

MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Minutes of March 14, 2011  
LAFAYETTE LEARNING CENTER

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of the Morris School District, of Morris County, New Jersey was held in the Lafayette Learning Center, 31 Hazel Street, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 on Monday evening March 14, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Christine A. Kelly, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act the Board of Education of the Morris School District in the County of Morris has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted. The notice was mailed to the Daily Record, the Star Ledger, and to those persons or entities requesting notification, filed with the municipal clerks of Morris Plains, Morristown and Morris Township, and posted at the Administration Center, 31 Hazel Street, Morristown, New Jersey.

At the Roll Call, the following Board Members were present: Dr. Peter Gallerstein, Mr. Christopher Gardner, Morris Plains Representative, Ms. Lynn Horowitz, Mrs. Teresa Murphy, Mrs. Ann Rhines, Dr. Angela Rieck, Mrs. Marie Fornaro, Vice-President and Ms. Lisa Pollak, President. Mrs. Nancy Bangiola and Ms. Sandra McNeil arrived at 6:40 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. Dr. Rieck moved to go into closed session to discuss legal, negotiation and personnel matters. Ms. Horowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously with Mrs. Bangiola and Ms. McNeil absent.

Also present were Dr. Thomas Ficarra, Superintendent; Dr. Maryann Reilly, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Andrew Williams, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Martha Weber, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Christine Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Anthony LoFranco, Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary; Mrs. Nancy Helterman, Director of Pupil Services and Mr. Richard Rosenberg, Consultant.

At 6:55 p.m. Mrs. Murphy moved to go into a Human Resource committee meeting. Mrs. Fornaro seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Ms. Fornaro, Mr. Gardner, Ms. McNeil, Dr. Rieck, Mr. Rosenberg, Ms. Kelly, Mr. LoFranco, Mr. Williams, Ms. Helterman & Dr. Reilly left the meeting during this time. The board met in committee until 7:35 p.m. when they went back into open session. Student Representative, Marissa Zuckerman and approximately 7 members of the public, press and staff were now present. Student representative, Nikhil Shah was absent.

When the Board reconvened, Ms. Pollak announced that the Board had met in closed session for the purpose of discussing legal, negotiation and personnel matters.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Pollak led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Morristown High School**

Marissa reported:

2 special assemblies on bullying will be held. Michael Fowlin will be the speaker.

Last Friday was challenge day for the freshman.

The musical “Good News” will be held March 25, 26, 27.

The Key Club is sponsoring a Team Handball Tournament.

FBLA was on an overnight trip. Students will be competing in State Leadership Conference.

Jazz Spectrum Ensemble.

Selected for State Final – 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

Competing at Princeton High School April 30.

Trombones won “Best Trombone Section” in the preliminary round.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Ficarra reported he had attended a class at the high school and was very impressed with their ideas.

Students spoke openly regarding scheduling & curriculum.

Their input was most refreshing and in no way self centered.

Their ideas were unique and creative.

Looking for a way for them to meet with the high school redesign committee.

Students were very impressed that the Superintendent made time for them and that he listened to their concerns.

Dr. Ficarra also reported he has been asked to serve on a 15 member committee of superintendents for the Commissioner of Education. This committee will review regulations that may be redundant or could be eliminated.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public spoke this evening.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**

### **Morris Plains**

Mr. Gardner reported:

The Superintendent is presenting the budget to the Republican Club

**BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING**

**Voting by Mr. Gardner pertains to Central Office Issues and Morristown High School.**

**MINUTES**

- Motion #1 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve executive minutes from the special board meeting of:  
February 28, 2011
- Motion #2 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve minutes from the special board meeting of:  
February 28, 2011
- Motion #3 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve minutes from the regular business meeting of:  
March 2, 2011

**MINUTES (Motions #1-3)**

Moved by Dr. Gallerstein, seconded by Dr. Rieck

AYES: Mrs. Bangiola, Dr. Gallerstein, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Horowitz, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Rhines, Dr. Rieck except abstain on motion #3, Mrs. Fornaro, Ms. Pollak

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Ms. McNeil & Dr. Rieck on Motion #3

ABSENT: None

**EDUCATIONAL**

***ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE***

Motion #1 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the curriculum development activity for Environmental Science.

**EXPLANATION:**

This was reviewed by Curriculum Council and the Board Curriculum Committee and recommended for Board approval.

***MEF GRANTS***

Motion #2 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accept monies from the Morris Education Foundation for the following grants:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$500.00	HC	Anti-Bullying Seminar

This grant will pay for a seminar on anti-bullying for all parents K-5 in the Morris School District. As a result, parents will be better able to help their youngsters deal with bullying.

**\$4,246.00      FMS                      Digital Reading and Digital Responding through  
Interactive Book Clubs**

The Digital Reading and Digital Responding through Interactive Book Clubs grant is for a pilot program that will allow sixth-grade students to take part in reading and responding within book clubs using 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. Grant funds will be used to purchase twenty-four Nook E-readers and four E-books for each device. Each sixth-grade Language Arts teacher will be able to infuse the E-Readers and E-books into his/her instruction. All of the sixth-grade students will have the opportunity to take part in both reading digital texts and also responding in oral and digital contexts, thus transforming the already established book clubs into ones more captivating and engaging for our learners. Students of varying levels will be impacted by the differentiation inherent in the use of E-reading. Struggling learners will benefit from the assistive reading technology, such as listening to audio books using the text-to-speech feature and using the interactive and immediate word dictionary. In addition, the grant will allow readers at lower-levels to share their thoughts and responses and engage more within book club discussions that their peers, working on a more difficult reading level, are engaged in. Teachers will find it easier to motivate and engage some learners because of the interactive and technological features of the E-reading experience.

**Amount                      School                      Project  
\$400.00                      AH                      National Audubon Society Land: A Natural  
Treasure in Our Own Backyard**

The Bird Module is part of the fourth grade curriculum. Students are educated on all aspects of bird life, as well as the importance of birds to the food web and our ecological existence. We are fortunate to have a National Audubon Site close by. With this grant, the children will have an opportunity to visit. Included in the trip is an introduction to the National Audubon Site which is held within a classroom. Experts will explain the use of binoculars, species that might be seen, and the importance of setting aside portions of land to protect our environment. High trained guides will escort the students on hikes along various trails. Birds, their nests, local vegetation, and threats to the ecosystem will be discussed along the way. In addition, this trip will provide countless topics for writing workshop.

**EDUCATIONAL (Motions #1-2)**

Moved by Dr. Rieck, seconded by Dr. Gallerstein

AYES:                      Mrs. Bangiola, Dr. Gallerstein, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Horowitz, Ms. McNeil, Mrs. Murphy,  
Mrs. Rhines, Dr. Rieck, Mrs. Fornaro, Ms. Pollak

NOES:                      None

ABSENT:                      None

***ABOLISH POSITION(S) 2010-2011***

Motion #1 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education abolish the following position(s):

- (1) .5 Custodian, LLC

***RESIGNATION(S)/TERMINATION(S) 2010-2011***

Motion #2 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the resignation(s) and/or termination(s) of the following staff according to the effective date and reason shown:

Delpeche, Emmanuel Custodian, LLC	February 17, 2011 Resignation
Parrillo, Richard Custodian, AH	June 1, 2011 Retirement
Employee #2320	March 29, 2011 Termination

***SUBSTITUTE(S) 2010-2011***

Motion #3 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve that the following name(s) be added to the list of substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year, and further that the Board of approve submission to the County Superintendent applications for emergency hiring and each applicant's attestation that s/he has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18a:6-7.1 et seq., 18A:6-4.13 et seq.:

<u>Teacher Assistant</u> Baitey, Simone	<u>Bus Aide</u> Haith, Silas
--	---------------------------------

***LEAVE(S) OF ABSENCE 2010-2011***

Motion #4 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a leave of absence to the following staff under the conditions stated and effective dates shown:

Baker, Linda Teacher Assistant, AH	03/02/11 (PM) – 03/04/11 ** FMLA
Solaro, Christie .5 Assistant Behavior Specialist	03/07/11-04/22/11-Maternity *

\* Accumulated sick leave may be used up to a period of eight weeks (four weeks before and four weeks after the birth of the baby) – with pay/with benefits.

\*\* Without pay, with benefits

***CHANGE(S) OF ASSIGNMENT AND/OR SALARY 2010-2011***

Motion #5 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the change(s) of assignment and/or salary for the following staff:

<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Former Assignment</u>		<u>In Place of:</u>
Taylor, Nailah	Tchr Asst., Sp Ed, FMS	02/28/11-06/30/11	Imhoff, E.
Tchr Asst., Sp Ed, NP			Retired

***COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2010-2011***

Motion #6 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following Sunrise/Sunset substitute staff:

Braun, Natailya	Aide	\$ 9.00/hr
Falconer, Brianna	Aide	\$ 9.00/hr
Romanker, Shawn	Aide	\$13.00/hr
Romanker, Shawn	Teacher	\$16.00/hr

**EXPLANATION:**

Salaries to be paid out of collected tuitions.

**HUMAN RESOURCES/CURRICULUM**

***ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE***

Motion #7 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following staff members for the Environmental Science curriculum development activity:

Program:	Environmental Science
Description:	Teachers will develop the Environmental Science Curriculum research
Dates:	March, 2011 – August, 2011
Participating Staff:	Two teachers for up to 20 hours each
Funding Source:	Title II
Rate:	Per contract language

Allen, Tracey  
Young, Brian

***APPOINTMENT(S) 2010-2011***

Motion #8 that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following to the position/s stated at the annual salary rates and effective date/s shown, and further that the Board of Education approve the submission to the County Superintendent applications for emergency hiring and each applicant's attestation that s/he has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18a6-7.1 et seq.; 18:39-17 et seq.; 18A:6-4.13 et seq.:

Ripa, Giovanni \*/\*\*  
Custodian, MHS

\$28,000

02/26/11-06/30/11

In place of:  
Hackett, A.  
Reassigned

*Revised*

\* Pending completion of paperwork

\*\* Pending probationary period

**HUMAN RESOURCES (Motions #1-8)**

Moved by Dr. Rieck, seconded by Dr. Gallerstein

AYES: Mrs. Bangiola, Dr. Gallerstein, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Horowitz, Ms. McNeil, Mrs. Murphy,  
Mrs. Rhines, Dr. Rieck, Mrs. Fornaro, Ms. Pollak

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**BUSINESS MATTERS**

**Financial Reports**

***BILLS LIST (10-11)***

Motion #1 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the attached 2010-2011 bills list for the period ending

**March 14, 2011**

***BUDGET TRANSFERS (10-11)***

Motion #2 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve Budget Transfers for the 2010-2011 budget through **February 28, 2011**.

***GROW IT GREEN***

Motion #3 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve "Grow It Green Morristown" installing a prefab greenhouse within the existing garden at Lafayette Learning Center.

**EXPLANATION**

In requesting permission to install a prefab 12' X 24' greenhouse within the existing garden, Grow It Green will be responsible for all variances, permits and/or fees associated with the installation of the greenhouse. There will be no expense to the Morris School District. The installation of the greenhouse would allow the garden to serve the students the entire year.

As per the existing agreement the district retains the right to terminate this agreement at any time upon sixty (60) days notice to Grow It Green.

**PAYMENTS**

- Motion #4 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a payment in the amount of \$4,800.00 to USA Architects for professional service work done on the Alexander Hamilton Roof Replacement from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011. (Invoice #20483)
- Motion #5 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a payment in the amount of \$15,520.00 to USA Architects for professional service work done on the Thomas Jefferson Roof Replacement from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011. (Invoice #20484)
- Motion #6 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a payment in the amount of \$4,800.00 to USA Architects for professional service work done on the Morristown High School Toilet Room Upgrades from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011. (Invoice #20494)
- Motion #7 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a payment in the amount of \$3,400.00 to USA Architects for professional service work done on the Morristown High School Window Upgrades from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011. (Invoice #20495)
- Motion #8 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve a payment in the amount of \$13,633.70 to USA Architects for professional service work done on the Hillcrest Window Upgrades from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011. (Invoice #20496)

**TRAVEL & REIMBURSEMENT**

Motion #9 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, employees are attending conferences, conventions, staff training seminars or workshops as depicted on attachment A: and

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated functions was previously approved by the chief school administrator as work related and within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendees; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the functions was approved as critical to the instructional needs of the school district or furthering the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, the travel and related expenses particular to attendance at these functions are in compliance with the state travel payment guidelines established by the Department of Treasury and with guidelines established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget; be it

RESOLVED, that the board approves the travel and related expenses particular to attendance at these functions.

**BUDGET 2011-2012 Revised preliminary**

Motion #10 that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Morris School District Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the proposed 2011-2012 school district budget for submission to the County Superintendent for review and approval to advertise and to utilize the following Tax Levy:

General Fund	\$ 96,104,553
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 3,124,223
Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,114,783
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,343,559</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there should be tax levy raised for the

General Fund	\$80,807,655
Debt Service Fund	\$ 917,488

for the ensuing School Year (2011-2012); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following capital projects for the 2010-2011 school year:

Morristown High School Windows	\$131,280
Hillcrest Windows	\$619,620
Morristown High School ADA Toilet Room Upgrades	\$181,800
Alexander Hamilton Roof	\$300,000
Morristown High School Science Labs	\$738,750
Thomas Jefferson Roof	\$833,238
Thomas Jefferson Parking Lot	\$150,000
State EDA Grant Repayment	\$ 13,511

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the MORRIS School District Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey approves the following resolution;

WHEREAS, NJASA 18A:7F-39 was amended in 2010 effective beginning in 2011-2012 to allow a school district that has not been granted approval to exceed its tax levy cap by a separate proposal to bank the unused tax levy for use in any one of the next three succeeding budget years;

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of tax levy increase for 2011-2012 amounts to **\$81,338,754**, which includes the allowable **\$275,587** enrollment adjustment;

WHEREAS the 2011-2012 preliminary budget shows a tax increase **\$80,807,655**;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris School District Board of Education in the County of Morris, New Jersey hereby establishes a banked unused tax levy in the amount of **\$531,099** which includes the **\$275,587** enrollment adjustment and **\$255,512** coming under the 2% cap, to be possibly utilized in the 2012-2013 – 2014-2015 school years.

#### **TRAVEL 2011-2012**

Motion #11

WHEREAS, school district policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b) provides that the board of education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2011-2012 school year; and

WHEREAS, maximum expenditure amount allotted for travel and expense reimbursement for the 2010-2011 school year was **\$142,631**; and

WHEREAS, travel and expense reimbursement has reached a total amount **\$14,466** as of March 1, 2011;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris School District Board of Education, in the County of Morris, New Jersey hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2011-2012 school year at the sum of **\$123,705**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 2011-2012**

Motion #12 WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:5.2 (a) mandates boards to establish annually prior to budget preparation, for public relations and each type of professional service a maximum level of spending for the ensuing school year; and  
WHEREAS, the tentative budget includes the following appropriations

Auditor	\$ 40,000
Attorney/Special Counsel	\$150,000
Negotiations Consultant	\$ 50,000
Architect	\$100,000*
School Physician/	\$ 18,000
Orthopedic Physician	\$ 3,000
OT/PT/Speech/Job Coaching	\$100,000

The supporting documentation of this budget also contains an itemization of certain expenditures required under administrative regulations.

\* The architect fees reflect those paid from local funds.

**BUSINESS MATTERS (Motions #1-12)**

Moved by Dr. Rieck, seconded by Dr. Gallerstein

AYES: Mrs. Bangiola, Dr. Gallerstein, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Horowitz, Ms. McNeil, Mrs. Murphy,  
Mrs. Rhines, Dr. Rieck, Mrs. Fornaro, Ms. Pollak

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**NEW BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD**

**FIELD TRIPS**

Dr. Gallerstein expressed a concern that field trips are being scheduled before getting board approval and that the board is being asked to approve them thru e-mail.

**ADJOURNMENT (8:49 p.m.)**

Moved by Dr. Rieck, seconded by Dr. Gallerstein

AYES: Mrs. Bangiola, Dr. Gallerstein, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Horowitz, Ms. McNeil, Mrs. Murphy,  
Mrs. Rhines, Dr. Rieck, Mrs. Fornaro, Ms. Pollak

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Respectfully Submitted

Christine A. Kelly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary