward mandate and pension reform. In addition, the closing lunch on Monday will include the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Free School Act of 1834 that guaranteed access to public schools for all children."

7. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Yonson informed that because of the weather the modular timeline has been moved back. The date we are targeting is February 23. The 5th graders are making a permanent move to the High School. First graders are moving to the LGI. We are trying to get everyone situated as quickly as we can. Mr. DeAngelo explained that the cold weather hindered progress pouring the concrete footers. The walkway will be pressure treated wood. The plumbing and electrical are complete. Weather permitting, units will be placed next week.

Mrs. Reithmeyer asked Mr. Fitzpatrick for an update on the regional economies. Mr. Fitzpatrick reached out to numerous school officials; the response has not been significant. He has gotten some response and it has not been entirely positive. Mr. Fitzpatrick prefers to share these discussions in executive session before going to the public.

Mr. Fitzpatrick advised that we have not received the \$20,000 commission on health savings. However, the broker of record and blue cross/shield are working on this. We are looking for the appropriate way to do this whether it be in this budget year or next.

Mrs. Worob stated that she sympathizes with Mrs. Perry that her child has been put in the situation of moving around. As a parent, I can imagine how that affects the whole family. You also brought up that there are 2 years of board majority on the board. I have been on the board for 4 years. Perhaps you mixed me up with Robin Reithmeyer, who is going into her 2nd year.

Mrs. Worob read from the February 27, 2008 minutes -- Mr. Tim Lastichen, our building supervisor stated "my main concern is the heating system at M. R. Reiter; that scares me. That is what we should be looking into." That was 11 months ago. At this meeting Mr. Hellmann made a motion to have a safety engineering study done on both elementary schools. Board members voting yes were Hellmann, Farrell and Worob. Board members voting no were Kemp, Reithmeyer and Frankenfield. The motion was defeated 3-3. The safety study was not done. "Mr. Hellmann wanted the record to show that these are safety issues and the nay votes are not following – these are safety issues that should be fixed immediately." That was the only meeting that Marlys was absent, even attending the night after undergoing knee surgery. If Marlys had been present at this meeting the outcome of this vote would have gone differently. Marlys felt guilty that these safety problems were defeated. Maybe we would not be talking about a furnace explosion now. On March 12, 2008 when the full board was present Mrs. Reithmeyer brought up a paper called "House Rules." That is not part of board policy. The house rules state, in part, motions defeated can not be reintroduced until the 3rd business meeting. Dr. Yonson, Morrisville's Superintendent, supported Mrs. Reithmeyer on this issue. Subsequently, the engineering safety study on the elementary schools was not put on the agenda that night. Mrs. Reithmeyer not only voted against having the safety study done at the 2 elementary schools on February 27, 2008, she, Mr. Kemp and Dr. Yonson also blocked it from being put on the agenda on March 12, 2008. Nine months later the furnace exploded at M. R. Reiter. Windows were shattered. What would a parent that has a child at Reiter say to Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Reithmeyer if a window blew out in their child's face? Our children were put at risk for injury or worse by Mrs. Reithmeyer and Mr. Kemp. At the special school board meeting on January 5, 2009 after this was read Mrs. Reithmeyer insisted that the February 2008 vote was for a cursory study and that she would not vote for such a study. However, Mr. Hellmann stated that she was confused over what buildings the study was slated for and that the report was for the Middle/Senior HS. Mr. Bill Cornfield from our engineering firm, Vitetta, at the January meeting that the proposed new PreK through 12 school would have actually cost \$48,000,000 when the old school board only had \$28,000,000 in the bank. Mr. Kemp is the only remaining member of the old Sandy Gibson school board who supported this too expensive, not needed project that would have crippled this town. The town told the old board not to issue this very expensive debt. We all need to get past the political agenda of our opponents and their political attacks and focus your energies on solutions for our town and our school district.

Mrs. Reithmeyer responded – Dr. Yonson can not stop us from doing anything as she does not have a vote. Second, it was at the following meeting, Mrs. Worob, when you made a motion to suspend the house rules.

Mrs. Worob – but we did not.

Mrs. Reithmeyer – you did; the motion was made and the motion carried.

Dr. Yonson – that is correct, Mrs. Worob. When Mrs. Mihok read the same thing that you just read, Mrs. Worob, although you went into a little more depth, I did feel that anyone hearing it would find it ludicrous to think that myself or Mr. Kemp or Mrs. Reithmeyer or Mr. Frankenfield would in anyway block safety. These "house rules" had been placed in my board book

before my time. It was asked of me if it was correct and I responded yes, it's in the book. I was not saying to vote anyway. I do not tell you how to vote. You said it tonight that we need to move on and I think you really need to move on. There was actually a motion made in July, I believe by Mrs. Worob, seconded by Mr. Buckman to review and assess the boilers; it was approved.

Mrs. Reithmeyer stated if you review the entire minutes I state very clearly will this also be a cursory report and your response was yes.

Mrs. Reithmeyer asked that the minutes reflect that Mr. Hellmann has already received the signup sheet for non-agenda items and he will not allow anyone else to signup.

Mr. Fitzpatrick referred to the beginning of the meeting to the rules of civility that have been adopted by the board and been in place for a long time. Specifically rules 901, 902 and 903. The rules include the procedure to signup for public comment. It indicates in order to give priority to individuals who come to the meeting prepared to give public comment that persons should register their intent with the board secretary in advance of the meeting and include the name and address of the participant. The board secretary collects the signup sheet immediately prior to the meeting and gives it to the board president.

Mrs. Reithmeyer took exception to this because rules were changed to have 2 public sessions and allowing individuals to signup up late has been done in the past.

Mrs. Worob stated there will be a policy meeting next month to affect the actual change in the book.

Mrs. Mihok asked Mr. DeAngelo to report on lettering of the school van. Mr. DeAngelo reported we have one vehicle; it is pretty inexpensive and can be done quickly.

Uniform Committee

Mrs. Mihok reported that the committee has gathered information from several different sources and are compiling prices and options. We will probably give a report on that at next month's meeting. The committee consists of me and Mrs. Worob. The information gathering is through the telephone and computer. When I have information I will share it with the board. This is informational gathering.

Hearing on M.R.Reiter

Mrs. Reithmeyer would like to discuss how tomorrow night's meeting will be handled. Mr. Hellmann replied it would be discussed tomorrow night. Mrs. Worob stated she thinks everyone should be heard. Mr. Fitzpatrick advised that tomorrow night's meeting is an official hearing. A stenographer will be present. It will be held at 7:00. Individuals speaking will be sworn in. Generally, it is the decision of the presiding officer, in this instance, the President, to decide those rules. My suggestion is that this is an important issue; people should be given opportunity to comment, not just tomorrow night but for a couple of days subsequent to the meeting by written testimony. It won't be part of the transcription, but would be attached as official exhibits to the official transcript. Mrs. Reithmeyer asked if it is in the best interest of the community not allow people to withhold information as to how long you are allowed to speak or as to how you are going to sign up. Mr. Hellmann replied that we have to be reasonable. Mr. Fitzpatrick advised that the professionals that have engaged by the district, as well as administration would be the most knowledgeable on the matter and be able to give the most information. Therefore, it would be foolish to limit them to 3 minutes. Time for public speaking, using reasonable judgment, should be decided when it is determined how many parties would like to speak. Individuals are

encouraged to submit written comments. All discussions should be strictly limited to M. R. Reiter.

8. NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved a motion to appoint Mr. William Ferrara as substitute District Superintendent for the period of Dr. Elizabeth Hammond Yonson's medical leave which medical leave is hereby approved for such period as Dr. Yonson requires to rehabilitate, conditioned upon approval of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a voice vote of 7 ayes; 1 nay. Member voting nay was Mrs. Reithmeyer.

Kathy Panzitta

How did this motion manifest itself during tonight's agenda that it was not placed on the agenda?

Damon Miller

Mr. Ferrara seems qualified in his responsibilities. I think this is putting too much on one person's plate with everything this district is dealing with right now. I do not think it is fair to Mr. Ferrara or the children of this district.

Dr. Yonson informed the board last week that she would be out for a medical procedure. At that time she stated she would be in the hospital for a few days but after that would be accessible by phone and email. Even if a substitute is placed in this position, I have no intention of not doing my job. I just heard about this yesterday when Mr. Hellmann called me. Mr. Ferrara will continue to do the observations and evaluations of our teachers because that is his job. My job is dealing with the state. When I was in Europe this summer for 3 weeks I did not have a replacement. Mr. Ferrara will continue to do his duties of high school principal because we do not have an assistant principal and not doing his observations and evaluations during those 4-6 weeks would be overwhelming to catch up.

Mr. Ferrara commented that it is not about taking over for Dr. Yonson. She will be in charge of the district. My most important job is running the Middle/Senior HS. This is not a transfer of power; it is about this group of people sitting up here working together, signing papers, being in constant contact with Dr. Yonson. All together we will be substituting for someone that is not here.

Mr. Fitzpatrick will be contacting the Commonwealth regarding Mr. Ferrara's requirements to fill in as substitute.

PUBLIC SESSION – Non-Agenda Items

Diane Hughes

Congratulations on your test scores and the handling of the Reiter emergency. Thank you for your diligence in spending efficiency. I don't like the idea of K-12 in one building. I wish Reiter could be fixed. I ask the board to do a better job of maintaining civility in the meetings and address random comments from the audience.

Future Meetings and Items of Interest

Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:00 pm – Special Hearing for MRR Closing
Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:30 pm – Infrastructure/Facilities Committee
..... 7:00 pm – Finance Committee
February 13 & 19, 2009 Presidents’ Day – Schools Closed
Wednesday, February 18, 2009 6:30 pm – Education Committee
..... 7:00 pm – Human Resource/Negotiations Committee
..... 7:30 pm – Agenda Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 2009 6:30 pm – Policy Committee
..... 7:30 pm – Monthly Business Meeting of Board

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9. Adjournment

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:00 pm.

William Hellmann, Board President

Marlys Mihok, Board Secretary