

CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Voting Meeting April 15, 2010 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 pm

MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Regular Voting Meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2010 in the cafeteria of the junior-senior high school. Those in attendance included President Thomas Brown, Vice President Patricia Schirripa and School Directors Thomas DiPietro, Ronald McCartney, Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaro, Raymond Walkowiak and Sharon Wilson. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitor Ira Weiss, Business Manager Kirby Christy, Director of Pupil Services Lee Myford and Principals Jacie Maslyk, Robert Susini, Courtney Tempest and Christopher Very. The audience was comprised of 15 individuals and three members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Panza offered condolences to the families of Erma Rodi and Joan Fleshman Bowen, former district employees. Carnegie Elementary students Byron Hudson, Gary Fluharty and Cristy Crawshaw were introduced by Sgt. Mark Lint, who leads the DARE program at Carnegie and the junior high. The students were essay contest winners for the DARE program. After the introduction, the students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL – The roll was called by Recording Secretary Michale Herrmann. Director Hughan was excused from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2010 Regular Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Minutes of the March 18,
2010 Meeting

REPORTS:

- **Executive Session** – President Brown acknowledged that school code, contractual, and legal issues were discussed in executive session.
 - **Principals' Reports** – The principals distributed monthly newsletters. Mrs. Maslyk called attention to the PSSA testing process; Mr. Veri stated that a new positive behavior program is in place; and Mrs. Tempest reported that PSSA testing is going well, in addition to highlighting certain student achievements.
 - **Director of Pupil Services' Report** – Mrs. Myford reported that evening parent programs are in progress. She also noted she recently attended a PDE conference regarding positive behavior support. Director Wilson thanked Mrs. Myford for the positive programming and asked that a committee be formed to review what may be lacking and bring that to the board.
 - **Business Manager Report** – Mr. Christy announced that the Southwest Tax Collection Committee met and approved an RFP to begin the process of hiring a tax company. The committee voted to implement the new tax laws by January 1, 2012.
- **Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Panza briefly reviewed the calendar of upcoming events, noting the following:

- ✓ *The three day waiver request for seniors was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education*
- ✓ *The bids were received and opened for transportation and band uniforms. President Brown asked if the goal to have marching band uniforms by the fall marching season was on target, and Dr. Panza said every effort was being made to have that happen.*
- Pathfinder Report – None
- Parkway West CTC Report – None
- SHASDA – Director Schirripa reported that the hot topic at the last meeting was state funding increases. She also announced that Yolanda Adams and Jessica Yeager are the district's SHASDA representatives. Lastly, she thanked Dr. Panza for collecting donations for SHASDA in excess of \$21,900.
- PSBA-Legislative – Director Walkowiak said he traveled to Mechanicsburg last month to the PSBA offices for a by-laws meeting. He noted that Governor Rendell is touring eastern school districts to discuss budgets. In closing, he announced that PDE has released the Keystone Exam anchors and they are posted on the PDE website.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:

I. Miscellaneous

Director Wilson moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve the Conference and Field Trip Requests as submitted and reviewed by administration:

- FT...Craft K...Pgh Zoo & Aquarium...Diversity of Wildlife...4/13
 - C...D.Criste...Washington, D.C...National Safety Partol...4/19-21
 - FT...A.Harrity...Aviary...Science Content Studies...4/21
 - C...J.Sweeney...Holiday Inn, Monroeville...Homeless WS...4/26
 - FT...Carnegie K...Aviary...Birds and Habitats...4/22
 - C...R.Donovan...AIU...PennData Workshop...4/23
 - F...A.Harrity...Phipps Conservatory...Butterfly Garden...4/27
 - C...N.Milson...RMU...Business Ed. Seminar...4/27
 - FT...M.Mishkin...Kaplan Career Institute...Post-Sec. Info...4/29
 - FT...MBVeri...Acension Hall, Ingram...Invention Conv...4/30
 - FT...Carnegie 5th Gr...A.Carnegie Library...Civil War Rm...4/30
 - FT...Nagorski/Rex...A.Carnegie Library...Civil War Room...4/30
 - FT...Rex/Nagorski...Wheeling Jesuit U...Challenger Ctr...5/4
 - FT...M.Berlinger...Carnegie...Flower Planting...5/7
 - FT...Craft Gr.4...Just Ducky & Duq. Incline...History of Pgh...5/12
 - FT...Crafton 5th Gr...Beechwood Farms...Nature Reserve...5/25
 - FT...Craft Gr.2...Heinz History Ctr...Culture Impacts...5/26
- (Miscellaneous Item #0410-1 REVISED)

The list of recommended courses for the 2010-2011 school year as well as omitting those with low enrollment as provided; (Miscellaneous Item #0410-2)

Conference and Field Trip Requests

List of Recommend Courses – 2010-2011

And the revisions to the technology Acceptable Usage Policy as submitted by the Technology Department. (Miscellaneous Item #0410-3) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Prior to voting, Director Schell asked if more explicit language could be used in the Acceptable Usage Policy to mention personal laptops. Dr. Panza noted that the policy states “electronic devices” and those words cover all electronics such as laptops, cell phones, etc.

II. Finance

Director Tassaro moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the month of March 2010 as presented;

March 2010 bills in the amount of \$1,548,549.19 as presented;

The February 2010 Cafeteria Operating Report as presented and submitted by Aramark Education Services representing a loss of \$59.89 with a year-to-date gain of \$43,145.76; (Finance Item #0410-2)

The February 2010 Athletic Fund Report with a balance of \$2,311.36 as presented; (Finance Item #0410-3)

The February 2010 Activities Fund Report with a balance of \$39,681.66 as presented; (Finance Item #0410-4)

The March 2010 Athletic Fund Report with a balance of \$5,787.20 as presented; (Finance Item #0410-5)

The March 2010 Activities Fund Report with a balance of \$36,347.47 as presented; (Finance Item #0410-6)

Adoption of resolution and restatement of the VALIC 401(a) Special Pay Plan as submitted by the business manager and reviewed by the solicitor; (Finance Item #0410-7)

Mr. Christy clarified why this motion was necessary explaining that the board approved an agreement with VALIC in August 2004 so that retirees could place their severance into an IRS program. The program terminated in August 2006. Since then, the IRS has deemed it necessary to restate (but not implement) the plan to keep the money in place for those who initially participated in the program.

Renew the agreement with the Project Succeed credit recovery program for the 2010-2011 school year with 12 seats at a cost of \$12,000 as presented; (Finance Item #0410-8)

Dr. Panza explained that Project Succeed is operated by Keystone Oaks School District. It is an evening program for seniors to make up credits. The program has been very successful and has enabled seniors to graduate on time. The students’ degree is issued by the district in which they live.

Revisions to Acceptable Usage Policy

Treasurer’s Report – March 2010

March 2010 Bills

February 2010 Cafeteria Operating Report

February 2010 Athletic Fund Report

February 2010 Activities Fund Report

March 2010 Athletic Fund Report

March 2010 Activities Fund Report

VALIC 401(a)

Project Succeed

And continuation in the ClearChoice Energy program in accordance with the Schedule A Curtailment Services Agreement. (Finance Item #0410-9) **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 8-0.**

ClearChoice Curtailment Agreement

III. Personnel

Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the additions to the 2009-2010 Day-to-Day Substitute List as follows and recommended by administration:

Additions to Day-to-Day Sub List

- Michelle Hassler – Elementary and Secondary 7-9
- Rachel Lageman – English 7-12
- James Rupert – Elementary/Special Education (Personnel Item #0410-1)

The addition to the 2009-2010 Athletic Supplemental List as presented;

Additions to the 09-10 Athletic Supplemental List

- Megan Carpenter – Assistant Volleyball (Personnel Item #0410-2)

The request for a Leave of Absence by employee CFT10-22 as submitted. (Personnel Item #0410-3)

LOA Request – CFT10-22

The additions to the 2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental List as presented;

Additions to the 10-11 Athletic Supplemental List

- Stephen Buches – Varsity First (1) Assistant Football
- Joe Farkas – Varsity Assistant Football
- Michael Donovan – Varsity Assistant Football
- Jesse Valentine – Jr. High Head Football
- Michael Dudjak – Jr. High Assistant Football (Personnel Item #0410-4)

And the resignation of Varsity Head Boys' Basketball Coach Hal Minford and to post for the said opening. (Personnel Item #0410-5) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Resignation – Hal Minford

Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to declare open the position of varsity head girls' basketball coach for the 2010-2011 school year and post for the position. **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 6-2, with Directors Tassaro and Wilson voting NO.**

Open Varsity Head Girls' Basketball Position

Before voting, the board gave Thomas Kubisek, varsity head girls' basketball coach, the opportunity to speak. Mr. Kubisek said he tried to focus on the positive as a coach but throughout his career, he ran into many difficulties, citing maintenance issues, conditions of facilities, and availability of facilities. He said participation was low, but he had no control over that, given that the program has not had a consistent coach for many years. To make progress, he continued, he needed more time; he has already seen improvement in the girls and there is talent moving up from the lower grades. In closing he said he felt the girls' basketball program has been disrespected and by opening the position, it would be another step backwards. Mr. Kubisek said he was asked to be more lenient with his rules but was never warned or told that he would be fired.

A resident of the district, Fredricka Lewellyn commented by saying it would be a shame to let Coach Kubisek go.

During Mr. Kubisek's statements, President Brown cautioned him in regards to making public personal attacks, and asked him to maintain decorum.

IV. Policy

The first reading of revisions to Policy Nos. 103.1, 103.1AR, 113, 113.1, 113.2, 113.3 and 114 as presented; (Policy Item #0410-1) **PLACE ON AGENDA**

Policy Revisions – First Reading

Removal of Policy Nos. 315, 415 and 515 as recommended by PSBA and confirmed by the solicitor; **PLACE ON AGENDA**

Removal of Policies

The first reading of revisions to Policy No. 335 in addition to 335-AR and 335-AR-1 as presented. (Policy Item #0410-2) **PLACE ON AGENDA**

Policy Revisions – First Reading

The first reading of revisions to Policy No. 504 as presented. (Policy Item #0410-3) **PLACE ON AGENDA**

Policy Revisions – First Reading

V. Student Services

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve the addition to the list of bus drivers as recommend by the Transportation Department and First Student:

Addition to the Bus Driver List

- Vesselin Doynov
(Student Services Item #0410-1)

*And the disciplinary action for students E-01/2010 and E-02/2010 as recommended by administration. (Student Services Item #0410-2) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.***

Disciplinary Action for Students

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *None*

NEW BUSINESS: *Director Walkowiak distributed a spreadsheet illustrating district millage from the years 2001 through 2009 and how the district compares to others in Allegheny County. The hand-out also revealed fund budget balances from 2004 through 2009. He called attention to the board's diligence to fiscal responsibility and cited that such factors as salary, health care and the projected PSERs increase will all have an impact on the numbers into the future.*

OPEN FORUM: *Rev. Ed Bowen came forward to say that in light of a recent parent workshop about sexuality in teens, he was voicing his opposition to the content of the musical with references to sexuality and mocking the Jewish faith. He asked that better judgment be used when selecting a musical.*

Director Wilson thanked Mrs. Myford for organizing the teen sexuality presentation and the positive programming.

President Brown said that although he did not attend the musical, he has heard both praise and some alarm. Director Schell suggested that a disclaimer be made before the shows, stating the content is for mature audiences, and said that perhaps content of scripts be reviewed before shows are decided.

Director DiPietro said he would never question the directors about the shows, saying they are some of the most respectable individuals he knows. He added that all musicals have bits and pieces of questionable scripts.

Director Tassaro said that by allowing such shows to be presented, the district is taking a part in desensitizing our youth. She suggested that guidelines be developed.

Director Walkowiak asked that the letters received, both praising and expressing concern, be shared with the directors as feed back. Dr. Panza said they have already been shared.

President Brown said the administration understands the situation and they can take the issue a step further.

Crafton resident Michael Kozy, Sr. came forward to ask what steps would be taken from this point forward regarding the feasibility study process. He said he was eager to see the wrap-up evaluation. Dr. Panza said a timeline was on the district website. Mr. Kozy said he hoped that should renovations be done, all measures would be taken to ensure the best prices from bidders. Director Walkowiak assured him the board would take appropriate action. Solicitor Weiss confirmed this by saying that the law is heavily regulated by PDE and school code, and thereby all contracted work and supplies would be awarded to the lowest responsible bidders.

President Brown said the board will do what makes the most sense, both educationally and financially, adding that he is not driven by emotions.

Directors Walkowiak and McCartney added that the board has made every effort to remain transparent, and the public meetings and fact finding processes are indicative of that.

Director DiPietro said he too is not driven by emotions and he will vote for what is best for the district. He said he cringed at a public meeting when he heard a parent say “we don’t need the best for our children.”

Varsity basketball player Angela Baker stepped forward to say that since she has been coached by Mr. Kubistek, she has become a better player and better person. She said that the girls’ basketball team has gone through six coaches in the last eight years and argued that the instability can not build a strong program.

A mother of a daughter who played on the girls’ basketball team said that Coach Kubisek has made every effort to pull the girls together both inside and outside of school. Another player also stepped forward to speak on his behalf.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Walkowiak to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm. By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.