

CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting May 6, 2010 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 pm

MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting on Thursday, May 6, 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, Sandra Hugan, Ronald McCartney, Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaró, Raymond Walkowiak and Sharon Wilson. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitor Greg Gleason, 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 12 individuals and one members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER - *The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 7:30 pm. Carnegie Elementary Principal Chris Very led the pledge. After, SHASDA award winner Yolanda Adams was recognized and asked to share a little about herself and her plans for the future. It was noted that Jessica Yeager was also named a SHASDA winner but was unable to attend the meeting.*

ROLL CALL – *The roll was called by Recording Secretary Michale Herrmann. All members of the board were present for the meeting.*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD: *Mr. Phil Eades, Regional Operations Manager for First Student, spoke to board members regarding the bid for a transportation contract. He stated the company enjoyed a great relationship with the district as the contracted bus company but said he was disappointed in the process. President Brown said the board fully recognizes the good service and quality of First Student employees but the district was obligated by law to accept the lowest responsible bidder, which was STA. Referencing STA's website, Mr. Brown went on to say the company appears to have a glowing reputation. He added that the change was certainly no reflection on First Student. In affirmation, Director Schell mirrored the comments of President Brown. First Student driver Jim Caruso said he worked for the bus company for 14 years. He pleaded for the board to look at the quality of service rather than a dollar figure, adding that First Student drivers know the routes, are familiar with the area and have built relationships with the students.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2010 Regular Voting Meeting as presented.

Director Wilson asked that the following sentence be added to minutes regarding comments to Lee Myford during her report: "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."

By a voice vote, the motion carried as amendment by a vote of 8-0-1, with Director Hugan abstaining due to absence.

Minutes of the April 15, 2010
Meeting

REPORTS:

- Executive Session – President Brown reported that school code, contractual, and legal issues were discussed in executive session.
 - Principals' Reports – The principals distributed monthly newsletters, highlighting activities in the classroom, recent assemblies and upcoming events.
 - Director of Pupil Services' Report – Mrs. Myford distributed a handout that mapped the student programs implemented through the year.
 - Business Manager Report – Mr. Christy notified the board that the district's share of the gaming funds is \$557,947.53, which represents a \$165 reduction for taxpayers in the 2010-11 year. He also noted the preliminary final budget will show a difference from the final budget due to the addition/purchase of EBSCO software for the district's libraries.
 - Superintendent's Report – Dr. Panza reviewed the calendar of upcoming events and called attention to the following:
 - Kimball has met with the elementary teachers and plans to tour the athletic facilities before compiling a final report
 - Four bid packets were provided for review regarding the replacement of the front sidewalk around the high school, the replacement of the pool drain, the paving of the high school track and the asphalt topping for the track
 - Suggested make-up days for the May 3 power outage could be the school picnic day, the day of the prom, or June 11, although the seniors would lose a day and the district would be fined a penalty of about \$2000
 - The district has been asked to participate in Leadership Pittsburgh. It is an honor to be selected. Information and voting regarding this item will be included in the next board packet
 - The Local Task Force on Education held their dinner at the high school; district transition coordinator Maggi Mishkin received an award for her dedication to students with special needs. President Brown extended kudos to Mrs. Mishkin.
- ✓ Secretary's Correspondence – The minutes of the Parkway West Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting of March 2, 2010 were entered into record. (SC Item #0510-01)

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:

I. Miscellaneous

Director Tassaro moved, seconded by Director McCartney to approved the Conference and Field Trip Requests as submitted and reviewed by administration:

- C...Smoller/Veri...Upper St. Clair HS...Gifted Ed. Seminar...5/7
- FT...MB Veri...Brentwood Boro...Calculus Tourney...5/12
- C...L. Merglowski...Southpointe Golf Club...ACSHIC Wellness College...5/14

Conference and Field Trip
Requests

- FT...B.Ward...Upper St. Clair...Regional Environ. Ctr...5/14
 - FT...F.Zebrasky...Bethel Park HS...Life Skills Soc. Develop...5/19
 - FT...Crafton 3rd G...Heinz Field/Omnimax...Educational FT...5/21
 - FT...MB Veri...Crafton Elem...Business Planning...5/24
 - FT...A.Harrity/F.Zebrasky...Just Ducky Tours...Pgh. Tour...6/2
 - FT...Grades 1 & 6...Oakwood Park...Study Buddies Wrap-up...6/2
 - FT...Craft. 6th G...South Fayette Twp...Challenge by Choice...6/7
 - FT...Carnegie 3rd G...Heinz Field & Science Ctr...Field Trip...5/21
 - C...T. Patsko...Bayer Corp...CHOICES Recognition...5/28
 - FT...Carnegie 5th G...Challenge by Choice...Group Co-op...6/1
 - FT...Carnegie 2nd G...Pgh Zoo... Wildlife & Conservation...6/4
- (Miscellaneous Item #0510-01 REVISED)

And the resolution to obtain financial assistance under the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for snow removal and work during the 2010 winter snow storm, and to name John Recchio as the district liaison to PEMA. (Miscellaneous Item #0510-02) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

PEMA Assistance – 2010
Winter Snow Storm

Prior to voting on the next item, a lengthy discussion took place to determine the best possible date to make-up the missed day of school of May 3. Director McCartney recommended the make-up day be June 11, citing too many conflicts with the other potential dates. Director Wilson agreed. Director Schell said that too many summer vacations are planned and the June 11 date would create a conflict. Having the teachers return on Monday could also impact their plans.

Director Hughan said the educational value must be stressed and the make-up day should coincide with the best day to stress the continuation of academics.

Discussion continued with input from the principals and other directors. Director Walkowiak asked if teachers had made comments about returning on Monday, June 14, should the make-up day be decided as June 11. Director Schirripa said she favored using the June 11 date. Dr. Panza said whatever the board decided would be fine with him. Director DiPietro suggested Kennywood Day, proposing students attend school in the morning and be released early to attend the school picnic. He asked if the district would fulfill the obligatory hours if school was in session for a half day. Dr. Panza said “yes.”

Voting then took place as follows:

Director Tassaro moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to revise the 2009-2010 school year calendar to declare May 28, 2010 as the make-up day for May 3, 2010, due to a power outage.

By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion failed 0-9.

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to revise the 2009-2010 school year calendar to declare the morning of May 27 as the make-up day for May 3, 2010, due to a power outage.

By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 7-2, with Director Schirripa and Walkowiak voting NO.

The board agreed that dismissal time would be determined by the superintendent.

Revision to the 2009-10
School Year Calendar

II. Finance

Recommend the following Finance Items:

Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2010 as presented; **PLACE ON AGENDA**

April 2010 bills in the amount of \$_____ as presented; **PLACE ON AGENDA**

Director Walkowiak moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the 2010-2011 proposed final budget in the amount of \$24,095,842 with a millage rate of 24.15 and to advertise the proposed final budget for a period of 30 days prior to the adoption of the annual budget. This amount represents no millage increase;

Director Schell asked why there was an approximate \$20,000 difference in the public relations budget over the former year. Mr. Christy explained that the money was added for a digital marquee at the high school entrance.

Director Hughan mentioned that it is the public perception that the preliminary budget is "etched in stone," and wanted to make it clear that it is not and changes can be made. Solicitor Gleason agreed, saying a yes vote only adopts the preliminary final budget, but changes can indeed be made.

The Rosslyn Farms Earned Income Tax Refund for May 2010 as presented; (Finance Item #0510-01)

Renew the contract agreement with Aramark Education Services for the 2010-2011 school year as presented; (Finance Item #0510-02)

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds under federal guidelines in accordance with regulatory requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-Part B as presented; (Finance Item #0510-03)

A five-year transportation contract to STA of Pennsylvania, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, under the terms and conditions presented and reviewed by the solicitor; (Finance Item #0510-04)

A contract with DeMoulin Brothers and Company, the lowest responsible bidder, for the manufacturing and delivery of 70 uniforms for the Carlynton Junior-Senior High School marching band at a delivered price of \$21,117.14 as presented. (Finance Item #0510-05)

By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 9-0.

III. Personnel

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

- Courtney Wilkins – Elementary
- Ashley Ressler – Music, K-12
(Personnel Item #0510-01)

Treasurer's Report – April 2010

April 2010 Bills

2010-2011 Proposed Final Budget

Rosslyn Farms Earned Income Tax Refund

Aramark Contract Renewal

AIU Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds, IDEA-Part B

Transportation Contract Agreement with STA

Band Uniform Contract with DeMoulin Brothers and Company

Additions to Day-to-Day Sub List

<p>The addition to the 2009-2010 Athletic Supplemental List as presented;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scott Wolf – Junior Varsity Baseball Coach (Personnel Item #0510-02) 	<p>Addition to the 09-10 Athletic Supplemental List</p>
<p>The additions to the 2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental List as presented and based upon the Letters of Intent to return:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MaryCay Dunmyer – Varsity Girls’/Boys’ Bowling ▪ Caitlin McManus – Varsity Head Swimming Coach ▪ Susan Brossman – Varsity Assistant Swimming ▪ Jason Knox – Varsity Head Wrestling ▪ Joshua Valentine – Varsity Assistant Wrestling ▪ Jesse Valentine – Junior High Head Wrestling ▪ David Dedola – Junior High Assistant Wrestling (Personnel Item #0510-03) 	<p>Additions to the 10-11 Athletic Supplemental List</p>
<p>The additions to the 2010-2011 Activities Supplemental List as presented and based upon the Letters of Intent to return:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Janet Loos – Audio-Visual Coordinator ▪ Rena Taylor – Auditorium Manager ▪ Mary Kay Smith – Senior Class Sponsor <i>and</i> Musical Director ▪ Tonilyn Longo/Michelle Smoller – Cougar Times Co-sponsors ▪ Matthew O’Neil – Band Director ▪ Caitlyn Cready – Drum Instructor/Percussion ▪ Lori Dedola – Musical Producer ▪ Stephen Baldanzi – Musical Assistant, Instrumental ▪ Diane Criste – Carnegie Patrol Sponsor ▪ Janet Supko – Crafton Patrol Sponsor ▪ Kelly Papst – Carnegie Peer Sponsor/<i>Amazing Alternatives</i> ▪ James Nagorski – Crafton Peer Sponsor/<i>Amazing Alternatives</i> ▪ Lynne Cramer – Junior High Student Council Sponsor ▪ Laura Begg – Senior High Student Council Sponsor ▪ Marlynn Vayanos – Yearbook Sponsor <p>And to post for all anticipated openings. (Personnel Item #0510-04)</p>	<p>Additions to the 10-11 Activities Supplemental List</p>
<p>An Extended School Year program for the summer of 2010 and the posting for two (2) anticipated positions. One position is for 24 hours of tutoring; the other is a 20 hour instructional position; (Personnel Item #0510-05)</p>	<p>Summer ESY Program and Posting of Two (2) Positions</p>
<p>A Summer 2010 Reading Program to be held at Carnegie Elementary School, June 21 through July 23 for 24 sessions and the posting for two (2) anticipated positions; (Personnel Item #0510-06)</p>	<p>Summer 2010 Reading Program and Posting of Two (2) Positions</p>
<p>Posting for the position of one (1) summer head custodian for the Summer of 2010;</p>	<p>Posting – Summer 2010 Head Custodian</p>
<p><i>And</i> the posting for the positions of three (3) summer maintenance helpers for the Summer of 2010. By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.</p>	<p>Posting – Summer 2010 Maintenance Helpers</p>
<p>IV. Policy</p> <p>Director Wilson moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the first reading of the 800 and 900 policy series as presented;</p>	<p>800 and 900 Policy Series – First Reading</p>

Director Schell asked if laser disks, referenced in Policy 814, were still used, and noted the incorrect spelling of Macintosh in Policy 814.1.

The final reading of Policy No. 104, Nondiscrimination in Employment and Contract Practices, as submitted with attachment; (Policy Item #0510-01)

Policy No. 104 – Final Reading

The final reading of Policy No. 251, Homeless Students, as submitted; (Policy Item #0510-02)

Policy No. 251 – Final Reading

The final reading of Policy No. 718, Service Animals in Schools, as submitted. (Policy Item #0510-03) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Policy No. 718 – Final Reading

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *None*

NEW BUSINESS: *Director Schell asked if any news was available on Race to the Top. Dr. Panza reported that he attended a meeting and has plenty of reading material to go over. He also needs to speak to the Federation. Director Schell called attention to the deadline of June 1.*

OPEN FORUM: *Parent Dennis Sheariss came forward about a letter received in the mail regarding his son's graduation project. Dr. Panza suggested Mr. Sheariss make an appointment with administration to discuss the letter. Mr. Sheariss said the letter was demeaning and he proceeded to read it aloud. He then flipped through a rubric the students were required to follow and called attention to pages within the rubric that said the project was graded by a point system. Points were given for different criteria, including the length of time of the presentation. He pointed out contradictions about the length of the presentation within the rubric, noting that the senior project was graded pass/fail. He questioned how his son, who was second in the class, could not pass the project, with the potential of not graduating – as the letter indicated – when the rubric was not clear.*

Director Walkowiak suggested the senior project committee's deduction was based upon the interpretation of the rubric.

Dr. Susini said the senior project committee, a group of teachers who volunteer their time, held a spirited discussion to deliberate the matter and decided to send the letter to the students whose presentations were less than 15 minutes as a compromise, rather than asking them to re-present the entire senior project. This would provide the students the opportunity to expound upon their project in a more comfortable setting.

Mr. Sheariss argued the letter came across as threatening and degrading. He said his son was extremely distraught over the matter.

Director McCartney suggested that if there are discrepancies within the rubric, they should be corrected for next year, and students should not be penalized this year under the time limit factor.

Dr. Panza explained the process by which the graduation project committee works and volunteers their time, offering credit to the teachers for their

dedication to the project. He said the judges offered many positive responses to the process following the presentations just a few weeks ago.

A lengthy discussion took place among the directors as they attempted to determine the clarity of the rubric and the letter. Dr. Susini said the letter strived to indicate a scheduled time for students who received it to “brush up” their project.

President Brown asked how many points were needed to pass the senior project. Dr. Susini answered 60 points. President Brown speculated that if 60 or more points were earned on the project, students should not be asked to re-present because they did not have a 15 minute presentation, based on the pass/fail grading system. He apologized to Mr. Sheariss for the letter and said that Dr. Panza would seek more clarity and then contact him.

Parent James Schriver came forward to discuss the feasibility study, making the following points:

- The district has a board who is concerned with fiscal responsibility
- The study has engaged the community and new friendships have been formed
- The three schools within the district are structurally sound, though two facilities are old and in need of repairs
- Those who have attended the meetings appear to share the desire to maintain the neighborhood schools
- Research indicates that new construction costs twice as much
- Renovations are going “green”
- There are many advantages to neighborhood schools and he enumerated examples
- The looming pension crisis offers a critical financial concern

He finished by “respectfully, humbly suggesting that the best path for Kimball is to keep the neighborhood schools and to build upon that.”

President Brown asked Mr. Schriver if he did not believe the board members maintain an open mind. He exclaimed that the board is concerned about education, finances, the neighborhoods and what is best for the district. He questioned how and why rumors have circulated, especially those claiming the board plans to build a large, new school.

Director DiPietro disputed Mr. Schriver’s research, saying he could find contradictory information to that which Mr. Schriver shared. He reiterated that the board needs to wait until the final report is provided by Kimball before any decisions are made.

Director Schell added that Kimball was hired to complete a feasibility study, and according to PlanCon, they must provide objective options, noting the State is diligent in overseeing the process.

Dr. Panza introduced representatives from STA transportation company, who were seated in the audience – Mr. Jeff Finfrock and Mr. Timothy Krise. The gentlemen thanked the board for the contract and said they plan to contact the drivers from First Student and discuss future employment. Dr. Panza said the new contract will save the district about \$500,000 over the five year contract. Director Walkowiak asked where the buses will be stored. Mr. Finfrock said they are coordinating plans to park them in close proximity to the district.

Director Wilson reminded everyone of the upcoming Relay for Life on May 22.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director McCartney to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**