

CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting March 1, 2012 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education held its Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting on March 1, 2012 in the library of the junior-senior high school. Those in attendance included President David Roussos, Vice President Betsy Tassaró and School Directors Joe Appel, Nyra Schell, Patricia Schirripa, Jim Schriver and Ray Walkowiak. Also present was Interim Superintendent Joseph Dimperio, Solicitor William Andrews, Business Manager Kirby Christy, principals Laura Burns, Carla Hudson, Jacie Maslyk and Robert Susini, and Director of Pupil Services Lee Myford. The audience was comprised of 12 individuals and two members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER – *The meeting was called to order by President Roussos at 7:30 pm.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE and ROLL CALL: *The pledge was led by Crafton Elementary student government officers Shawna Prah, Alaina Conley, Katelynn Kelly and Tattyanne Zerbini. The roll was called by Recording Secretary Michale Herrmann; Directors Hugan and Wilson were absent.*

PRESENTATION: *An in-house video, Preparation for Success, was shown to illustrate the activities taking place throughout the district to boost PSSA performance. Dr. Dimperio offered thanks to all who put forth time and effort to create the video.*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD: *None*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director Tassaró moved, seconded by Director Schriver, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012 Regular Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

REPORTS:

- **Executive Session** – *President Roussos cited that legal, contractual and personnel matters were discussed in the closed session.*
 - **Principals' Reports** – *Principal Jacie Maslyk was recognized and congratulated for defending her doctorate dissertation earlier that day; the principals distributed building newsletters and mentioned important happenings within their schools.*
 - **Director of Pupil Services' Report** – *Mrs. Myford provided a handout in regards to a conference she attended earlier in the week*
 - **Business Manager Report** – *Mr. Christy distributed a handout with a listing of county assessment values for the southern tier of Allegheny County. He reported that due to recent reassessments, the district real estate assessments rose by \$198 million. This*

Minutes – February 16, 2012

revenue, he reported, will most likely change pending assessment appeals. The funds would be available in the school year 2013-2014. Mr. Christy explained that through calculations, revenues will remain basically neutral as the district cannot reap a windfall because of the taxation index cap; if anything, Mr. Christy further explained, the millage rate may need to be lowered. He admitted that some residents may see an increase in taxes while others might see a drop.

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Dimperio thanked everyone for their efforts in stressing the importance of the PSSA and again thanked those involved in the making of the video.
 - The minutes of the Parkway West Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee of February 7, 2012 were entered into record. (SC Item #0312-01)

I. Miscellaneous

Director Tassaro moved, seconded by Director Appel, to approve the list of conference and field trip requests as presented and approved by administration:

- C...A.Harrity...PATTAN...Professional Development...4/10
 - C...C.Hudson...State College...PA Cares Admin Retreat...4/24-25
 - C...H.Mangis...State College...PA Cares Admin Retreat...4/24-25
 - C...R.Malobabich...Doubletree ...Student Behavior Seminar...5/15
 - C...D.Parson...Doubletree ...Student Behavior Seminar...5/15
 - FT...Crafton K...Pgh Zoo & Aquarium...Animals & Habitats...4/2012
 - FT...MBVeri...Ascension Parish Hall...Invention Convention...4/23
 - FT...MBVeri...Soliders & Sailors Hall...Reading Festival...5/8
 - FT...Eddy/Smoller...Ft. Pitt Tunnels...Honor Society Planting...5/18
 - C...Barnes/Canty...Moon School District...K-12 Curriculum...3/5
 - C...L.Rowley...AIU...Title 1 Consultation Meeting...3/30
 - FT...MBVeri...Crafton... Master Computer Challenge...3/20
 - FT...R.Gevaudan...Heinz Field/PNC Park...Sports Marketing...5/3
 - FT...M.Berlingeri...McKeever Center...Biodiversity/Ecology...5/8
- (Miscellaneous Item #0312-01 REVISED) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Conference and Field Trip Requests

II. Finance

Director Tassaro moved, seconded by Director Schriver, to approve the Borough of Rosslyn Farms Earned Income Tax Refund as presented; (Finance Item #0312-01)

Rosslyn Farms EIT Refund

The January 2012 cafeteria operating report as presented by Aramark Education Services; (Finance Item #0312-02)

Aramark January 2012 Cafeteria Report

Nominate David G. Roussos as a Trustee of the Western Region for the Allegheny County School Health Insurance Consortium for a two year period effective March 29, 2012; (Finance Item #0312-03)

David Roussos – ACSHC Nomination

The Academic Mental Health Services Agreement between the District and Wesley Spectrum Services as presented; (Finance Item #0312-04)

Services Agreement with Wesley Spectrum

And the services of California University of Pennsylvania graduate student Joseph Testa and Duquesne University graduate student Monika DeBolt to complete two separate one-year internships as school psychologists within the District for the 2012-2013 school year. Each intern will receive a stipend of \$15,000, to be paid through ACCESS funds, pending receipt of all applicable clearance and paper work within a 60 day period. (Finance Item #0311-05) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0**

School Psychologist Interns for the 2012-2013 School Year

III. Personnel

Director Schriver moved, seconded by Director Schell, to approve the additions to the 2011-2012 Day-to-Day Substitute List per the recommendation of the administration as presented:

- Leigh Deigan – Elementary / Special Education
- Peter Nuttall – Health and Physical Education (Personnel Item #0312-01)

Additions to the 2010-2011 Day-to-Day Substitute List

The additions to the 2011-2012 Athletic Supplemental List as presented:

- Charles Fritchman, Assistant Girls' Softball Coach
- Dané Marshall, Assistant Boys' Tennis Coach (Personnel Item #0312-02)

Additions to the Athletic Supplemental List

And the request for Intermittent Leave of Absence for Employee #CFT12-06 as presented. (Personnel Item #0312-03) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Leave – Employee #CFT12-06

IV. Student Services

Director Schell moved, seconded by Director Walkowiak, to approve the one day educational trip and tour of Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland for A.P. and Scholars History, American Cultures II and A.P. Government students as presented. (Student Services Item #0312-01) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

One-Day Educational Trip/Tour to Antietam

V. Policy

Director Tassarò moved, seconded by Director Schriver, to approve the final reading of Policy Nos. 302, 303, 404, 504, 505 to include modifications for stricter background check requirements to remain in compliance with Act 24 of 2011 and Public School Code, 24 P.S. §1-111. (Policy Item #0312-01) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Modification to Policies
Employment of –
302: Superintendent
303: Administration
404: Professional Employees
504: Classified Employees
505: Substitutes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *Director Schriver asked for a renovation project update. Dr. Dimperio said he and other members of the board have met with John Recchio to develop a list of essential needs. Mr. Recchio is now prioritizing that list and plans to meet with representatives from Architectural Innovations. In turn, they will compile a detailed list with cost estimates. The firm will also identify items that will need to be completed while students are out of the building during the summer. Director Schriver asked if a timeline has been developed. Dr. Dimperio said a timeline should be available by the beginning of April. President Roussos questioned the funding; Mr. Christy explained that monies from the fund balance could be moved to pay for the expenditures.*

Director Schell asked that the public be informed of process for the superintendent search. Dr. Dimperio said the board met and set a schedule. He said the schedule is aggressive, but the directors are committed and hope to name a new superintendent by April, in the hopes that Carlynton will be among the first to offer positions in light of other school districts conducting similar searches. Director Schell noted that public focus groups will be held March 13 and 14. Dr. Dimperio said the information has been posted on the district website and television station. Board members and the interim superintendent will not be involved in the focus groups; they will be facilitated by Dr. Kirk of Tri-State Area Schools Study Council. Director Schriver said the approximate number of applications received for the position thus far is about 25.

NEW BUSINESS: President Roussos mentioned a recent decision involving the Reigelsville, Pa., taxpayer efforts to secede from their school district and segued into a discussion regarding the efforts of Rosslyn Farms to leave Carlynton. President Roussos said that although the Department of Education has agreed to investigate this further, the board as a whole has stated they do not wish for this to happen. President Roussos referenced an email between board members in which Director Schirripa said she supported the efforts of Rosslyn Farms. President Roussos asked Director Schirripa for an explanation and she said the issue was already at the state level and out of her control. President Roussos asked Director Schirripa how she believed her support to Rosslyn Farms served the communities of Carnegie and Crafton. Director Schirripa brought forth school code, saying she could not be removed as a board member. President Roussos said removal had not been discussed by the board. He read an email to offer more clarity to the discussion. Director Schell said the board must represent a unified or corporate front to illustrate what the district has to offer and defend the district from this effort by Rosslyn Farms. She asked Director Schirripa to be accountable for her actions, or to provide justification for her feelings. Director Schirripa said 78 percent of the residents of Rosslyn Farms signed the petition and her decision stands. As the discussion continued, Director Schirripa asked the solicitor to address the matter. Solicitor Andrews said each board member can question one another and each member has the fiduciary duty to the elected body to which they serve. Going on, he said each board member should vote their conscience and has the right to their opinion. Yet, board members are right to ask others for an explanation. Solicitor Andrews provided a synopsis of the process of Rosslyn Farms request for secession, which is now at the state level. The district has now received a questionnaire, due in Harrisburg April 2 or 3. A questionnaire was also sent to Chartiers Valley and Rosslyn Farms. The district has the right to fight or appeal the final decision of the state when a decision has been reached; or they can accept it. The secession effort is now at the state level not because of merit, but only because the process was followed and sufficient interest was demonstrated. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of Education in the months ahead. President Roussos said all of Carlynton has elected the board and the board is elected to serve all three communities. With that said, President Roussos made a motion to remove Director Schirripa from the position of representative to SHASDA because she is not representing the district as a whole. Director Schell asked to discuss, and therefore seconded the motion. Director Schell said she realizes that SHASDA means a lot to Director Schirripa but questioned her commitment to the board since new board members have taken office. Director Schell said Director Schirripa has missed meetings, and has not been able to attend meetings regarding important decisions such as the selection of a superintendent.

*Motion to Remove Director
Schirripa as SHASDA
Representative*

Director Schirripa said she has many other commitments and can not always make the board or other meetings. She explained that she is president of the SHADSA board and organizes the annual spring conference. She asked Dr. Susini to provide an overview of the conference, to which he did. President Roussos again said Dr. Schirripa has failed to represent the district as a whole and he believes removal from SHADSA is a moderate move. Discussion continued for quite some time.

Director Walkowiak spoke up, asking to table the motion to allow some time for board members to consider the action. Solicitor Andrews said the board has the right to table the motion. With that, Director Tassaro moved to second the motion thereby tabling a vote to remove Director Schirripa as representative to SHADSA. **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion to table the action was approved 6-0-1, with Director Schirripa abstaining due to her relationship to the action.**

OPEN FORUM: Carnegie resident Tom DiPietro came forward to ask if any board member has approached Rosslyn Farms and ask them to reconsider their action, such as attending and speaking before a Rosslyn Farms council meeting. President Roussos said the matter is not a council decision representing all of Rosslyn Farms but rather a charge by a group of individuals within the borough. Director Schell said some discussion was held to determine at what point the board could approach the core members of Rosslyn Farms to present a unified position. President Roussos said he personally has tried to speak with the individuals in Rosslyn Farms behind this action and nothing he has said has changed their minds. Director Schell asked why members of the former board did not approach the individuals. Mr. DiPietro argued that the board members who ran the SOS (Save Our Schools) campaign should approach Rosslyn Farms. Director Tassaro said the intent of SOS was to not incur debt through a new building project; its objective was not a crusade against Rosslyn Farms. Director Tassaro did say she believes that many who signed the Rosslyn Farms petition did so because they believed it was an avenue to speak out against the elementary consolidation plan.

Crafton resident Dr. Mona Rush came forward and said that Director Schirripa is to be respected for her long-time service to the board, but suggested she “do the honorable thing and resign.”

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to discuss, Director Schriver moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Director Walkowiak. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kirby Christy, Board Secretary

Michale Herrmann, Recording Secretary

*TABLE the Motion to Remove
Director Schirripa as SHADA
Representative*