

## CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Committee/Voting Meeting July 15, 2010 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 pm

#### MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Committee/Voting Meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2010 in the library of the junior-senior high school. Those in attendance included President Thomas Brown, Vice President Patricia Schirripa and School Directors Thomas DiPietro, Sandra Hughan, Nyra Schell, Raymond Walkowiak and Sharon Wilson. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitors Jocelyn Kramer and Lisa Colautti, Business Manager Kirby Christy, Director of Pupil Services Lee Myford and Principals Jacie Maslyk, Robert Susini and Christopher Very. The audience was comprised of five individuals and one member of the press.

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**CALL TO ORDER** - *The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 7:30 pm. Principal Chris Very led the pledge.*

**ROLL CALL** – *The roll was called by Recording Secretary Michale Herrmann. Directors McCartney and Tassaro were excused from the meeting.*

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

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

Director Wilson moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2010 Regular Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Minutes of the June 24, 2010 Meeting

#### **REPORTS:**

- **Executive Session** – *President Brown reported that contractual and legal issues were discussed in executive session under school code guidelines.*
  - **Principals' Reports** – *Dr. Susini said schedules are set to be mailed out and a new student orientation will be held on August 18. A community pep rally is slated for August 20 to introduce the fall athletic teams, the band and the cheerleaders; the elementary principals reported that kindergarten orientation will be conducted August 16 in Carnegie and August 17 in Crafton. They also announced that several teachers attended a motivational training program.*
  - **Director of Pupil Services' Report** – *Mrs. Myford announced that results of a year-end survey offered limited suggestions from students. A group will gather to make some decisions for the future based on the results.*
  - **Business Manager Report** – *Mr. Christy reported that the passage of the PA budget will require recertification of employers' contributions but the expected contribution rate was lowered. The Southwest Tax Collection Committee met and voted*

*to negotiate an agreement with Jordan Tax Service; more will be discussed at a meeting in October*

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Panza reviewed the calendar and reported on two items:
  - ✓ *The feasibility study report should be ready for a public presentation sometime in August or September*
  - ✓ *PSSA scores are now available on the PDE website; they will be reviewed carefully*
- Pathfinder Report – Director Wilson announced that Pathfinder did apply for an Act 77 agreement with Siemens under a 15-year plan; eight new students have already enrolled for the upcoming school year
- PSBA-Legislative – Director Walkowiak reported that an economic crisis in schools is resulting in a reduction of staff. Representative Boyd has instigated a bill that will allow teachers to be furloughed on the basis of the economic stability of a school. On another issue, he shared an article about teachers tampering with test scores due to the pressure of meeting goals; he also discussed Race to the Top funding issues and the proposed evaluation system. Director Schell asked if the district would be responsible for funding the programs associated to RTT. Solicitor Kramer said that without the appropriate signatures and the current teacher's contract, this could not be enforced. Director Schell mentioned an article that said schools in Chicago are considering cuts in tenured faculty based upon performance.

## **BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:**

### **I. Miscellaneous**

*Some discussion preceded the vote on the chemistry textbooks with concerns about whether the book will meet future standards. Dr. Panza said the chemistry curriculum has been rewritten in alignment with the state standards and the textbooks coordinate with the curriculum. Director Schirripa said the AIU recommends that textbooks should not be purchased now.*

Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the new chemistry textbook for the 2010-2011 school year as presented. **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 7-0.**

Chemistry Textbook

Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to declare excess science items at Carnegie Elementary as surplus and donate as a fundraiser for the school as submitted. (Miscellaneous Item #0710-01) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Declare Items as Surplus

*Prior to voting Director DiPietro asked what types of science items would be donated. Mr. Very provided some examples: incubators, chicken coops, animal skulls, etc. Former teacher Susan Holzer now owns and operates a local teacher re-sale store and the items will be donated to that store. Funds from any sold items will be donated back to the school.*

## II. Finance

Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the Speech-Language Pathologist Agreement between Evelyn Bainbridge and the district as recommended by administration and reviewed by the solicitor; (Finance Item #0710-01)

Evelyn Bainbridge – Speech-Language Pathologist Agreement

Award the trash removal service bid to Valley Waste, the lowest responsible bidder, for a three-year contract with costs as presented; (Finance Item #0710-02)

Trash Removal Bid

*Dr. Panza said the contract will result in a savings of some \$1,200.*

The Rosslyn Farms Earned Income Tax Refund as submitted. (Finance Item #0710-03)

RF EIT Refund

The Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Carlynton Federation of Teachers regarding the 403(b) retirement plan as submitted. (Finance Item #0710-04) **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 7-0.**

MOU – 403(b)Retirement Plan

## III. Personnel

Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director Schell, to approve David Oddi as district security person at a contracted fee of \$400 per month;

District Security Person – David Oddi

Extended Leave of Absence for Employee #CFT10-20 as presented; (Personnel Item #0710-01)

Extended Leave of Absence – Employee #CFT10-20

Resignation of Speech-Language Pathologist Kelly Papst as submitted and to post for said opening; (Personnel Item #0710-02)

Resignation – Kelly Papst

Resignation of cafeteria van driver James Fiering as submitted and to post for said opening. (Personnel Item #0710-03) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Resignation – James Fiering

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** *Director Walkowiak asked for some clarification on the portion the district must pay to PSERs.*

*Director Hughan asked when the Feasibility Study report will be given. Dr Panza said as soon as it's ready.*

*Director Schell asked for an update on the carpets in Crafton, which were soaked due to earlier flooding; Dr. Panza said the carpets are ordered and will be installed prior to the start of the school year. Dr Panza also mentioned that the sidewalk paving is nearing completion, the hillside at the junior-senior high school is scheduled to be cleared, and the district is looking into the purchase of a new capacitor.*

*President Brown asked for an update on the press box at Honus Wagner. Dr. Panza said the maintenance department plans to erect a simple, but functional, box at a cost of less than \$5,000 and it will be ready by the first football game.*

*Nyra Schell as if deadlines have been established for property reassessments. Solicitor Kramer advised checking the Allegheny County website for timelines.*

**NEW BUSINESS:** *None*

**OPEN FORUM:** *Maxwell Street resident Michael Rattay spoke as a follow-up to the previous meeting about the water run-off at the Athletic Field and asked if the board has considered his concern. Dr. Panza said he visited the site and perused records to discover the last time work was done on the field. He said the district has involved the solicitor and they are seeking a manner to resolve the issue. He added that a letter was drafted and mailed to Little Cougars about behavior at the field. Mr. Rattay presented a letter of complaint signed by residents affected by the water run-off.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss, Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director Walkowiak, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**