

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 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, March 26, 2008, after due notice of the meeting had been given as required by law. Mr. William Hellmann, President, called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm with the following members present on roll call:

Mrs. Heater; Mrs. Mihok; Mr. Radosti; Mr. Frankenfield (left meeting at 9:25 pm); Mrs. Reithmeyer; Mrs. Worob; Mr. Kemp; Mr. Hellmann; and Mr. Farrell.

*Quorum Present.*

Also attending this evening's meeting were Mrs. Reba Dunford, Business Administrator; Mrs. Melanie Gehrens, Secondary Principal; Mr. William Ferrara, Secondary Assistant Principal; Ms. Kate Taylor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction/Elementary Principal; Mrs. Karen Huggins; Elementary Principal; Mrs. Kimberly Myers, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services/School Psychologist; MEA representation, and media.

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION**

Student Representative to the Board

Speaker: Michael Leather

Co Speaker: Jacob Walbridge

- On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated in Read Across America at M. R. Reiter. The elementary students enjoyed their presentation.
- The Morrisville School District hosted the Lower Bucks Cheerleading Championship for Middle School Cheerleaders. The competition was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Many schools attended the event, with school spirit overflowing in the gymnasium. Our cheerleaders did a wonderful job, and won the Spirit Award. The Middle School Service Learning Group, held a fundraiser during the competition. They raffled off a gift basket, and donated the proceeds to Multiple Sclerosis.
- Gym Night was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The middle school events and assembly started off Gym Night in the morning. Later that night, the High School participated in their events. This year's winner of Gym Night was the Gold Team.
- The Panera Bread Company is sponsoring the National Honor Society in their annual MS Walk. There was a fund raising night at Panera, where they donated 20% of their sales to NHS.
- During our regular Parent Advisory meeting, the Bucks County Links sponsored an art contest. Many parents came to look at the posters. The winners were announced at the meeting. Megan Johnson won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade division; Steven Driscoll won 1<sup>st</sup> place, and Matt Beyer won 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade division.
- The Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, and 9 students from Morrisville represented the school.
- Operation Helping Hand, the food collection sponsored by the United Way, was held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>. We are awaiting the number of total pounds collected; however, there was a bounteous amount of non-perishable food collected.
- Brandon Young (*The Wire*) came to talk to students about working towards their goals in life.
- The Bucks County Community College Dual Enrollment placement tests were held on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Schools were closed on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

- The high school play, *Cinderella*, will be presented in the Caum auditorium on Friday March 28<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>. The cast, crew, and Mrs. Habel have all been working hard to produce an excellent rendition of this play. Curtain for the show is at 7:30 p.m. for both nights. Tickets can be purchased for \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students, and children under the age of two are free.
- Both middle and high school are preparing the Reading Olympics in April. The Middle School will be competing on the 15, and High School will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Deliman is currently offering a PSSA Prep Class to all juniors, as a means to help get them ready for the next round of testing.

*Thank you for your continued support of the students, and our activities*

District Enrollments as of March 18, 2008

Elementary Students.....	449
Secondary 6-12.....	483
Technical School.....	47
Home Schooled.....	17
Out-of-District Placements.....	97
Total.....	1075

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

District enrollments .....6

District withdraws .....16 (Alternative/charter – 2)

**1. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- ⇒ Student Invitation – *Student participants in the play “Cinderella” invited the public to attend.*
- ⇒ 21<sup>st</sup> Century Service Learning Project – *This report will be given at our next meeting*
- ⇒ Presentation of 2008-2009 Proposed Budget Changes – *Mrs. Dunford presented a PowerPoint slide production on the proposed budget. Budget information is available at [www.my.org](http://www.my.org). Mrs. Dunford informed that we will need to have a final budget in May because it must be on display 20 days prior to approval.*
- ⇒ This week in our Schools

**Elementary Report**

- Dr Seuss's Read Across America was celebrated with a variety of events throughout the school day. Of note were special readers coming to read a book to the students. Thanks to Dr. Yonson, Superintendent and Joe Kemp, School Board Director for participating in this project.
- Another amazing assembly was, Math Magic, which captured the attention and interest of all students. Thanks to the PTO for sponsoring this exciting event.
- K registration was held March 3rd, 4th, and 5th.
- We had an amazing group come out for the Link's sponsored art contest "Walking Fete." There was standing room only in the LGI room. Congratulations to all the winners. Grandview winners were: Jairon Campos, Ivy Attenboro, and Alexis Jorgenson.
- Teachers participated in staff development regarding best practices to improve student reading comprehension.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

- Students participated in the Operation Helping Hand food drive to provide support to the area food banks.
- PSSA assessments begin March 31 through April 4 in reading and mathematics.

### **Secondary Report**

- On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated in Read Across America at MRR. The elementary students enjoyed the presentation.
- The Morrisville School District hosted a Lower Bucks Cheerleading Championship for Middle School Cheerleaders. It was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Many schools attended this event and school spirit overflowed in the gymnasium. Our cheerleaders won the Sprit Award. The Middle School Service Learning Group held a fund raiser. They raffled a gift basket and the proceeds were donated to Multiple Sclerosis.
- Gym Night was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The middle school assembly started the event. The Gold Team was the winner this year's Gym Night.
- The Panera Bread Company is sponsoring the National Honor Society in their MS Walk. The Panera Bread Company is donating 20% of the sales to the NHS.
- During our regular Parent Advisory meeting the Bucks County Links sponsored an Art contest. Many parents came to look at the posters. The winners were announced. Megan Johnson – 1<sup>st</sup> place 10-12<sup>th</sup> division; Steven Driscoll - 1<sup>st</sup> place, Matt Beyer - 2<sup>nd</sup> place 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> division.
- Operation Helping Hand, the food collection sponsored by the United Way, was held on March 11th and March 12th. We are awaiting the number of total pounds collected; however, a bounteous amount of non-perishable food was collected.
- BCCC placement tests were held on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Schools were closed on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break.
- The high school play, *Cinderella*, will be presented in the Caum auditorium on March 28 and March 29. The cast, crew, and Mrs. Habel having been working very hard to produce an excellent rendition of this play.
- The Student of the Month Breakfast will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all the recipients.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Limited to Budget Matters**

#### **Steve Worob**

Mr. Worob is alarmed that the tech school portion of the budget increased \$139,000 while the student population decreased. He would like this looked into.

#### **Johanny Manning**

I am concerned that there have been budget cuts. Grandview was cut \$8,000 with decreases in supplies, books, periodicals and teacher training. These are expenditures that have gotten us where we are and these items are still needed. Are we looking at putting them back? ***Mr. Hellmann informed that the Board will be scheduling two budget work sessions to look more closely at items.***

**Mr. Hellmann's Statement** (provided by Mrs. Heater)

This is a response to the Bucks County Courier Times editorial dated March 1, 2008, titled "Costly lessons", as it pertains to the Morrisville Borough School District. The article stated this building project should have gone to a referendum. I agree with this statement and spoke several times at public meetings, imploring the prior board majority to do just that. They ignored me and many other people on this issue. There was overwhelming opposition against this project and bond issue and it was emphatically proved at the election polls in May, 2007 and again in November, 2007. I strongly disagree that our school buildings, at least the high school, are in awful condition. The high school needs some renovation work and upgrades only, in my opinion. The school district is in the process of doing an evaluation of the school buildings as we speak. I do not believe for one minute, that we can build an adequate, quality K-12 school building for \$30,000,000. In recent news articles in your paper, dated January 29, 2008, the Catholic School system plans to build two new high schools in our area, at a size not much larger than our planned school building but at a cost of \$ 65,000,000 EACH. I believe I was elected, in part, to help the school district provide a quality education for our children at a cost the community can afford.

The following is an explanation of the debt defeasance and how much was saved by doing the partial defeasance.

**Debt Defeasance explanation**

The fact that the school district had to put up \$24,449,000 to defease \$ 22,000,000 proves how expensive the original bond issue was. But we also received an extra \$1,674,000 in bond premium with the original issue. There is no free lunch; this in essence had to be paid back. This present board did not issue this expensive debt. The prior board majority issued this expensive debt. This bond issue has a ten year call, which means we have to pay interest to the bondholders for ten years **WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT**. This is a long time and expensive. The prior majority board was told many times by this town not to issue this expensive debt. In fact, there was a citizen lawsuit to try to stop this expensive debt issue. We have no control over current interest rates. I, for one, am not going to play the interest rate game with public funds. If this was my money, maybe I would gamble, but not with public funds. We have to cut our losses and move forward.

Since the new school is not going to be built, IRS regulations require this debt to be defeased within a certain time period. I believe three years from date of issue. We have to give it back. I believe this community elected the incoming members to make decisions and to help the school district bring back fiscal and operational order. **85 % OF THE BOND PROCEEDS NEEDS TO BE SPENT WITHIN THREE YEARS OF ISSUANCE.**

This partial defeasement freed up approximately \$ 1,117,000 in the current budget of the general fund. These funds can be used for more upgrades, a possible tax reduction for the 08-09 budget year or other items the board decides upon. We also plugged a

probable \$ 400,000 budget hole in the 08-09 budget. We also reduced the millage for the 08-09 budget year by approximately 7 mills. We also saved future tax millage by partially defeasing this debt. We also probably saved, (depending on current interest rates) approximately \$460,000, (the difference between what we have to pay bondholders versus what we would earn. (\$ 1,317,000 versus \$ 855,000)

In summary, we **SAVED** \$ 12,663,819 in future interest costs by defeasing this \$22,000,000 in bonded debt. The bond premium money mentioned above in the amount of \$ 1,674,000 plus the \$ 1,117,000 sitting in the general fund equals \$ 2,791,000. This is more than the \$ 2,449,000 that was put up as extra money to defease the \$ 22,000,000.

Disclosure of the bond defeasance was first made at a committee meeting back around 12/17/07. Another defeasance analysis was included in the board packet in January before the January 30, 2008 vote. I am only one board member. We have nine members all together. If there were any questions on the defeasance, I would hope any board members would have asked our financial advisor or our bond attorney prior to or at the January 30, 2008 public meeting.

The remainder of Mr. Hellmann's statements are attached in **Addendum A**. (provided by Mr. Hellmann).

*Mr. Hellmann commented that there is 4.1 million left in the bond fund. If we had waited until 2 days ago to defease we would have 3.5 million left. He asked why?*

**Mr. Kemp**

That was a primary election and there were still people who were going to run and did run as independents. We worked very hard to get those people elected because we wanted to build a school to deal with all the facilities issues we have and we still have right now that this board now has to deal with.

**Mr. Hellmann**

What about after the November election? Interest rates dropped really hard. That's why we rushed to get this done in January.

**Mr. Kemp**

We had no idea at that time what the incoming board intended to do. Stop the School – however, there were and still are major facility problems that have to be dealt with. The money was there waiting to be spent on these schools.

**Mr. Hellmann**

No, it was for a new school.

**Mr. Radosti**

The intent and purpose of it was for a new school. Some of the facts that were related to you were false.

**Mr. Hellmann**

The bottom line is the former board wasted millions of dollars.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

**Mr. Frankenfield**

The bottom line is we invested millions of dollars. Had we gone through with our plan this district would be on its way to saving this district and this Borough a good deal of money. We still do not have a plan – with a road forward – a vision and an end.

**Mr. Hellmann**

Well, we'll see. You knew the new board was coming in; what was your contingency plan?

**Mr. Frankenfield**

Why would we change? We did the right thing. We were hoping you would learn something. Right now, at this very moment, it would still be advisable to build a new school.

**Mr. Hellmann**

You didn't have enough money. You would have had to float more bonds to finish that school.

**Mr. Radosti**

The money that was wasted can't be replaced. The politicians of this commonwealth should force mergers and that's the direction we have to go.

**Mr. Farrell**

I'd like somebody to give me an estimate of what that new school building would have cost. Your final cost was \$31,500,000. There was an \$8,000,000 hole. You eliminated insulation and cut from 3 pane to 2 pane windows. By the time that school was built you wouldn't recognize what you bought.

**Mr. Kemp**

We had everything in order, the bids were in order, it was ready.

**Mr. Hellmann**

The bottom line is that in May and November the community said don't do it. Mr. Frankenfield and Kemp, run again in two years and let's see if you get re-elected.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Elvin Velez, 232 Hillcrest**

Mr. Velez appeared before the board to request approval of a JV softball team. A large number of girls came out to join the JV Softball Team this year. Approval for this team would give our varsity program strength and depth. If cost is an issue Mr. Velez offered to volunteer his services as coach.

**Alicia Hall, 200 W. Bridge St.**

Alicia tried out for the JV softball team and would like the board to consider establishing this team for this school year.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

**Kevin Leather, 480 Hamilton Blvd.** (statement supplied by Mr. Leather)

I did not receive a reply from anyone on the board regarding my email of February 28 where I asked for a breakdown of the defeasement costs. I find this disappointing but not surprising. This board has made it quite clear that parental input is not required or welcomed. I thank Mr. Kemp for his try at answering the second request of my question but once again, the information has not been made available to me.

I have a specific question for all nine members to answer individually: When was a detailed breakdown of the approximately \$2.4 million dollars in costs involved in the bond defeasement made available to each of you? When will these figures be made available to the public? And what is the delay in providing these numbers to the board members and the public?

Question for Mr. Hellmann: Why were the board members not fully briefed on these costs before the vote was taken in January and the bond officially defeased in February? Have each of the board members been fully briefed now? If yes, what was the date, and if no, why not? I got the answer to this from your letter, thank you very much, and you simply threw all eight members under the bus. So much for collegiality.

Question for Mr. Kelly that I would ask to be tabled for the next session: What were the legal requirements of full disclosure of this information to the public and to the board members before the vote was taken?

Another specific question for all nine members: Now that you are aware of this information, would it have changed your vote to a no or to table the measure for further examination? Do you feel that you were able to make an informed decision?

I also wanted to thank Mr. Hellmann for his advice. He's not my daddy, and so I had to go and get the information myself.

I only obtained the documents this afternoon, so I'm still studying the figures and making sense of them. I see that Public Financial's costs were indeed about \$29,000 as he suggested. I did not know that Curtin and Heefner was the bond counsel charging \$13,500 for their work. I also see the transfer agent cost \$2200. Oddly enough, there are no costs for Mr. Kelly as district solicitor. Isn't that a standard practice? Why was he not asked to review this work, and if so, where are his costs being billed?

Mr. Hellmann. Why have you been delaying the publication of these figures? And why do you think this is acceptable? Please note that I am not saying defeasement was an incorrect course of action. I'm claiming that not enough information was provided, especially to the decision makers.

When I manage a project and one of my team fails, I fail too. When they succeed, I succeed as well. I propose you should be held to the same standard.

**Peyton McDonald, 317 Crown St.**

Ms. McDonald asked the board to consider establishing a JV softball team this school year.

**Patricia Steele, 708 Barclay** (statement supplied by Ms. Steele)

**I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO SAY:** “Thank You” to the present school board for returning the bond money that was previously borrowed ... This was a smart move in an effort for tax reduction to relieve the tax school crisis that would unnecessarily have existed. Morrisville does not have enough students to justify the elaborate expenditures which would have existed. A new school does not mean better education. Please do the necessary repairs in the current school and let’s concentrate on education and tax dollars...not a new building. Morrisville is not a luxurious wealthy money flowing town...

**SECONDLY:** I need to express my feelings that the past school board/person(s) have totally devastated the community standing, including real estate property values, along with creating tax payers financial hardships without honoring or respecting their concerns and hardships. If some of the war stories that I heard are actually true.....I must say.... where was your respect to the residents and community?  
**UNFORTUNATELY, THE COMMUNITY IS NOW KNOWN FOR A LOWER LEVEL SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH HIGH TAXES.**

**THIRD:** Please be aware, that I am in support of a good solid education for students along with needed educational tools to get the job done with satisfactory standards.....**but**

- **Not** with wasted spending
- **Not** with unnecessary needs/tools
- **Not** with taxpayer abuse. The past school board should hang their heads in shame with their unprofessional manners and disrespect to the community/town, including the handling of individuals at school board meetings. I question their intelligence in handling of the school board while in office. I don’t think I can be far off course since the last elections strongly seems to support my thoughts.
- **I must say that I heard something that really disturbed me.**

A past school board member had made a comment regarding the seniors of the borough, stating that “**seniors do not matter since they would all be dead in 10 years.**”

**HOW COLD & DISRESPECTFUL A REMARK LIKE THAT IS!** That remark certainly did not display much respect for the senior citizens/tax payers in the borough. **Through the years when they were not seniors,** they were the working gears and were the support system of the borough. Years ago it was their \$ that built the high school that we have now. Now you want to treat them like they are nobody, because they are elderly. To that person, I say SHAME ON YOU!!! Are you a real human being?? If that person feels so comfortable and confident in what he/she stated, perhaps that person should stand up and apologize to the seniors for what he/she had previously said .... I have been advised that this statement was made to several individuals in the community. I also have been informed that a person from the past board made the remark that if they can’t afford the taxes..... they can sell their homes!!!! WOW....these statements are certainly not from compassionate individuals!!! Perhaps a little heartless. Seniors homes are their castles, and they have a close connection to their lifelong residence. Who are you to get in the middle of their lives and attempt to make decisions that are none of your business.

This scenario is a true account of a lifelong Morrisville homeowner and senior resident. Born and raised in Morrisville. Lives totally off of Social Security... 87 years of age....Husband is deceased...No pension at all...so we won’t talk about the pension that our teachers and managements fight for to secure for their luxury future. No children in the school system

1. Has a total income of under \$15,000. a year to live and survive on
2. PAYS: \$5,800. in school taxes; \$1,500. in County and borough

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

totaling \$7,300 in taxes for 2007 which is equivalent to almost 49% of her total income per year. This senior has \$7000+ to live and survive off of for the remainder of the year.

3. 8 different medications a day with co-pays
4. utilities: electric, telephone, cable. Water, garbage pick-up
5. doctor bills, specialist bills
6. eye care, eye glasses and aids
7. food and clothing
8. car insurance license and registration, car inspection
9. gas for the car
10. home heating fuel and contract
11. home owners insurance
12. Home maintenance and necessary improvements, etc. etc. etc.
13. Holiday and birthday presents for her family that she get great enjoyment out of.
14. Not to mention that she cannot afford to pay for vacation for herself to enjoy.

**CAN YOU DO THIS????** Or should I say would you enjoy doing this???...and to that past school board member that made the ugly statements... I say shame on you and open your heart and mind. Stop the greed and lack of respect....**WE ARE ALL PART OF THE SITUATION!!!!**

Remember, seniors do not have the luxury packages that union contract employees receive today. I think and hope that school teachers and management employees that are being paid out of tax \$ know the difference. So, please do not downgrade these seniors that are trying to survive. You should support them and work with them, not attempt to degrade them and stimulate unnecessary stress, tension and worry. Back many years ago, education and technology was much different than it is today and unfortunately they are forced to live in this new environment...**SO LET'S NOT PUNISH THEM.**

### **SUGGESTIONS**

I would like to offer some suggestions to the school board in an attempt to help the tax issues within the borough.

### **INITIATE A STUDENT REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR 2008...**

I feel that board should consider a registration process for all students entering school in September of '08. Parents of students should have to submit tax bills for proof of residency and renters would have to submit copies of the lease along with any necessary legal documentation in the event that the students is under their guardianship, but in actually is not their child/children. Perhaps this process should be carried out each year to eliminate students that should no be enrolled in MHS. This could definitely be a savings.

\*\*\*I personally have heard the parents who stated that their children are enrolled in the Morrisville School System. "Quote..."the one mother said, just take them across the bridge it is easy to do". She did it. She was telling the other Mothers "I know you don't want your kids in Trenton High...why put up with that when you can put them in Morrisville. This is WRONG!!!! Is our school management process so weak that we allow this or are these parents **more intelligent** than our high level, **high paid school managers** that are being paid to manage the process so this doesn't happen? Something needs to be done. If the school management doesn't stand up to accountability for themselves... than I think they should step down. Students must get passing grades to move forward, do what is right, meet school standards to graduate. Why does management not have to display accountability to the school process. What accountability does this

display for management? Management does have a commitment, but they just blow it off. Not a good example to set. I think we need some improvements in this area as well.

**IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE....  
ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ARE EXPERIENCING THIS AND THE TIME HAS COME  
FOR MANY NECESSARY CHANGES FOR OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Let's look at the LARGE picture and take the blinders off.

- The dollar support of education for the students should be fair to all. I personally do not want to pay for other students' education. Each family must pay their share for their children. It is not my responsibility or that of the home owner to pay for it, just like it is not their responsibility to pay my bills. All students benefit from the same school, teachers, books, activities, supplies etc. Let's level the playing field for home owner's taxes.
- **TEACHER REDUCTION AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER CLASS ROOM MUST BE REVIEWED.** A smaller classroom does not mean a better education is guaranteed. The teacher is the one that must teach. Their teaching standards must also be accountable. I think perhaps if students are having problems with a teacher, I do not feel it is enough to call the school and report it. I question whether or not it dies there. I think a process must be put in play that appoints a designated school board member as a "Parental Contact" person to oversee these problems and keep them in check. Checks and balance is a good structure.
- **RENTALS WITHIN THE BOROUGH AND THE ACCURACY OF THEIR DESCRIPTIONS THAT ARE RECORDED WITH THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENTS.** This is something that definitely needs to be looked into by are current school board. The Board of Assessment description of these RENTAL properties certainly has a heavy impact on their assessments. I believe there are approximately 3,008 tax parcels in the borough and 43% of these parcels are rentals. I have great concerns regarding their actual recorded descriptions with the Board of Assessments. This is an avenue that cannot be overlooked and must be looked into **IMMEDIATELY**. I believe there is great tax dollar loss that needs to be corrected immediately. This could be of great tax dollar value to our school support. I really do feel that the possibility exists that homeowners are being discriminated against in the tax structure.  
**SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!!!!**

Estimated STATS:

# of students. = Tad less than a 1000 with 46 in tech  
\$ cost per student = \$20,200+ per student ....WOW!!!!

LAST Years Graduation Class in the high 40's (46, 47, 48)

Per a discussion that I had with the school Principal it was stated that PL 24PS 131341 addresses the State Mandates regarding education ages. If my understanding is correct, I believe the State mandates that schools must educate special needs children until the age of 21. I believe the law also states that we must educate students until the age of 18. We do not have to graduate them. I believe it may be that at age 17 a student can sign themselves out of school without parent consent. So, I think perhaps it would be a good idea to look into the number of students that do not pass during and should really being going to summer school. If the student elects not to attend summer school, but repeat the following year....this is a hardship for taxpayer. Why does a student have the right to spend the tax payer's money?!! If the student elects to

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

repeat the school year and not attend summer school, than the taxpayers are paying double \$ to educate that student for 1 year of study. Why should the tax payer be held captive/accountable for that student's education if he/she is a troublesome student, or not attending school as required to pass, not doing homework and not receiving passing grades. The student's negligence should not be rewarded by the taxpayer paying the bill. The Parents of that child should be held accountable for the year that the negligent child would want to repeat. This could possibly be an avenue to stimulate some parents to participate and have more involvement in their child's school.

FINALLY....

- Bring tax dollar equality to Borough Residents
- Look at the complete picture
- Relieve the pain for taxpayers and seniors by doing the best you can to tighten up the hatches of wasteful spending and enable homeowners to live a lifestyle that is affordable and enjoyable.
- Bring our Community AND school system back in good standings. Lets remove the grime and sludge that has been left behind and strength the school to be prosperous, Lets give everyone some satisfaction. This used to be a great town and school, I graduated from MHS and I'd like to see it that way again.

REMEMBER...

Our soldiers are struggling, suffering and dying for our peace and safety.....we as citizens of this small borough can't even work together for the best possible end result. Does someone enjoy seeing others in pain.

Husband and wives want fairness in their marriage

Children of a family want fairness amongst their brother and sisters

The town and school system, is a unique family too and I ask that you seriously digest some of these ideas and

**BRING FAIRNESS TO THE TAXPAYERS AND THE COMMUNITY!!  
DO YOUR HOMEWORK!!!**

**Peter Eisengrein, 160 W. Hendrickson**

A review of Dr. Yonson's contract is listed on the agenda. What is the reason for this review? I hope it is not to get rid of Dr. Yonson. We've been through a number of superintendents in the past years and are now starting to see some progress. It is important to keep a continuous leadership.

Regarding item 5.7 on the agenda. Is this the same item which was voted down last month? Are there rules for how soon we can revote it? Can we have an update on the outstanding RFPs? Where do we stand on addressing the condition of the elementary schools?

**Eric Christensen, 105 W Maple**

I am about 50% complete on the energy efficient lighting study. I hope to complete the remainder by next board meeting. I have had tremendous cooperation from everyone at the school and I want to personally thank Tim and his crew for their help.

**Carmen Sierra, 640 Lincoln**

Ms. Sierra is a parent to a student participating in the JV softball team. She requested the Board consider this team for the 07-08 school year.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

**Jack Buckman, 617 Rutland**

Would like investigation of funding formula from the state because of the shared zip code which causes us to get less funding. Hire an enumerator for this purpose. Investigate non-resident students; re-register students for next year.

**Ron Stout, 129 S. Delmorr**

Mr. Stout came to the microphone in support of Al Radosti and recent accusations made against him. He strongly voiced his opposition to past comments made by a former board member against Mr. Radosti.

**Steve Worob, 101 Grandview Ave.**

Thanked Mr. Hellmann for explaining the bond. He hopes that people understand that this board was put in this awful position. The fact is Borough Council stopped the new school because it didn't conform with the law. But you, Mr. Kemp and Mr. Frankenfield went on to spend \$2,000,000 of my money and taxpayers' money. I hope after this explanation you understand that you are a representative of the school and the people. You should have stuck to that after the election.

**Damon Miller, 249 W. Franklin**

Certain board members should conform to guidelines as far as not doing things behind other board members' backs. Thank you to Mrs. Heater for providing information on the defeasement. Dr. Yonson has provided a breath of fresh air. She obviously cares about the students. Reviewing her signed contract sends a message that you do not want to work with administration.

**Sharon Hughes**

Suggests community contact Rep. Galloway and support HB1275 which supports eliminating property taxes to fund schools. I applaud you for defeasing the bond. This proposed school could not be built for \$30,000,000. If more money is needed to fix the schools, go to referendum and let the people decide. Take care of the heater at Reiter.

**Ann Perry, 43 Fairview**

At the polls in May 2007 I asked Bill Hellman – stop the school? Then what? His answer was can't tell you; it's top secret. It took 2 months after requesting an explanation for the defeasement to be made public. We were told it was too complicated for us to grasp. Bankrupting this town is not a plan.

At the agenda meeting Mr. Hellmann expressed a desire to find a more competitively priced solicitor. It appears that Mr. Kelly gave you legal advice you didn't want to hear. Dr. Yonson has spoken out against some of your initiatives and reviewing her contract looks like a personal vendetta against someone who disagrees with you. She has shown dedication and compassion for our children and we have made a lot of progress under her guidance.

At the February board meeting while trying to pass a motion for the questionable repair of the Wick Fisher White report, Mr. Hellmann, nearly a dozen times, stated that if we have a fire and a kid dies we'll have a lawsuit and our taxes will triple. This shows where your heart lies.

**Johanny Manning, 449 Stockham (member of former school board)**

On May 16 I contacted bond counsel; in fact, I had several conference calls with them which board members, at the time, were privy to. Board members were invited to take part in the conference call. You

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

did not let your folks know this. Additional costs would be incurred to defease, such as managing the bond and we were required to get to 10 years with interest. The funds were able to be used for renovation. We could have returned any unused funds. We did do our homework. We had an outside contractor go over the numbers twice.

For the record, I did not make that comment about our seniors. I don't know who did, but I apologize to all our seniors. As far as comments from Mr. Radosti, I have heard them. They were said and they are true.

I sat in during the interviews for the hiring of Dr. Yonson. It was difficult. We have made such strives, please do not lose her because you are not happy that you are not the ones who created the contract.

**Gayle Haug**

I hope you take Reba's advice when approving the budget. Have the past minutes been done? *Mrs. Mihok advised that the minutes are done, they just are not distributed yet.* I'm disappointed in Mr. Hellmann's desire to review the Superintendent's contract. Let's move on. We need a plan so that our kids can be educated in a safe environment.

**Mark Coassolo, 229 Melvin Ave.**

As I said before, go outside the school to get the money to work on the schools, particularly if you want to build a new school.

Girls softball team – go to mom and dad and ask them to pay. Go to your teachers and ask them to take a cut in pay so you can keep some of the things you want to have.

**RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Members of the Board of School Directors will take this opportunity to respond to comments recently brought to the attention of the School Board.*

**Dave May**

*Regarding out of district students. It is an ongoing process to be alert to any students living out of district. We receive information on a daily basis; anything from a note to a phone call. We check license plates and registrations from out of state. Today we received a call and within 10 minutes it was verified that the student is a resident. When a student registers, we have a complete check list that we go through.*

**Kate Taylor**

*Two summers ago we did a complete re-registration of students. Some members of the community and the Board at that time were convinced that we had many non-resident children attending our schools. Less than five were discovered during the process. We follow-up every suspicion or tip that we have. In 99% of the cases they are our students. At the end of each school year, we send a letter to those with multiple occupancy requiring them to provide their tax statement as proof that the child was a resident.*

**Mrs. Worob**

*In the 1990s Mrs. Worob was involved in a district-wide re-registration. At that time there was close to 100 students that were not residents. During the last registration I was not permitted to volunteer my time. I would like to see this on the agenda so that a re-registration could take place.*

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

**Mrs. Reithmeyer**

*Mrs. Reithmeyer urged the community to inform the school if they have any suspicion that a student is not a resident.*

**Mr. Farrell**

*Regarding the girls' softball team. This issue should have been discussed with the athletic director at the beginning of the school year. School teams have to follow PIAA rules.*

*Dr. Yonson's contract – I personally wouldn't give anyone a contract for more than 2 years because it would be before the end of my term on the board.*

*Mr. Leather, I rely on Mr. Hellmann for financial information but I also rely on my son. He agrees with Mr. Hellmann. I did not know what the actual cost would be but I knew it would be over \$2,000,000 because of the 10-year call. I did not vote uninformed.*

**Mr. Ferrara/Farrell**

*We met to go over the costs of the JV softball team using an 8-game schedule, travel and umpires. We have a varsity softball team and are looking into play schedules for JV. We have not violated Title IX requirements. We have a practice in place where we hire coaches depending on the number of athletes that sign up for a team; we have a set number for this. Right now we have a varsity softball team and coach. We have a volunteer who works with the JV girls. They will all be included in practices which will allow the JV girls to sharpen their skills. We have not had a JV softball team since 1994. Sports seasons have already started; games are scheduled. You can not ask teams to add onto their schedules at this time. We have an 8<sup>th</sup> grade team and they are able to play because the other schools have 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams. In the future, these matters must be brought to administration well in advance of the season.*

**Mrs. Mihok**

*No sports programs have been cut. Dr. Yonson's contract is not up until June 2008. We just want to investigate her contract that is all. During the interview process, Dr. Yonson was the best candidate and I am still very pleased to have her here.*

**Mrs. Heater (this statement was provided by Mrs. Heater)**

School Board President, Hellmann:

Upon further analysis to your written documentation undated submitted to Courier Times in response to "Costly Lessons" Debt Defeasance Explanation, I have the following:

Per paragraph 3: Your facts cost of paying back \$22,000,000 of the \$28,500,000 is \$24,449,000 called a defeasance, which by definition, 1. the annulment of a contractual financial instrument, a condition on the performance of which an instrument is defeated or rendered void, if that is the case, is this a true defeasance? Was there any other possibility of any other action that could have been taken to broker the pay back, pay down of this bond since you and your experts were the provider of information, for which we have no comparison, of this service? Can you simplify the answer for a better understanding?

In addition, please clarify your numbers, in this 3rd paragraph to pay back the 22,000,000 it took, your specified 24,449,000, to show the difference is 2,449,000 cost of defeasing, of which \$1,674,000 is the bond premium,

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

same as "CALL" feature.—which means interest to bondholders for 10 years. The difference between this \$1,674,000 and the 2,449,000 is 775,000 of which only the 44,797 seems disclosed clearly as attorney, CPA and PFM finance fees. Please explain the \$775,000 as the interest loss due to markets decline and requirement to pay this difference is contractual, See attached Bond Defeasance Analysis 3/26/08.

**Even if you claim that these were in schedules, it was not explained as "TOTAL TOTAL COST" seems to be the complaints, a for example dollars amount, should have been given with few different possible scenarios which may have assisted. Common understanding is crucial and no one on the board is a bondsman or certified in financial instruments. Further, it appears the feelings is, even with the bondsman's dissertation, no understanding transpired that the total loss would be in the millions of dollars. Again, this was a one man brokering effort without the advantage of competing brokers presentations, and if you are to maintain your position and say, its all in the schedules, as cited in your last paragraph, it seems to give appearances that the fine print can hide sufficient disclosure for proper public understanding which is evident as the complaints and editorials display for such losses. People have placed their trust in you so please dispel, this characterization, as soon as possible. If I had heard that SLGS-State and Local Government Securities are short for US Treasury: .. Security, I could have understood that these are uniform and thus need for competitors may not be needed.**

In Paragraph 4: "I believe" statements with respect to IRS regulations, you make with respect to 3 years, is that is your belief or is it factual, do you have a citation number of FASB/GASB No. can you please provide numbers?,

**SAVINGS: In paragraph 5: As you provide in the attached Bond Defeasance Analysis 3/26/08 which shows the April 1<sup>st</sup>, Debt Service, which would have been 1,446,000, now only 329,000 for dollars has actually saved of \$1,117,000, please verify? Is this true? Although the premium, call feature of 1,674,000 it is supposedly paid with the 2,444,900, so that we really borrowed it back since and simultaneously did not pay back the whole of 28,500,000 shows that savings of 1,117,000 of debt service plus the 1,674,000, would yield a 2,791,000 covering the 2,449,000 loss technically, is this correct? Cost to Savings shows that if defeasance occurred 5/07 after primary an additional 1,059,030 would have not been lost, so this shows the millions attributable to old board majority non-defeasance, see "What If analysis attached.**

In Paragraph 6: Where is the \$12,663,819 coming from, here you do mention future value within placing in context to today's current schematic. Show schedules with that total? Is this the PFM 3/25/08 and PFM?

Was there any mention that the potential for total cost to run in the millions, or was only the word CALL FEATURE consistently used? Viewing of the video, audio may need to confirm this fact. So with the number of complaints and newsprint it appears this may have been missed or just not adequately disclosed, irregardless of complex hard to understand schedules— mentioned in your letter, is not easily understood, an explanation seems warranted. Finally, I would like to request easier to understand explanation from you and/or your experts and post such on website for easy public access.

The breakdown and Information for the bond defeasement is attached as Addendum B. This information will also be placed on the website.

*Someone mentioned that the old board could have defeased the bond by May 15 and done renovations. Why didn't they? We are struggling here and we could have carried on that plan. We would have saved another million dollars. We defeased in January and if we had waiting until April it would have cost us another \$660,000. I do agree there has to be a plan so if there is a community meeting the plan must be stated.*

**Mrs. Worob**

*I agree with what Mrs. Mihok had mentioned regarding Dr. Yonson's contract. The old board had voted on that in October and her contract is not up until June 30. With the contract being a 5-year contract it is taken out of control of*

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

*this board and a year out of the next board. I think this contract was done very quickly and it is something that this board should look into.*

*In response to Mr. Miller. You were talking about a resolution that had to be ratified afterward. Are you talking about Dr. Gibson? There was a resolution in August that had to be ratified because she had gone out unilaterally to appeal the Borough Council's decision to go forward with the new school.*

*Mr. Leather, at this point in time I would vote to defease the bond.*

**Mrs. Dunford**

*Mrs. Dunford invited Mr. Buckman to come to the office and she would go over the Act 80 process with him. Several people reviewed the information and Mrs. Dunford goes over each one to make sure it is correct. I'd like to show him exactly what we do so that he may feel comfortable about Act 80.*

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**2.1. Approval of Minutes**

The Board presented a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2008 monthly agenda meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mr. Kemp.

*Several changes were requested to the January 9 minutes:*

- *Page 1 under Public Session – Response to public comments – check to see if Mr. Hellmann made this statement.*
- *Page 6 – last line – PLANCOM should read PLANCON.*
- *Page 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph—7.13 should read 7.13%.*
- *Page 9 – next to last paragraph -- \$20,000 should read \$120,000.*

Therefore, the Board TABLED this motion for correction. Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes. Mr. Frankenfield and Mrs. Heater were not present for this vote. *Mrs. Worob stated she would abstain from approval of the minutes since she did not attend that meeting; however, she is in favor to table the minutes.*

**2.2. Approval of Minutes**

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2008 monthly business meeting of the board of school directors.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Ms. Reithmeyer. Amendment accepted.

*Page p – 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph should read – 850 per thousand and 375 per thousand. Official minutes will be changed to reflect this change.*

The Board approved a motion AS AMENDED. Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Reithmeyer; passed by a voice vote of 8 ayes.

### 3. HUMAN RESOURCES

#### INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Discussion of a Facility Director

*Mrs. Worob asked for this item to be placed on the agenda because of public comment with regard to Mrs. Dunford being overwhelmed at times with her work. The organizational chart(see addendum C) shows Mrs. Dunford is in charge of our maintenance staff. I thought perhaps we could bring this up for discussion and maybe not have Reba be in charge of that portion of maintenance.*

*Mrs. Dunford commented that in every other school district in the state the facilities manager reports to the business administrator. If you want to give me some help, give me an assistant business manager.*

*Mrs. Heater remarked that she would love to do that. She spoke with Mr. Kelly in January or maybe even as far back as May of last year with suggestion that the facility director answer to either Beth Yonson or to the board. One of the complaints was that the facilities have been left in disrepair for the past 3 decades. Several comments were stated that there was not adequate maintenance or staff. Looking at the PSBA manuals it is noted that some other schools do have facility director and directors of operations.*

*Mrs. Dunford stated that we do have a facilities director. A facilities manager/director is the same thing. He directs what his staff does. This is not an imposition on my time because he does the work.*

*Mrs. Heater stated that the director of facilities is a much higher level which requires better qualifications and credentials to handle construction and renovations; to handle the interaction between engineers, planners and architects. And to control the costs that get out of control when you don't have such a person.*

*Mrs. Dunford stated our facilities director is very competent and can handle those things. There is no need to hire someone.*

*Mr. Hellmann asked Mrs. Heater to look into this and bring back a recommendation to the board.*

*Mrs. Reithmeyer relayed a rumor that is going around that a member of the newly seated board has already promised this position to a member of this community. Mrs. Heater commented that they will have to address that legally and let the lawyers handle it.*

*Mrs. Worob would like to take this issue to the human resource committee.*

#### ACTION ITEMS

**Mrs. Reithmeyer advised that Mr. Kemp will chair the education committee and she will be chairing human resources.**

**3.1. Approval, Appointments**

The Board approved motions to approve the appointments listed below:

- 3.1.a. Max M. Bash as a full time special education long term substitute teacher, effective immediately for as long as the leave affecting this position lasts. Compensation for this position is in accordance with District Policy #429 for the first 15 days of consecutive service and the current collective bargaining agreement with placement on the salary schedule at M level, Step OB = \$47,248 (pro-rated) on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of consecutive service (pending reference check).

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

- 3.1.b. The Board approved a motion to approve the hiring of per diem substitutes, as needed, during the 2007-2008 school year. Compensation will be in accordance with district policy #429 and Group II policy -- Karon Daniels

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

*All appointments are contingent upon completion of district employment requirements and verification of PA Department of Education Certification.*

*Mrs. Gehrens advised that finding qualified teachers because of recent newspaper articles and community climate has been difficult. We are getting questions whether teachers are leaving the district because the community is losing the high school. We schedule interviews and they cancel. I offer a position and they turn it down because they don't see a future with Morrisville.*

**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>
Marlene Guidos	ESL Development Cultural	Global Classroom USA	45 hr	\$420
Marlene Guidos	ESL Language Acquisition III	Global Classroom USA	15 hr.	\$160
Marlene Guidos	ESL Language Acquisition II	Global Classroom USA	15 hr.	\$120
Marlene Guidos	ESL – Assessment & Support	Global Classroom USA	45 hr.	\$420
Kristin Baranoski	Styles of Teaching	Gratz	3	\$835

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

Items 3.3.a and 3.3.b were approved in one motion. Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Farrell; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.

**3.3. Approval, Recognition of Retiring Staff Members**

The Morrisville Board of School Directors recognizes and appreciates the years of service of *Mrs. Peggy Parkinson* and the Board wishes Mrs. Parkinson a happy and prosperous retirement.

- 3.3.a.** The Board approved a motion to approve and accept a letter of retirement from Mrs. Peggy Parkinson with the effective date of retirement being June 30, 2008.

The Morrisville Board of School Directors recognizes and appreciates the years of service of **Mrs. Ida Heck** and the Board wishes Mrs. Heck a happy and prosperous retirement.

- 3.3.b.** The Board approved a motion to approve and accept a letter of retirement from Mrs. Ida Heck with the effective date of retirement being June 30, 2008.

**3.4. Approval, Authorize Review of Superintendent's Contract**

The Board approved a motion to authorize the law firm of Curtin and Heefner to review the Superintendent's 2008-2013 employment contract. Cost not to exceed \$3,000.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mrs. Worob. Motion amended and accepted. Passed by roll call vote of 6 ayes; 2 nays. Members voting nay were Mrs. Reithmeyer and Mr. Kemp.

*Mrs. Reithmeyer stated this did not come out of committee and she sees no reason for this action. This is a done contract. Mrs. Reithmeyer and Heater asked Mr. Hellmann what Curtin & Heefner's hourly rate is. Mr. Hellmann had no response. Mrs. Mihok amended the motion by putting a ceiling of spending at \$3,000.*

*Mr. Kemp commented that this is an insult. He explained that since Dr. Yonson worked with the former board members, they knew her work and the success the district is moving toward and we wanted to keep the progress moving forward. Every other Superintendent in the county has a 5-year contract. Mr. Farrell wants to see the ramifications of other board's overturning a contract once they took seat; he is just looking for information.*

**4. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

The following items are presented by the Education Programs Committee for discussion/approval upon their recommendation.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**4.1. Approval, Resolution Opposing Proposed High School Graduation Competency Assessments**

The Board approved a motion to approve the Resolution Opposing Proposed High School Graduation Competency Assessments as shown on the next page.

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

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

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS  
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has approved a proposal to revise the current high school graduation requirements under the Chapter 4 regulations to require students to pass a series of standardized high stakes Graduation Competency Assessments in order to get a diploma; and

WHEREAS, these new requirements and exams will be the same for all students, whether they are taking college prep or vocational courses, are English language learners or participating in individualized programs, and all students effectively will be required to take the same courses in order to pass this new battery of state tests; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 currently allows districts to use either the PSSA or rigorous local assessments for their students to demonstrate proficiency of the state academic standards; and it is misleading and incorrect to make the assumption that because students demonstrate their achievements on local assessments rather than the PSSA that there is a disconnect between proficiency and graduation; and

WHEREAS, although the GCA proposal permits schools to use a local assessment option, it establishes numerous limitations, including the elimination of the ability to use various assessment strategies now available to local entities and requires local tests to be closely modeled to the GCAs; and

WHEREAS, decades of research shows many reasons why standardized pencil and paper test scores should never be the determining factor in making major decisions about students, and that a diploma should be granted based on the coursework, tests and quizzes, presentations, projects and papers throughout the student's career; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has not prepared a cost analysis or fiscal note, even though this will create a large financial impact on state and local budgets, and the State Board's own costing-out study did not include the costs for this new system and found that the state already is \$4.4 billion short in helping school districts prepare students to meet the academic standards by 2014; and

WHEREAS, the proposal requires school districts to absorb many new costs related to revising curriculum, professional development, test development and validation, test preparation and administration, remediation and other costs. Given the state's funding shortfall and the Act 1 limitations on tax increases, school districts have limited ability to fund these potential new costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of school directors of the school district opposes the State Board of Education's proposal to enact Graduation Competency Assessments and any other regulation or legislation that usurps the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned a high school diploma. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, state legislators including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Adopted this 26th day of March, 2008.

Signed:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
William R. Hellmann  
School Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marlys Mihok  
Board Secretary (Seal)

*Mr. Kemp explained that this resolution originated with PSBA. The state is trying to enact a law that students will have to pass competency assessments before graduation. This would be a mandate and funded by the districts. If we vote yes we are stating that we are opposed to the proposed graduation assessments. Mr. Farrell is opposed because this is another financial burden on the districts.*

*Mrs. Mihok commented that until a few years ago students were socially passed when they reached a certain age. 78.1% of our students are not proficient on the PSSA.*

*Mrs. Gehrens advised that students must take 28 credits to graduate, including 4 years of math, English, science and social studies. In addition, 6.5 credits of electives and a graduation project. If they are not proficient on the PSSA in English or math, they must have scored a C or better in their senior year to graduate. Mr. Kemp explained that the C or better initiative is new this year and a positive step forward.*

*Mrs. Worob commented that she is not happy with her vote, if a mandate comes from the state we will have to pay it and follow through with it.*

## **5. BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

Ms. Reba Dunford, Business Administrator, presents the following items upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**5.1. This item was removed from the agenda.**

**5.2. Approval, Billing Contract with BCIU#22 for PreK Counts Grant Program**

The Board approved a motion to approve the billing arrangements with BCIU#22 effective January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008 for an itinerant special education teacher to serve the Pre-K classroom in the amount of \$2,000/month. This amount will be paid by the Pre-K Counts Grant.

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

*Mr. Hellmann asked what happens if this grant is not renewed. Mrs. Dunford advised that the program would cease unless the Board votes to continue it. The Board has been supplied with information on this grant.*

**5.3. Approval, Acceptance of Donation**

**Items 5.3.a and 5.3.b were voted in one motion. Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a unanimous voice vote of 8 ayes.**

**5.3.a. Approval, Donation of Gym Bags**

The Board approved a motion to accept the donation of gym bags from Temple University.

**5.3.b. Approval, Monetary Donation from Gym Night**

The Board approved a motion to accept donations from Gym Night 2008.

Grillin Guru	MEA
Jeff Manto's Baseball Academy	Morrisville Fire Co.
VIP Wireless	Morrisville Tavern
Fields Printwear	Rich Costeolow Scholarship Fund
Long & Foster Realtors	Brian Cahmbers Scholarship Fund

**5.4. Approval, Direct Business Administrator to Solicit Health Insurance Quotes**

The Board approved a motion to direct the Business Administration to solicit health insurance quotes from vendors other than our current provider.

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

**5.5. Approval, Advertise for Quotes for a Solicitor**

The Board approved a motion to advertise for quotes for a District Solicitor.

Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Mihok; passed by a voice vote of 6 ayes; 2 nays. Members voting nay were Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Reithmeyer.

*Mrs. Reithmeyer quoted amounts paid to the Solicitor for the past 4 years. She asked if there was a problem with Mr. Kelly. Mr. Hellmann advised that he wanted to see if anyone local is interested and Mr. Kelly is welcome to submit a quote. Mrs. Reithmeyer stated that since Mr. Kelly does not charge for travel time, solicitor's office location does not affect us. Mrs. Worob added that it is not uncommon for boards to explore solicitors.*

**5.6. Approval, Establish Educational Foundation**

The Board approved a motion to establish an educational foundation in the District.

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

*Mrs. Reithmeyer advised that she did some investigating of surrounding districts and most have established such a foundation. Mr. Hellmann suggested we appoint a committee for this*

*purpose. Mrs. Reithmeyer stated that we are not at that stage in the process. There is a lot of paperwork to be done and this board does not appoint the board of directors. Our board would appoint individuals to start the program and their board of directors would be appointed from those involved.*

The following is an addition to this evening's agenda.

*Mrs. Worob advised that the House Rules were brought up at the agenda meeting since they pertain to period of time before a tabled/defeated item may be brought back up for consideration by the board. Therefore, she made the following motion:*

The Board approved a motion to suspend the House Rules.

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

**5.7. Approval, Go Out For Bid on Immediate Action Items from Existing Systems  
Evaluation prepared by Wick Fisher White January 30, 2008**

Items 5.7.a. to 5.7.j were voted on in one motion. Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a roll call vote of 6 ayes; 2 nays. Members voting nay were Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Reithmeyer.

The Board approved a motion to direct the Business Administrator to go out for bid on the following items evaluated in the January 30, 2008 Existing Systems Evaluation by Wick Fisher White.

- 5.7.a. Recondition the primary 5 kV breaker and replace trip units fo secondary distribution breakers. Order-of-magnitude cost -- \$40,000.
- 5.7.b. Additional branch panels shall be added in the original building to minimize overloading on the existing panels. Further investigation and design is needed. Order-of-magnitude cost -- \$50,000.
- 5.7.c. Install automatic fire suppression systems in the kitchen exhaust hoods. Order-of-magnitude cost -- \$15,000 each.
- 5.7.d. Install emergency gas shutoff station and solenoid of natural gas supply to science classroom. Order-of-magnitude cost -- \$5,000.
- 5.7.e. Add fire alarm system pullstations and strobes to building exits to comply with fire alarm code. Order-of-magnitude cost to be determined.
- 5.7.f. Correct mounting height of fire alarm system devices to comply with ADA requirements. Order-of-magnitude cost to be determined.
- 5.7.g. Replace existing generator exhaust stack and insulate. Order-of-magnitude cost -- \$10,000.

- 5.7.h. Correct plumbing code issues in kitchen. Order-of-magnitude cost -- \$30,000.
- 5.7.i. Perform maintenance and conduct a coordination study of the proper setting for breakers in the main substation. Order-of magnitude cost -- \$50,000.
- 5.7.j. A complete electrical single line diagram should be generated so that electrical emergencies can be acted on faster. Order-of-magnitude cost -- \$5,000.

*Mr. Kemp asked if Wick Fisher White answered any of the questions that Tim brought up. Mrs. Dunford advised that they refused to speak with us unless they received additional funds and she did not have authorization to do that. In order to do this the board will need to authorize more funds so I may talk to them and they will probably have to do some specs.*

*Mr. Hellmann replied these are safety items and need to be fixed immediately.*

*Mr. Reithmeyer reiterated that this is an incomplete report, by their own admission, it is incomplete. I assume we will have to have an engineer write specs for these projects and at what cost. By following this route on this project we will not be eligible for PlanCon funds. That's \$20,000 in the district's pocket.*

*Mr. Radosti asked if something is done by a legal contract, it's bonded. The state will not reimburse that? Mrs. Dunford replied that they will not. You must have an approved plan and a feasibility study done.*

*Mr. Hellmann stated these are safety items and need to be fixed immediately.*

*Mr. Farrell stated that all of the items in this motion are included in the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Dunford stated that Tim Lastichen told Wick Fisher & White what needed to be done and they just wrote it down. Mrs. Mihok disagreed stating this is not true; she and Mr. Farrell were there.*

*Mrs. Dunford asked if she has authorization to spend money to speak to Wick Fisher & White and have specs made. Mrs. Reithmeyer suggested we hire an independent to do the specs.*

*Mr. Hellmann suggested it be put on the agenda for next month.*

*Mrs. Reithmeyer stated she wanted to push through an RFP that Mr. Hellmann held off on. Mrs. Heater commented that it was too costly to go through a feasibility study.*

*Mrs. Reithmeyer stated that we received 22 proposals and six were under what Wick Fisher White wants to give us for the 3 buildings. They want another \$8,000 a total of \$10,500. EI Associates has a great plan for \$6,500 AND we can get our money back if we go through PlanCon.*

## **5.8. 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: (2/27/08 – 3/18/08)	\$ 375,568.60
Athletic Fund (2/29/08 – 3/25/08)	912.00
Cafeteria Fund: (3/27/08)	40,149.10
Accounts Payable (3/27/08)	169,487.98
Capital Projects (3/27/08)	633.00
Capital Reserve (3/27/08)	2,500.00
Procurement Cards (February)	6,361.76
Payroll & Benefits (February)	<u>791,671.84</u>
<b>TOTAL BILLS</b>	<b>\$1,387,284.28</b>

*Moved by Mr. Hellmann; seconded by Mrs. Worob; passed by a roll call vote of 8 ayes.*

- *Mr. Hellmann and Mrs. Mihok approved bills except the \$38 payment to Richard's Flowers.*
- *Mrs. Reithmeyer approved the bills with the exception of the \$2,500 to Wick, Fisher, White.*

*Mrs. Dunford advised that the florist bill was for Girls Basketball Recognition night from the athletic budget. This is customary. Mrs. Mihok commented that if these funds are district funds the parents should chip in for this expense.*

## **6. LIAISON REPORTS**

- a. Lower Bucks County Vocational-Educational School – Mr. Frankenfield  
*Mr. Frankenfield left the meeting early.*
- b. Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 – Mrs. Mihok  
*Mrs. Mihok attended this month's meeting. A light supper was served and an excellent program on social thinking deficits was presented.*
- c. Pennsylvania School Boards Association/Legislative – Mrs. Worob  
*Mrs. Worob had no report.*

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

*Mr. Hellmann appointed Mrs. Worob, Mr. Frankenfield, Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Mihok to the Community Action Committee. Mrs. Perotti to monitor. Purpose is to come up with a plan for the district that is best for the school and the Borough.*

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### Varsity Assistant Softball Coach

Mrs. Reithmeyer presented a motion to accept the resignation of Robert Klemmer from the position of Varsity Assistant Softball Coach and replace him with Rich Poland at a pro-rated stipend.

Moved by Mrs. Reithmeyer; seconded by Mr. Kemp; motion FAILS by a roll call vote of 3 ayes; 4 nays; 1 abstention. Members voting nay were Mr. Hellmann, Mrs. Mihok, Mrs. Worob and Mrs. Heater. Mr. Radosti abstained.

*Mr. Ferrara advised that Mr. Klemmer's personal responsibilities have changed and he is no longer able to fill this position. Mr. Ferrara just received this information today. Mr. Poland has been acting as an assistant coach. The stipend should be pro-rated effective 3/25/08.*

*Mr. Hellmann would like this motion tabled until he has more information. Mr. Ferrara advised that it is in the best interest of the girls to appoint Mr. Poland and continue the team. Mr. Poland is already an employee of the district. Mr. Hellmann reiterated his interest to table. Mrs. Reithmeyer pointed out that in the area of personnel there may be times when the board needs to act more quickly than the scheduled meetings. Mr. Farrell stated that this position should be advertised.*

**Joint Borough Council/School District Meeting**

Mrs. Reithmeyer reported that a meeting was held March 4, 2008 at 7:30 pm.

In attendance: Nancy Sherlock, Dave Rivella, Robin Reithmeyer, Ed Frankenfield

Discussion Items:

- Parking at MRR
- Seating at maximum capacity at school events
- Crosswalks
- Recycling – absence of dumpster
- Advertise meeting on school cable channel

Public speakers: Mr. Eisengren, Mrs. Haug and Mr. Miller.

**Cable TV Channel**

Mr. Farrell stated that the new channel format is a good improvement.

Mrs. Mihok voiced several concerns.

- The cable contract was approved by the previous board at a cost of \$6,000/year with a \$100 monthly maintenance fee. Please confirm.
- Amount of advertising currently running on the channel
- Agenda meeting played 30 times; is this necessary?

*Mrs. Dunford suggested that any questions concerning the cable broadcast should be e-mailed to Chris Barone so that he may come to the next meeting prepared to answer your questions.*

**Feasibility Study**

Regarding the bids that have been received, Mr. Kemp asked how long are the bids good? Mrs. Dunford replied that there is no time limit and it would be up to the individual bidder.

In an effort to move this forward, Mr. Kemp made the following motion:

The Board **DEFEATED** a motion to accept the proposal for a feasibility study from EI Associates for \$6,500. Moved by Mr. Kemp; seconded by Mrs. Reithmeyer; DEFEATED by a roll call vote of 5 nays; 3 ayes. Members voting aye were Mr. Kemp, Mrs. Reithmeyer and Mr. Farrell.

*Mr. Farrell commented that EI Associates has quite a bit of experience with renovations. Their cost is \$6500 which is given back if they do they work. Mrs. Dunford stated that she has spoken to several Business Managers who spoke highly of this organization.*

*Mr. Hellmann stated he hasn't looked at any of the proposals; this should be on the agenda.*

*Mrs. Reithmeyer asked him why not – they have been out since December. This is why we have "New Business."*

*Mrs. Reithmeyer asked what is the board doing? We have agenda meetings and items show up on the final agenda that were not discussed at the agenda meetings. We have committees and items show up on the agenda that were not discussed in committee. We have new business and old business but we can't bring up items under new business.*

Minutes of the Board of School Directors  
March 26, 2008

*We have a motion for \$10,500 to Wick Fisher White for their cockamamie plan when we have a proposal from EI Associates for an actual plan for \$6,500 AND we can get PlanCon money – and we vote it down? What are we doing people?*

*Future Meetings and Items of Interest*

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 ..... 6:30 pm – Infrastructure/Facilities Committee  
..... 7:00 pm – Finance Committee  
..... 7:30 pm -- Board Agenda Meeting  
Tuesday, April 22, 2008 ..... Election Day/No School for Students  
Wednesday, April 23, 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](http://www.mv.org)***  
***and Channel 6 on your Local Cable***

**9. Adjournment**

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 pm.

---

William R. Hellmann, President

---

Marlys Mihok

Transcribed by Jeanne Corrigan