

CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Voting Meeting

March 17, 2011

Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Cafeteria – 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Regular Voting Meeting on March 17, 2011 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 Hughan, Ronald McCartney, Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaro and Sharon Wilson. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitor Janet Burkardt, Director of Pupil Services Lee Myford, Business Manager Kirby Christy and Principals Laura Burns, Jacie Maslyk, Robert Susini and Christopher Very. The audience was comprised of 28 individuals and two members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER - *The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 7:30 pm. Carnegie Elementary students Gracie and Jocelyn Scuillon led the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterwards, several Carnegie Elementary teachers presented the family with a check for \$1,280. This was the amount raised through a fundraiser at Talotta's Restaurant in Carnegie, and other donations, to aid a member of the Scullion family who is coping with a serious illness.*

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

PRESENTATION: *Dr. Panza and the school board recognized and honored the Robinson Township Police, Fire and EMS Departments; the chiefs from all three departments were present. They were given a certificate of honor.*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD: *None*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director Tassaro moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2011 Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0-1, with Director Wilson abstaining due to absence.**

REPORTS:

- **Executive Session** – *President Brown stated that employment, legal and labor issues were discussed in executive session, all within the guidelines of board policy.*
 - **Principals' Reports** – *The reports were informal and brief; Mrs. Maslyk noted the success of a grant application and Dr. Susini informed the board of the upcoming musical. He also reported that sophomore Lindsay Lawrence was selected to participate in an intensive summer camp with the Radio City Rockettes in New York City in July.*
 - **Director of Pupil Services' Report** – *Mrs. Myford announced the date of the Pupil Services Committee meeting and the Title 1 Parent Night*
 - **Business Manager Report** – *Mr. Christy announced that Governor Corbett's budget cuts were not kind to education; the*

Minutes – March 3, 2011

district stands to lose \$650,000 in stimulus and accountability block grant funds, as well as cuts to cyber school funding.

- Superintendent's Report – *Dr. Panza reviewed the calendar of upcoming events. He then informed the board that a number of surplus equipment items were discovered when the maintenance staff was cleaning out the maintenance garage and suggested the equipment be donated to Parkway West CTC. The board agreed. Director Hughan made the suggestion that if Parkway later decides to sell the equipment, the district should receive some part of the profit.*

On another note, Director Tassaro said she had heard that the AIU was losing all state funding. Mr. Christy confirmed the rumor. Director Tassaro asked how this will affect costs and fees for the district, questioning if district costs would go up. Director Schirripa said it is unlikely, adding that the AIU's programs will carry the funding cuts and the intermediate unit should be fine.

In closing his report, Dr. Panza reported that the Keystone Assessments are on hold for the 2011-2012 school year.

- ✓ The minutes of the February 1, 2011 Parkway West Career and Technology Center Joint Committee Meeting were entered into record. (SC Item #0311-01)
 - Pathfinder Report – *Director Wilson provided a report on the Act 77 projects. She said the school has already realized significant savings on electricity. Dr. Wilson said a list of summer work projects is being developed, noting the budget is sound. Over 80 students are enrolled in the school and the updates to the sensory room are noteworthy. Lastly, the school plans to host a summer ESY program for all. She passed around pamphlets about the school.*
 - SHASDA – *Director Schirripa reported that the February meeting included student representatives from area school districts. Jessica Black represented Carlynton. The exchange between administrators and the students was well-founded and meaningful. The SHASDA spring convention will be held April 29-30. Dr. Panza has led the fundraising campaign again this year, bringing in over \$20,000. These monies go to fund scholarships for students.*

I. Miscellaneous

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

- C...M.Vayanos...CVHS...Arts Education Collaborative...4/12
- C...N. Milsom...RMU...Business Education Seminar...4/26
- C...S.Donnelly...PATTAN...Deepen Comprehension Skills...5/23
- FT...MBVeri...Carnegie Elementary...Knowledge Master...3/23
- FT...A.Harrity...Market District...Community and Math Skills...3/24
- FT...M.Ferro...N.Hills Jr. HS...District Jr. High Choir...4/29-30
- FT...MBVeri...Duquesne University...Calculus Bowl...5/11
- FT...MBVeri...Cathedral of Learning...Nationality Rooms...5/18

Conference and Field Trip Requests

- FT...A.Harrity...Heinz Field/Omnimax...Community/Social...5/25
- FT...L.Dedola...Seton Hill Univ...Tour and Perform...3/23
(Miscellaneous Item #0311-01 REVISED)

Draft #3 of the 2011-2012 school year calendar as presented; (Miscellaneous Item #0311-02)

The revision to the 2010-2011 school year calendar to reflect February 21 as the snow make-up day for January 12, March 28 as the snow make-up day for January 21, and April 21 as the snow make-up day for February 22, 2011.
By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.

II. Finance

~~_____ as construction manager for the elementary school building project;~~ **REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

~~Solicit quotes for a civil engineering study and a hazardous materials study for the elementary school building project;~~ **REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

Director Schell asked why these items were being pulled. President Brown said it was his understanding that the board was not yet ready to act.

The following six items were approved in one motion:

Director Brown moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2011 as submitted;

The February 2011 bills in the amount of \$1,949,405.58 as submitted;

The February 2011 Athletic Fund Report as submitted and approved by administration; (Finance Item #0311-02)

The February 2011 Activities Fund Report as submitted and approved by administration; (Finance Item #0311-03)

The December 2010 Cafeteria Operating Report as submitted by Aramark Educational Services; (Finance Item #0311-04)

The January 2011 Cafeteria Operating Report as submitted by Aramark Educational Services; (Finance Item #0311-05) **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 8-0.**

Director Brown moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the Mental Health Consultant Agreement between the district and Terri Kauric as submitted and effective March 21, 2011; (Finance Item #0311-01) **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 8-0.**

Before voting on this item, there was some discussion. Director Schell asked for more clarity. She asked Mrs. Myford if the available funds to employ Mrs. Kauric would be better used by purchasing tablet computers for the students. Mrs. Myford said she could probably do both, but said it was difficult to determine how many notebooks could be purchased. Mrs. Myford noted the computers would cost about \$500 each plus the additional cost of the applications. President Brown asked how much funding is available. He added that he would like to see the purchase of

2011-12 School Year Calendar

Revision to 10-11 Calendar –
Snow Make-up Day

Construction Manager –
REMOVED
Engineer and Hazardous
Materials Studies –
REMOVED

February 2011 Treasurer's
Report

February 2011 Bills

February 2011 Athletic Fund
Report

February 2011 Activities Fund
Report

December 2010 Cafeteria
Operating Report

January 2011 Cafeteria
Operating Report

Mental Health Consultant –
Terri Kauric

notebooks benefit other students in subsequent years. Mrs. Myford said approximately \$13,000 remains and the consultant's fees would equate to about \$3,000. It was then determined that some \$10,000 would be available for the purchase of electronic notepads. President Brown asked who would determine the consultant's hours and who would supervise her. Mrs. Myford said the hours are outlined within the contract and she would supervise the individual. When asked how the available time of the consultant would impact student classes, Mrs. Myford explained the consultant will be working with inclusion students who are already working with other resources; thereby time would be available without any disruptions. Director Tassaro asked Mrs. Myford if it was her recommendation to approve the consultant. Mrs. Myford said the need was determined by the Pupil Services Committee. Mrs. Myford said the individual could offer personal assistance with targeted individuals and also provide services to the student population in cases of grief counseling and other services.

III. Personnel

Director Tassaro moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the addition to the 2010-2011 Supplemental Activities Contract List as recommended by administration and as follows:

- Todd Obidowski – Band Director
(Personnel Item #0311-01)

The Professional Employee Contract for Michelle Smoller for three (3) years of satisfactory service to the District per the recommendation of the administrative staff and consistent with the terms of the Carlynton Federation of Teachers Bargaining Unit Agreement;

Retirement of Carnegie Elementary cafeteria aide Shirley Krasousky, effective April 1, 2011, and consistent with the terms of the Secretarial, Cafeteria and Aides Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement, and to post for said opening; (Personnel Item #0311-02)

Resignation of Carnegie Elementary teacher Sarah Vierra, effective immediately, and to post for said opening; (Personnel Item #0311-03)

A four week summer reading and writing program to be held June 27 through July 22, 2011, at Carnegie Elementary, and to post for the positions of two highly qualified special education teachers to facilitate the program. This program will be funded through grant monies; (Personnel Item #0311-04)

The requested leaves of absence for employees CFT11-03 and SCA11-07 as submitted and approved by administration. (Personnel Item #0311-05)

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

- Terry George, *Varsity Head Football Coach*
(Personnel Item #0311-06)

By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.

President Brown explained how the interviews for the football coach were conducted. He, along with Athletic Director Dave Oddi, Dr. Panza,

Addition to Activities Contract List

PE Contract – Michelle Smoller

Retirement – Shirley Krasousky

Resignation – Sarah Vierra

Summer Reading and Writing Program at Carnegie

Leaves of Absence

Addition to 2011-2012 Athletic Supplemental List

principals Robert Susini and Laura Burns, and Directors Hughan, Schell, Schrippa and Tassaro interviewed several candidates and gave unanimous consent to Mr. George.

IV. Policy

Director Brown moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the second and final reading of Policy No. 431, Job Related Expenses, with the revisions as submitted. (Policy Item 0311-01) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Policy No. 431 – Job Related Expenses

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *Director Schell asked for an update on the roof at Carnegie and the balcony at Crafton. Dr. Panza said the roof project was in the RFP stage and the balcony remains closed following recommendations from several persons, including the Crafton building inspector, the architects, and the insurance carrier, who said repairs were necessary to ensure safety before re-opening.*

NEW BUSINESS: *In regards to the surplus equipment mentioned in Dr. Panza's report: Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to donate surplus equipment from the maintenance room to Parkway West Career and Technical School, with the understanding that should the equipment be sold at a later date, a portion of the profits be returned to the district. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.***

Dr. Panza stated that some of the equipment included a cooler, a band saw, a lathe and a planer.

President Brown said he had a statement to make. He began by saying that he has reviewed Governor Corbett's proposed educational funding for the 2011-2012 school year and has compared that to the present school year. He noted that if figures are accurate, the district will face a subsidy reduction of \$656,162, or a loss of revenue of about 1-1/8 mils. Given the uncertainty that exists at present, he continued, he asked the business manager and administrative team to further evaluate the impact the proposed cuts will have to educational programs and the proposed school building construction.

Going on, he said if the funding losses are confirmed by the date of the April 14, 2011 meeting, he will make a motion to suspend all actions related to the new building project. Along with this, and pending the feasibility of the district's finances, President Brown said he will ask the board to consider a property tax decrease. He also said it would be fiscally prudent to inform all organizations and vendors to halt any further work on the proposed building project and would advise administration to contact the appropriate officials from Keystone Oaks, Chartiers Valley and Montour and ask them to consider a merger or consolidation. This last action, he said, was due to related comments made by the public at earlier meetings.

In closing, President Brown said he would call for employees to consider a salary freeze for the next 12 months. This, he said, could save the district over \$300,000 and ease the funding cuts.

Director Tassaro asked what the district has spent to this point on the proposed building project. Dr. Panza said \$20,000 was spent for the feasibility study and another \$10,000 on the cost modeling study. He said he

would contact Kimball and PNC to learn if there was any other billable work. Director Tassaro said she was pleased with President Brown's statement, but disheartened that earlier requests were dismissed when some members of the board asked to wait until the budget was released. She said it was best to review and research before deciding to move forward or deciding to renovate. She thanked President Brown for his statement.

Director Hugan asked what would happen to the district's budget reserve should the district be merged with another and be dissolved. President Brown said it would be a matter of negotiation during the process.

Director Schirripa asked Mr. Christy if he had looked at the numbers now and projected into the next five years. Mr. Christy said he had not. Director Schirripa said she would like to see how the numbers look, projecting into the next five years, after review by Mr. Christy. Mr. Christy noted that the board did see the assumptions made by Director Walkowiak.

Director Tassaro asked if the board could look into or consider – should the proposed building project be suspended – adding capital improvements to the district budget for next year, such as the track and the roof and balcony at Crafton. She said it would be best to address these proactively.

OPEN FORUM: Crafton resident David O'Brien said Carlynton is made up on three unique communities and the identity of each community defines the education. He said he hope the board moves forward by maintaining the integrity of the communities.

Crafton resident/council person April Weitzel said that when reviewing the situation of the balcony, she was told the steepness of the stairs was the cause for concern. She said she was also informed it could be an easy fix by closing off seats, and said the maintenance department could probably do it.

Jim Schriver, of Crafton, asked if the roof problem at Carnegie was the same that caused the faulty gym floor. President Brown said it was not, that a moisture problem under the floor had caused the floor to lift, but that was corrected. Mr. Schriver asked for the roof at Crafton to be fixed as he witnessed water dripping and the formation of a puddle in a third floor area.

Crafton resident Regis Sunny said everyone needs to stick together. He said the governor is taking away too much and people need to stand up and fight. Mr. Sunny said he was pleased with the discussion of the board at the meeting and asked for all to unite and fight. President Brown suggested he contact his legislator, to which Mr. Sunny said he calls everyday.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further comments or business to discuss, Director Hugan moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kirby Christy, Board Secretary

Michale Herrmann, Recording Secretary