

## CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Committee/Voting Meeting April 14, 2011 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 p.m.

#### MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Committee/Voting Meeting on April 14, 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 Hugan, Ronald McCartney, Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaró, Raymond Walkowiak 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 32 individuals and two members of the press.

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**CALL TO ORDER** - *The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 7:36 pm. Crafton Elementary sixth grade brothers/students, Tyler and Zachary Smith, led the pledge.*

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

**PRESENTATION:** *Dr. Panza and the school board recognized and saluted the First Responders in the communities - the Carnegie, Crafton and Rosslyn Farms Police, Fire and EMS Departments; representatives from all departments were present. They were given a certificate of honor.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:** *None*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2011 Regular Voting Meeting as presented.

**Director McCartney moved to TABLE the motion, seconded by Director Wilson, following some discussion:** *Director Walkowiak called attention to a statement made in a paragraph with Mr. Christy's comments. Mr. Christy was replying to a question from Director Schirripa and referred to some data provided by Director Walkowiak. The minutes reflected that "Director Walkowiak said he stood by his numbers," although, Director Walkowiak was not present at the meeting and he asked for the statement to be removed. Director Wilson called attention to a paragraph that stated "Dr. Panza asked if this was the wish of the board. With no response, he stated he would address the matter." Director Wilson and other board members said the statement was never made and asked for the two sentences to be removed from the minutes." President Brown added that although it was his opinion that schools be contacted to begin discussion toward a possible merger, he said he did not imply that it should be done immediately. He went on to say that he made a statement that was clearly his opinion. Director Schell stated that no one gave consent at the meeting to contact anyone.*

Minutes – March 17, 2011  
TABLED

## **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 principals, both elementary and secondary, shared information about upcoming events and student happenings in their schools. The high school principals shared a copy of the 2011-2012 student handbooks for review, as well as a copy of proposed electives for next year.*
  - **Director of Pupil Services' Report** – *Mrs. Myford announced that five local winners were selected for the Alliance Against Drugs Poster Contest. Also, committee meetings have been ongoing and a student needs assessment is in the works.*
  - **Business Manager Report** – *Mr. Christy distributed and called attention to a first draft of the 2011-2012 school year budget. He broke the document into three parts. President Brown questioned Mr. Christy on the manner by which he conducts the budget process. Mr. Christy said he underestimates revenues and overestimates expenditures. President Brown reviewed a document shared by Dr. Panza that illustrated that once again, given the pending budget cuts from the state, it appears that more monies will be added to the fund balance. President Brown said he had more good news to share: Upon attending a health consortium meeting earlier that day, he learned there will be no increase in health care premiums in the upcoming year. Director Schirripa asked how the consortium managed to hold the line. President Brown said the consortium has been diligent in applying for a grant and received over \$936,000 from the state and another grant exceeding \$4 million. Director Tassaró asked if these funds will be applied to the upcoming budget only; President Brown said the consortium has applied for more and is expecting a greater increase to the fund balance. Director Tassaró asked if an increase would be necessary next year. President Brown said he could not be certain, but was comfortable and impressed by the manner in which the consortium is run. Director McCartney asked if the board would see an adjustment in the district budget; Mr. Christy said yes, if the board so directs. Dr. Panza mentioned that the health care consortium not only offers free dental care to students but has recently added free vision care.*
- **Superintendent's Report** – *Dr. Panza reviewed the calendar of events and asked if any others planned to attend the SHASDA convention. President Brown said he may attend. Dr. Panza explained that cafeteria lunch prices, which have remained the same for several years, may have to increase due to a state mandate, especially if the district plans to continue in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. He also said that due to safety committee meetings, the district will save five percent on its overall insurance. Dr. Panza then went on to discuss the issue of the balcony at Crafton Elementary, which was closed due to safety issues. He said a couple options have been offered to fix or redesign the platform so it will be safe for use. Going on, he said that John Recchio,*

district maintenance foreman, believes it would be best to have the work done professionally, and therefore, the job would need to go out for bid. Director Wilson asked if the balcony could be opened while waiting for it to be fixed, since the closure was inhibiting the entire student population from attending assemblies. Dr. Panza said a letter from the insurance company states it is unsafe and the Crafton Borough code inspector said the same. Solicitor Burkardt said that if it is stated in writing that the balcony is unsafe, the district would then be liable should any accidents occur. At this point, Director Schell spoke up, saying she is irritated over the matter and the process to repair the balcony has gone on far too long. She said students and parents are looking forward to graduation (sixth grade recognition ceremony) in several weeks and closure of the balcony will prevent many from attending. She added that if the maintenance department can build a press box, they could certainly fix this problem, as it could not be any more complicated. She asked Dr. Panza how he planned to proceed. Director Wilson said she shared the frustration. Director DiPietro said it would be best to get someone to do the work appropriately. Director Schell declared that she has brought the matter up repeatedly and is disgusted by the manner in which it was closed, noting that there was no discussion; the board was simply told it was closed. Quite a bit of discourse about the matter took place and Director Schell made it clear she was displeased about the issue. It was finally decided that a group of individuals comprised of a solicitor, an architect, John Recchio, a representative from the insurance company, and any available board members, would gather to look at the balcony and develop a short-term solution. Director McCartney stated adamantly that he was not in favor of opening the balcony doors until he was told the area was safe. The board agreed to use Kimball as the architect.

- Parkway West CTC Report – Director Hugan attended the last meeting. She provided the names of those making the honor roll and the list of upcoming dates for special events, such as an upcoming open house, the senior recognition ceremony and a summer career camp.
- SHASDA – Director Schirripa announced that the March meeting was an opportunity to meet with legislators and representatives. Discussion revolved around the governor's cuts, vouchers and mergers.
- PSBA-Legislative – Director Walkowiak shared information about Senate Bill 1, an amendment to vouchers that will raise the income cap. He also shared that a Senate panel has reviewed and discussed reducing state mandates for schools – a total of seventeen. He encouraged all to visit the PSBA and Post Gazette web sites for more information.

## I. Miscellaneous

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

- C...J.Ficorilli...University of Pgh...Grant Funding Program...4/15
- C...B.Palonis...Southmoreland HS...PA Science Curr. Council...4/15
- C...A.Harrity...AIU...Assistive Technology Devices Support...4/18
- C...E.Jones...Phipp's Garden Ctr...Renewable/Efficient Energy...5/5
- C...MBVeri...Upper St. Clair HS...Gifted Consortium...5/13

Conference and Field Trip Requests

- C...M.Smoller...Upper St. Clair HS...Gifted Consortium...5/13
  - C...L.Merglowski...Southpointe Golf Club...Wellness Conf....5/13
  - C...L.Burns...BW Conference Ctr/Harrisburg...Positive Behavior Support...5/18-19
  - FT...MBVeri...Heinz History Ctr...Reading Festival...4/12
  - FT...M.Mishkin...Bidwell Training Ctr...Transition...Date TBD
  - FT...D.Cosnek...Indiana UP...Physics Olympics...4/15
  - FT...Crafton K...Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium...4/15
  - FT...S.Nery...French Bistro...All French Classes...4/18
  - FT...Crafton Grade 3...Janoski's Farm/ Paragon Produce...4/26
  - FT...MBVeri...Duquesne U...Jr. Achievement for Elem. GATE...5/3
  - FT...Crafton Grade 6...Wheeling Jesuit U...NASA Challenger...5/5
  - FT...MBVeri...Ascension Parish/Ingram...Invent Convention...5/10
  - FT...A.Harrity...Pgh Childrens Festival...Comm. Skills...5/12
  - FT...MBVeri/M.Smoller...Kentuck Knob...Architectural Study...5/16
  - FT...Crafton Grade 2...Heinz History Center...5/24
  - FT...Carnegie Grade 3...Heinz Field/Science Center...5/24
  - FT...MBVeri...Brentwood Boro Bldg...Calculus Tourney...5/25
  - FT...Carnegie Grade 4...Meadowcroft Village...5/25
  - FT...C.Eddy/M.Smoller...Ft.Pitt Tunnels...Community Garden...6/4
  - FT...Crafton, Grade 6...Challenge by Choice...6/6
  - FT...Crafton, Grade 3...Beechwood Farm Nature Reserve...6/8
  - C...L.Rowley... AIU ... Title 1 Regulations Meeting ...April 19
  - C...R.Donovan...AIU...PennData Seminar...5/2
- (Miscellaneous Item #0411-01 REVISED) **By voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

## II. Finance

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

March 2011 Treasurer's Report

The March 2011 bills in the amount of \$1,867,220.91 as submitted;

March 2011 Bills

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Program of Services Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 as submitted, with expenditures totaling \$3,815,375. The budget represents no increase to the total district allocation. The districts expected contribution of this total amount is \$20,208.92;

AIU's Program of Services Budget for 2011-2012

The March 2011 Athletic Fund Report as submitted and approved by administration; (Finance Item #0411-01)

March 2011 Athletic Fund Report

And the March 2011 Activities Fund Report as submitted and approved by administration. (Finance Item #0411-02) **By a ROLL CALL vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

March 2011 Activities Fund Report

~~Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) Ordinance No. 2350 between the district and the Borough of Carnegie to allow for a real estate tax exemption schedule for new construction in deteriorated areas and improvements to certain deteriorated industrial, commercial and other business property; (Finance Item #0411-03) REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA~~

LERTA Agreement - REMOVED

Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to approve Allie Wandrisco to complete a one-year internship position as a school psychologist for the 2011-2012 school year at a stipend of \$15,000, to be paid through ACCESS funds. (Finance Item #0411-04)

District Psychologist Intern for the 2011-2012 School Year

Renew the agreement with the Project Succeed credit recovery program for the 2011-2012 school year with 12 seats at a cost of \$12,000 as presented; (Finance Item #0411-05)

Project Succeed Agreement for the 2011-2012 School Year

*Director Hughan asked Dr. Panza for clarification on this program. Dr. Panza explained it is a credit recovery program which helps students to graduate on time. President Brown mentioned that the director of the program, Joel Vanucci, was an assistant basketball coach in the past when the team captured the state title.*

The Emergency Evacuation Cooperation Agreement between the district and the South Fayette School District, which provides a safe evacuation and housing plan for students in the event of a crisis, disaster or other circumstances necessitating the removal of students from the facilities operated by the parties; (Finance Item #0411-06)

Emergency Evacuation Cooperation Agreement with South Fayette School District

The Running Track Surface Replacement RFP for repaving of the high school track as presented; (Finance Item #0411-07)

Running Track Surface Replacement RFP

*And the Running Track Asphalt Topping RFP for resurfacing of the high school track as presented. (Finance Item #0411-08) **By a ROLL CALL vote, the motion carried 9-0.***

Running Track Asphalt Topping RFP

*Discussion preceded this action with Director Schirripa requesting an additional lane for the track so it would be repaved with six lanes rather than the current five. Directors Schirripa and DiPietro said it was necessary to run dual races and invitational tournaments could possibly be held. Director Walkowiak suggested a dual quote could be requested in the RFP. He also asked for the warranty on the repaving and resurfacing be changed to three (3) years for both.*

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the Front Sidewalk Replacement RFP for replacement of the high school sidewalk as presented; (Finance Item #0411-09)

Front Sidewalk Replacement RFP

*Director DiPietro suggested that if the company who did sidewalk replacement last year is awarded this bid, John Recchio, maintenance foreman, should ask them to take a look at some of the places that have lifted. Director Walkowiak noted the proposal offers a base bid plus two alternatives and called attention to curbing that has deteriorated in some areas.*

The Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Carlynton Federation of Teachers regarding retirement payments as presented; (Finance Item #0411-10)

MOU with CFT Regarding Retirement Payments

The February 2011 Cafeteria Operating Report as submitted by Aramark Educational Services; (Finance Item #0411-11)

February 2011 Cafeteria Operating Report

Food Services Management Renewal Agreement with Aramark Educational Services for one year starting July 2, 2011, which may be renewed by mutual agreement. (Finance Item #0411-12)

Food Service Management Renewal Agreement with Aramark

And to award the bid proposal to Process Contracting Company Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, to complete the Carnegie Elementary Gym Roof Conductor Rerouting work, at a cost of \$8,600. (Finance Item #0411-13) **By a ROLL CALL vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Bid Proposal for Carnegie Elementary Gym Roof

### III. Personnel

Director Schirripa moved, seconded by Director Schell, to approve the additions to the 2010-2011 Day-to-Day Substitute List as follows:

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

- Emily Aleski – Elementary
- Rebecca Smith – Music, K-12
- Carol Polichio – Food Service Worker
- Andrew Teti – Elementary/Special Education (Personnel Item #0411-01)

The additions to the 2010-2011 Supplemental Athletic Contract List as recommended by administration and as follows:

Additions to Athletic Contract List

- Robert Perkey – JV Head Baseball Coach
- Samantha Wooster – Junior Varsity Cheerleading Coach
- Dané Marshall – Assistant Boys' Tennis Coach (Personnel Item #0411-02)

Andrea Harrity and Brian Harewicz to facilitate the four week summer reading and writing program to be held June 27 through July 22, 2011, at Carnegie Elementary at the teacher's per diem rate. This program will be funded through grant monies; (Personnel Item #0411-03)

Summer Reading and Writing Program at Carnegie

The requested leaves of absence for employees CFT11-04 and SCA11-08 as approved by administration. (Personnel Item #0411-04)

Leaves of Absence

~~Meredith Kladakis for the position of kindergarten teacher at Carnegie Elementary per the recommendation of the administration; (Personnel Item #0411-05)~~ **REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

Kindergarten Position – Meredith Kladakis  
REMOVED

Reassign Carol Nightingale to the position of General Cafeteria Worker at Carnegie Elementary School, per the terms of the Secretarial-Cafeteria-Aides Bargaining Unit Agreement; (Personnel Item #0411-06)

Reassign Carol Nightingale – General Cafeteria Worker

Post for the position of one (1) summer head custodian for the Summer of 2011;

Posting – Summer 2011 Head Custodian

Post for the positions of three (3) summer maintenance helpers for the Summer of 2011;

Posting – Summer 2011 Maintenance Helpers

Post for the position of \_\_\_\_\_ summer custodial helpers for the Summer of 2011. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Posting – Summer 2011 Custodial Helpers

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** *Director Wilson asked if the board planned to have a discussion and/or meeting with the Keystone Oaks school board to explore a merger. She said she did not believe it would best for the students. Director Wilson and Director Walkowiak said they saw no reason to discuss this issue with Keystone Oaks. Director DiPietro said that should the board decide to build*

down the road, the community could force the board to look at the possibility of a merger. He suggested it might be something to explore now. Director Walkowiak stated that after watching the video of the last meeting (due to his absence), he again looked at the PSBA brochure and decided there is not enough proof that a merger is the best idea. Some discussion about the matter ensued. President Brown said he saw no reason not to entertain discussion, adding that he also read the PSBA White Paper and he would still like to look at all options. Director Schirripa said that while attending a Pittsburgh Leadership meeting, she learned that mergers are in the future and the state will support them. She said she is hearing this at every level throughout the state.

Director Schell commented that when she first became a board member, she initially considered a merger and was told there was no interest whatsoever. Now board members are saying yes. She went on to say the district is not “there” to be a model for other districts throughout the state. Director Schell said that even informal talks would be premature and misleading to Keystone Oaks. She asked if the board was proceeding with the building plan. President Brown said the plan is still on the table. Director Schell asked again if the board was willing to enter into talks with Keystone Oaks and President Brown said he did not see any reason not to. Director Wilson said the talks did not make any sense.

Director DiPietro stated that two communities said they would secede from the district. He said those factors prompted the suggestion for a merger.

Director Schell said that if the board enters into talks with Keystone Oaks, they first need to know and understand what will be discussed. Director Walkowiak admitted he was confused by President Brown’s statement. He said the board needs to know what they are going to do before moving forward. Director Schell said she agreed to reviewing the financial numbers and going from there; she said she did not agree to halt work. She suggested the board needs to develop a game plan.

With that, Director Wilson made a motion to table any discussions with Keystone Oaks. The motion was seconded by Director McCartney. **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 6-3 with Directors Brown, DiPietro and Schirripa voting NO.**

Director Walkowiak asked what savings the district has realized since installing the capacitor. Dr. Panza said he would do some research and get back to the board.

Director Schell brought forth the letter that was sent to Kimball that called for a moratorium on the construction plan. She asked if the board intended to uphold this. President Brown said he believed the project should go forward. Director McCartney said the board never voted to halt the project. Director Walkowiak agreed, but said that in fact it was halted. He said he was confused by the letter sent to the architects and others involved because it stated that “the board decided to call for a moratorium.” President Brown said it was his opinion that the project be halted, but he or the board never directed it to happen.

Dr. Panza apologized for the misunderstanding. He then asked if the board wished to move forward by hiring a construction manager and inform PNC that the board was moving forward.

Director Wilson said she wished to make a motion to continue the moratorium. Director Schell said it needed to be established that there was indeed a moratorium. After some discussion, the following motion was made:

Director Wilson moved, seconded by Director Schell, to establish a moratorium on the building project.

*More discussion ensued about the budget and the fund balance. Director Walkowiak said he needed to review some updated numbers. He said that even when plugging in the new numbers, he still sees a tax increase within five years. Director Schirripa asked Director Walkowiak where he is getting the PSER (retirement) numbers. Director Walkowiak said they came from a House Bill and those provided by the administration. He added that the board needs to look forward when making considerations.*

*Director DiPietro asked for the numbers if the board moves ahead now. Dr. Panza said they could be around \$40,000, but he did not know for certain. Director Tassaro said that by looking at Kimball's numbers with the proposed numbers, the board could conceivably be looking at an increase of one mil. Director Walkowiak said another reason to hold off on building is a proposed mandate that could be significant to the district. He added that it might be better to wait and see. Director Tassaro said she would like to include within the motion some wording to continue the wetlands reconnaissance survey and land survey for the Carnegie site. She said this would at least give the board some direction if they decided to move forward.*

With that the motion was amended by Sharon Wilson, seconded by Director Schell, to establish a moratorium on the building project and to proceed with the two surveys at the Carnegie site. **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 7-2 with Directors Brown and Schirripa voting NO.**

*Director Walkowiak asked for clarification of the billing for Kimball and other contractors, inquiring as to whether there were any additional expenses. Dr. Panza said that all invoices have been paid.*

*Director Schell asked if parents should be notified that the balcony may not be open for sixth grade graduation. Mrs. Maslyk said she would do so. Director DiPietro suggested that family attendance be limited to parents only and Mrs. Maslyk said the seating would still be tight, given that the sixth graders use the front center rows for seating. Director Wilson asked who would be missing the upcoming CLO performance. Mrs. Maslyk said kindergarten and grade one. Director DiPietro suggested the performance be brought to the high school auditorium and both elementary schools students could be bussed up to see it. Mrs. Maslyk said the performance is being sponsored by the Crafton Rotary for Crafton and she can not assume that all can be included. Director Schell added that too much time would be wasted by bussing students.*

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**OPEN FORUM:** *Crafton resident Michael Artascos asked if parents can sign a hold harmless waiver to allow their children to use the balcony. Solicitor Burkardt said anyone who did would be giving up their rights should something happen. She provided an example of a broken diving board: If a board was broken and the school board was aware and knew it to be a foreseeable danger, an individual could sue if injured when using it.*

*Crafton Councilperson/resident April Weitzel said she knows that the Crafton Borough building code inspector did not say the balcony was considered unsafe. She said she read his report, and though it made suggestions for repairs, it never*



said to close the doors to the balcony. She said she also read about the water near a power source and considered that to be much more dangerous. Dr. Panza said the board has decided to meet and review the situation; therefore, he asked that the conversation about the balcony respectfully be closed.

Crafton resident Mike Kozy said the papers have all said that Carlynton invites schools to merge. He said this is crippling to the district as the public reads this. Director DiPietro said the public reads web sites such as the SOS as well. Mr. Kozy asked the board to be more sensitive to what might be perceived by the public. Mr. Kozy also brought up the balcony and said it will be interesting to see what Kimball brings to the table.

Crafton council president Dan Cindric replied to the earlier comments about seceding from the district. Mr. Cindric said that the decision to secede by Crafton Council was never followed by any action. He went on to say that if the board takes action on information they read on web sites, he feels sorry for them, as Crafton Council would not do that. President Brown read from the minutes of a Crafton Borough council meeting that stated the municipality would work with Rosslyn Farms to consider secession from the school district. Mr. Cindric said that regardless, council never took action. He went on to say the president authorized the matter, but council did not move forward.

Carnegie Mayor Jack Kobistek said he wished to change gears and mentioned the activity that raised funds for a Carnegie family to cover out-of-pocket medical expenses. He said it was a great evening and he felt privileged to be a part of it. Mr. Kobistek said he also saw the Carnegie Elementary talent show and was proud of the team work and diversity. He said he hopes the communities can get through this issue as there are so many good things taking place.

Director Tassaro said the board has yet to go over the finances and asked Dr. Panza to have them ready for the next meeting. She then asked Directors Brown and Schirripa why they voted “no” to the motion regarding the surveys. They said it was because they would have preferred two separate motions.

Director McCartney asked for a simple summary of how the district had a deficit budget but now has an excess. Mr. Christy replied that it was largely made possible by following the philosophy to overestimate expenditures and underestimate revenues. He said that after carefully reviewing costs for health care, retirement, transportation and energy, he found that the district did not spend all that was budgeted. He added that AIU expenses are lower than expected. He looked at supplies and other contracted expenses and everything appeared to be on track. In closing, he said the fat in the budget equaled a higher fund balance.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments or business to discuss, Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kirby Christy, Board Secretary

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Michale Herrmann, Recording Secretary