

CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Voting Meeting August 19, 2010 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Cafeteria – 7:30 pm

MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Regular Voting Meeting on Thursday, August 19, 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, Ronald McCartney, Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaró, Raymond Walkowiak and Sharon Wilson. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitor Janet Burkardt, and Principals Robert Susini and Christopher Very. The audience was comprised of 71 individuals and two members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER - *The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 7:30 pm. Audience member Fr. Robert Popichak led the pledge.*

ROLL CALL – *The roll was called by Recording Secretary Michale Herrmann. All directors were present.*

PRESENTATION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY – *John Hummel and Dana Steadman from L.R. Kimball were present to provide the final report of the Feasibility Study and recommendation to the board. Following introductions by President Brown, they began by explaining the purpose of the study and how the entire report was customized to our district. They presented enrollment projections and noted that the trend is fairly stable. Mr. Hummel, who began the first half of the presentation, through PowerPoint, said the architects in the company came to the conclusion that both elementary schools were in need of improvements and upgrades, some cosmetically, others technologically, and more due to the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) regulations. The goal of the feasibility study is to address those needs.*

Mr. Hummel said the team from Kimball strived to remain objective. Along with the options to be presented, they would provide cost estimates. He said the team developed ten (10) options. Each option would be designated with the letters “ES” for Elementary School, followed by 1, 2, 3, etc.

Going on, he explained that some options will include “phasing” or the logistics of moving students from one area of the school to another during a possible renovation process with the possibility of leasing modules or trailers for classroom use while the work continues. This type of work could extend over several years. There could also be “collateral” projects as a result of renovations or consolidations, and those would be explained further as each option was illustrated.

The ten (10) options were presented with drawings and cost estimates.

Several options included the aforementioned collateral projects, which means that additional work would need to be done at specified sites to collaborate with the actual project; i.e., relocation of parking areas or athletic playing fields or the movement of the high school track to accommodate fields and/or a new stadium.

Kimball completed their presentation at 8:19 pm. A question/answer period was held. President Brown asked if Kimball could rank the options according to cost. Mr. Hummel then listed the options from most expensive to least. Fr. Robert Popichak of Carnegie asked if the state reimbursement for the project would be the same, regardless of cost, and Mr. Kimball said yes.

President Brown addressed those who signed in on the “sign in sheet” and asked if they wished to speak. There were no comments from anyone other than to say that Kimball did a nice job with the presentation.

Questions were then taken from the audience. David Roussos of Crafton asked for a time table in terms of when a decision would be made about the preferable option. President Brown said he envisions more meetings before making a decision. He added that the economic environment is currently more favorable in terms of gaining lower bids on the project, as much as 20 percent lower. Mr. Hummel concurred, saying some contractors are bidding below cost because of lack of work; combine that with low interest rates and the availability of good contractors makes for an ideal time to move forward. President Brown said he would like to have some sort of decision by the end of October.

Mr. Hummel said once the project is selected and approved, the next phase would be to look for an architect who then begins the Plan Con process. This course of action, from hiring of the architect to actually starting the project, could take about a year. Building a new building is faster than renovating; a new building could be complete in about 18 months. President Brown asked if the board made a decision by October, how long before the district would begin the bidding process. Mr. Hummel said by fall of 2011. Director Schell asked the shelf life of the project if the board cannot come to a decision. Mr. Hummel said two years.

Megan Schriver asked if the board could possibly take a variation of several options as a final decision. Mr. Hummel said yes. She said she hoped the board would keep in mind that families within the district wish to keep their neighborhood schools.

Mary Luxbacher of Crafton asked if the board had a cost figure in mind, now that price tags/estimates have been given. President Brown said no, adding that the district has a healthy fund balance with no current debt, so the funds can continue to grow. He said the board wishes to remain fiscally conservative with the hope to not raise taxes. Mrs. Luxbacher said it appears that both communities want a school presence and to please keep that in mind.

Carnegie Mayor Jack Kobistek asked if the projected costs include the cost of educating children during the renovations or building. Mr. Hummel said that some costs are included, especially if temporary facilities are needed.

Crafton resident Betsy Martin asked if consideration was given to buying property across the street from Crafton Elementary for additional space. Mr. Hummel said site acquisitions were not considered.

Michael Kozy, Sr., of Crafton, asked if costs to renovate, such as heating and ventilating and other construction materials were considered as an option. He said he was surprised by the number of options. Mr. Steadman said the options

are provided as variations and allows for better public input. Mr. Hummel added that by just using the existing spaces and doing nothing more than maintenance is not reimbursable by the state; in addition, the buildings need to be ADA compliant and must meet certain codes.

Director DiPietro added that the schools are maxed out for classroom space; some of the special needs classrooms and additional programs are using hallways and closets. This is due to the additions of technology (computer labs) and classrooms/spaces for Title I programs, English as a Second Language, counseling areas, etc.

Rosslyn Farms resident Bill Sargent asked if the Separations Act would be considered and would contractors be paid the prevailing wages. Mr. Hummel said yes but much is still to be considered at this point. Mr. Sargent asked what the biggest variable is, and Mr. Hummel said the largest variable would be working in a school with kids in it.

Marla Levenson of Crafton asked if a new building would include rooms for more elective options. The board said that is something to be considered.

David Roussos asked why school classrooms are maxed out when enrollment is declining. Dr. Panza shared that remedial rooms are now necessary based on new regulations. Dr. Panza said that already this year, 22 students are being cross-districted to maintain lower classroom sizes and avoid overflow.

Tracy Post of Crafton asked if a projection of the taxes (millage) were considered in light of what is happening with pension costs. Dr. Panza agreed that pensions have been under-funded and a long-term goal has been set in motion to help resolve the issue. He added that the board wants to act in the most fiscally responsible manner. Director Walkowiak said the pension issue will be a consideration as the board moves forward, even though they do not have a “crystal ball” to see what could happen.

Crystal Bayne asked if the ranking of the costs of the options indicates that the board is looking for the least expensive option and questions if the board would consider all options and issues before making a decision. President Brown said not necessarily so, stating again that the board wishes to do what is best for the kids in a fiscally responsible manner. Director Schell said there is plenty of time to make a decision. Mr. Hummel said the body of the study does enumerate the pros and cons.

With no further questions or comments, President Brown called for a recess at 9:17 pm.

The board reconvened at 9:32 pm for its regular board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD: *In light of teacher Brian Harewicz being considered for a supplemental curriculum position, Jack Kobistek made the comment that Mr. Harewicz is a fantastic teacher.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director Walkowiak moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2010 Regular Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 6-0-3, with Directors Brown, DiPietro and Tassaro abstaining due to absence.**

Minutes of the August 5, 2010 Meeting

REPORTS:

- Executive Session – President Brown noted that contractual and legal issues were discussed in executive session under school code guidelines.
- Principals' Reports – Mr. Very mentioned that helpers were needed to apply mulch at both elementary playgrounds on Saturday, August 21. Dr. Susini said the two orientation sessions were well attended and he reminded everyone of the spaghetti dinner and Cougar Night to be held the following evening
- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Panza summarized the calendar of upcoming events and reported on the following:
 - The district made AYP across the board
 - A tour will be given to the Class of 1960 on September 3
 - The district received \$2600 in funding from FEMA for winter snow removal
 - The press box at Honus Wagner will be ready by the first home game of September 3
 - Crafton Elementary received a Highmark High 5 grant to enhance its physical education program
 - ✓ The minutes of the Parkway West Career and Technology Center Joint Committee Meeting of June 1, 2010 were entered into record. (SC Item #0810-01)
- Parkway West CTC Report – Director Hughan reported that enrollment as of August 3 is 652 students; an orientation will be held August 26. She said the school has made upgrades to curriculum in regards to academic classes that are offered.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:

I. Miscellaneous

Director Schirripa moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the following conference and field trip requests as presented:

- C...J.Maslyk (+New Assistant Principal)...Moon Twp...Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training...9/14-17
- FT...Gr. 12...Pgh. Zoo...PSSA Reward Educational Trip...9/21
- FT...Gr.8-9...Pgh. Zoo...PSSA Reward Educational Trip...9/28
- C...J.Maslyk...Sheraton SS...PAESSP Conf...10/24-26 (Miscellaneous Item #0810-01) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Conference and Field Trip Requests

II. Finance

Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2010 as presented; (Finance Item #0810-01)

Treasurer's Report - June 2010

The June 2010 bills in the amount of \$9,840,100.48 as presented; (Finance Item #0810-02)

June 2010 Bills

The audit report of the Rosslyn Farms Earned Income Tax Collector for the period ending June 30, 2009 as presented; (Finance Item #0810-03)

RF EIT Audit Report

Accept the Highmark Foundation School Challenge Grant for Crafton Elementary in the amount of \$9,996.00 as submitted; (Finance Item #0810-04)

School Challenge Grant for Crafton Elementary

Director Schell asked who would manage and monitor the grant. Dr. Panza said Mr. Ficorilli, physical education teacher, and Mrs. Maslyk, principal, would be responsible for overseeing the program.

The settlement in regards to the tax assessment appeal between the Borough of Carnegie, Carnegie Associates, and the District as recommended by the solicitor; (Finance Item #0810-05)

Tax Assessment Appeal Settlement

Dr. Panza explained this was due to the appeal of the property owner and the amount would be some \$300,000.

The balance forward report for the 2010-2011 Athletic Fund as submitted as of July 1, 2010; (Finance Item #0810-06)

July 2010 Athletic Fund Balance Forward Report

The Activities Fund Report and 2010-2011 balance forward reported as submitted as of July 1, 2010; (Finance Item #0810-07)

June 2010 Activities Fund and Balance Forward Report

~~Award electrical engineering work to _____ for a capacitor installation at the junior senior high school at a cost of \$ _____ as submitted; (Finance Item #0810-08)~~ **REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

Capacitor Installation – _____

The contract between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the District for recommended English as a Second Language Services for previously enrolled students as presented; (Finance Item #0810-09)

ESL Services through AIU

Dr. Panza announced that this would include two teachers at a cost of about \$135,000.

The contract of agreement between Wesley Spectrum Services and the District for School Based Behavioral Health Services as presented. This position is supported with grant funds; (Finance Item #0810-10)

Behavioral Health Services through Wesley Spectrum

Dr. Panza said the cost for this program was approximately \$90,000 and half of the amount was paid with grant funds.

Declare the list of items presented as surplus and to offer for resale or dispose properly. (Finance Item #0810-11) **By a ROLL CALL vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Surplus Items

III. Personnel

Director Wilson moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to approve the list of Day-to-Day Substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year as recommended by administration and presented; (Personnel Item #0810-01)

2010-11 Day-to-Day Sub List

The following curriculum supplemental positions for the 2010-2011 school year as follows:

- Laura Begg – Secondary Social Studies
- Lisa Rowley – Secondary Physical Education and Health
- Marlynn Vayanos – Secondary Music and Art
- Michael Kozy – Secondary Mathematics
- Cynthia Eddy – Language Arts/Foreign Languages/Library/Reading
- Diane Criste and Russ Pedersen – Elementary Music and Art
- Jacie Maslyk – Elementary Reading/Library and Computers / and Language Arts
- Christopher Very - Science
- Brian Harewicz – Elementary Special Education and GATE
- Lisa Rowley – Federal Programs
(Personnel Item #0810-02)

2010-2011 Curriculum Supplemental Positions

The following additions and deletion to the 2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental List as follows:

- Nathan Milsom – Assistant Athletic Director
- David Oddi – Athletic Director
- Stephen Buches – *Resigning, Assistant Varsity (1) Football Coach*
(Personnel Item #0810-03)

2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental Positions

The following additions to the 2010-2011 Activities Supplemental List as follows:

- Kristin Bossong – Assistant Band Director
- Stephen Blumanthal – Assistant Band Director
- Kristina Schelb – Cougarette Instructor and Cougarette/Honorguard Sponsor
(Personnel Item #0810-04)

2010-2011 Activities Supplemental Positions

The salary increases for the Act 93 administrators as presented;

Act 93 Salary Increases

The salary increase for Business Manager Kirby Christy as presented;

Business Manager Salary Increase

The salary increases for the Confidential Secretaries as presented;

Confidential Secretary's Salary Increases

Award the position of junior-senior high school assistant principal to Laura Burns, under the terms of the Act 93 Agreement. (Personnel Item #0810-05)

JSHS Assistant Principal – Laura Burns

Award the position of speech-language therapist to Nicole Uhrin, under the terms of the Carlynton Federation of Teachers Bargaining Unit Agreement. (Personnel Item #0810-06)

Speech-Language Therapist – Nicole Uhrin

The following one semester, long-term substitute positions in the music department as follows:

- Janelle Dodd
- Mary Ferro (Personnel Item #0810-07)

LTS Positions in the Music Department – Janelle Dodd and Mary Ferro

Award the position of cafeteria van driver to Domenic Tavoletti for four (4) hours per day under the terms of the Secretarial-Cafeteria-Aides Bargaining Unit Agreement. (Personnel Item #0810-08)

Cafeteria Van Driver – Domenic Tavoletti

Award Professional Employee Contracts to the following individuals 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:

- Annemarie Bunch
- Andrea Harrity
- Lisa Ramandames
- Brian Harewicz
- Frank Zebrasky

Furlough employees SCA#10-05 and SCA#10-06 due to a change in programs; (Personnel Item #0810-09)

The annual and semi-annual ratings for Temporary Professional Employees and Professional Employees and direct administration to file said ratings with the appropriate agencies consistent with Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Director Walkowiak asked who was handling the chores of Equipment Manager since no one had filled the position. Dr. Panza said that Dave Oddi was handling the responsibility. Mr. Walkowiak also asked if the salary increases should be listed under “Finances” since it was an expenditure. The solicitor said it was the board’s preference. President Brown noted other agenda items that could be considered a Finance item as well.

IV. Curriculum

Director Walkowiak moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the course curriculum for Spanish V and French V as presented. (Curriculum Item #0810-01) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Director Hughan asked how many have signed up for the classes and whether they would be included in the Spanish IV and French IV classes. Dr. Susini said eight Spanish students were enrolled and about five French students; and they will be included within the IV classes but with the more advanced curriculum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: *Director Tassaro mentioned that she personally would not be ready to make a decision on the building project in October. Director Walkowiak asked if a spreadsheet could be developed to illustrate the time from present through the ribbon cutting, and could it include projected costs. Dr. Panza said he would speak to Kimball about it.*

OPEN FORUM: *Resident Michael Kozy, Sr., asked if anything was done to keep the new carpets at Crafton Elementary free from the possibility of flooding. Dr. Panza said a drain had been cleared of debris and widened and it would be monitored. Mr. Kozy suggested the doors be sealed at the bottom as well.*

Awarding of Professional Employee Contracts

Furloughing of Two (2) Employees

Annual and Semi-Annual Ratings of TPE’s and PE’s

Course Curriculum – Spanish V and French V

President Brown questioned the status of the pool filter replacement. Dr. Panza said they were waiting on another bid and the estimated time to correct the problem would be anywhere from four to six weeks. A resident asked if this would impact the swim team; Dr. Panza said they were trying to move on the process as quickly as possible.

Senior class member Larry Weigner asked everyone to stop by and visit the new Cougar store, near the cafeteria, for school supplies and spirit wear. Director Hughan suggested the store be open on the evening of open house.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**