

## CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Regular Voting Meeting September 16, 2010 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 pm

#### MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Regular Voting Meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2010 in the library of the junior-senior high school. Those in attendance included Vice President Patricia Schirripa and School Directors Thomas DiPietro, Sandra Hughan, Ronald McCartney, Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaro and Raymond Walkowiak. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitor Janet Burkardt, Business Manager Kirby Christy, Director of Pupil Services Lee Myford and Principals Laura Burns, Jacie Maslyk, Robert Susini and Christopher Very. The audience was comprised of 18 individuals and two members of the press.

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**CALL TO ORDER** - *The meeting was called to order by Vice President Schirripa at 7:30 pm. Crafton Elementary sixth grader Ashleigh Wilson led the pledge.*

**ROLL CALL** – *The roll was called by Recording Secretary Michale Herrmann. President Brown and Director Wilson were excused from the meeting.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:** *Crafton resident Joe Appel asked if any thought had gone into obtaining the Glaser property across the street from Crafton Elementary to allow for additional parking and renovations to Crafton Elementary. Dr. Panza said it was discussed at the last meeting and it was noted that ordinance and zoning issues could present some problems since the property was in the City of Pittsburgh.*

*Crafton resident Lorianne Holt came forward to read a letter she had written, saying that she and her husband moved to Crafton because it was a nice community and was home to a neighborhood elementary school for their children to easily walk to and from school. In her letter she wrote that taking the school out of the neighborhood would decrease property values. She submitted a copy of the letter to each of the directors.*

*Lisa Wilson, also of Crafton, thanked the board for recognizing her daughter (who led the pledge) and said she and her husband believe their children are receiving a good education. She then posed a question about bus transportation, to which Dr. Panza said he would have someone contact her in the morning to address.*

*April Weitzel, a member of Crafton Council, questioned if the facility study report had been read thoroughly. Dr. Panza stated that by accepting the study, the board was following procedure, further explaining that acceptance does not indicate they are in favor of everything within the study. He then shared data about the construction costs per square feet, which was recently researched and amended, as well as several other documents. He said that time was spent with the principals and other administrators to review the necessary number of classrooms and other spaces to gain a better perception of the square footage.*

*Crafton resident Kim Cooper echoed the concerns of Mrs. Holt, and asked that meetings be advertised more extensively.*

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2010 Regular Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Minutes of the September 2, 2010 Meeting

## **REPORTS:**

- Executive Session – Vice-President Schirrupa noted that contractual and legal issues were discussed in executive session within school code guidelines.
  - Principals' Reports – The elementary principals reminded everyone of the upcoming open house on September 23; Dr. Susini announced the names of the Students of the Month.
  - Director of Pupil Services' Report – Mrs. Myford shared that discussion at a recent secondary pupil services committee meeting indicates that more students services are needed and additional grant funding would be helpful
  - Business Manager Report – Mr. Christy reported that the first segment of the audit in September went well
- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Panza briefly summarized the calendar of upcoming events and commented on the following:
  - ✓ Homecoming is October 1 with the dance on October 10
  - ✓ The company completing repairs to the pool filter have made the initial inspections and repairs are hoped to be completed by mid-October
- Pathfinder Report – Director McCartney said the Act 77 project is ongoing and the help of renting rooms at the school will enable a quicker payoff on the project loans
- Parkway West CTC Report – Director Hughan reported that a summer career exploration course was successful and parent orientation was well attended
- PSBA-Legislative – Director Walkowiak shared a report that Pennsylvania students posted record gains in reading and math on the PSSA; the number of students performing at the highest level has also increased.

## **BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:**

### **I. Miscellaneous**

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

- C...L.Rowley...AIU...Federal Programs Meeting...9/17
- C...J.Sweeney...AIU...Data Training for Homeless Liaison...9/29
- FT...Car. First Grades...Triple B Pumpkin Farm...Farm Life...10/6
- C...L.Myford & Team...AIU...Autism Training...10/7, 11/23, 2/3
- FT...M.O'Neil...Northgate...Band Festival Performance...10/9
- FT...D.Mitchell...Pgh Zoo & Aquarium...Outside Learning...10/27 (Miscellaneous Item #0910-01) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**

Conference and Field Trip Requests

## II. Finance

Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the district and WPIC of UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside for the provision of Student Assistance Addiction Liaison Services for the district Student Assistance Program (SAP) team, as presented for the 2010-2011 school year. Costs are subsidized through Allegheny County Drug and Alcohol Services and Addiction Medicine Services at a reduced fee of \$175 per day; (Finance Item #0910-01)

Agreement with WPIC of UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside for SAP Liaison Services

The Letter of Agreement between the district and Dr. Russell Adams for physician attendance at football games, working cooperatively with the athletic trainers and Nova Care, for the 2010-2011 school year as presented. (Finance Item #0910-02)

Agreement with Dr. Russell Adams – Physician at Football Games

*Director Walkowiak asked if the physician had been at the first football game; Dr. Panza said yes.*

Accept the Carlynton School District Facility Study presentation by L.R. Kimball as amended;

Accepting the Facility Study

*Director Walkowiak asked if the solicitor could indicate exactly what this process means, since there was considerable discussion at the beginning of the meeting. Solicitor Burkardt said this is a procedural process and by voting, discussion can and will continue on the matter. Director Schell concurred, stating the discussion will remain open to the public. Director Tassaro noted that the motion indicates “as amended” to include the updated changes/corrections and additional data provided.*

The Act 48 Program Agreement for Services between the district and PHASE 4 Learning Center, Inc., for the 2010-2011 school year, as presented. Cost is \$6,000 per student and is prorated according to the number of weeks of attendance; (Finance Item #0910-03)

PHASE 4 Services Agreement

The August 2010 Athletic Fund Report as submitted and reviewed by administration; (Finance Item #0910-04)

August 2010 Athletic Fund Report

The August 2010 Activities Fund Report as submitted and review by administration. (Finance Item #0910-05) **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 7-0.**

August 2010 Activities Fund Report

## III. Personnel

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the following additions to the 2010-2011 Day-to-Day Substitute List as recommended by administration:

Additions to the 2010-11 Day-to-Day Sub List

- Nancy Beck, Lunchroom/Playground Aide (*returning*)
- Peter Gratz, Secondary Social Studies
- Jamie Guimaraes, Elementary (*returning*)
- Jaclyn Flanagan, Secondary Social Studies
- Brenda Hemans, Elementary
- Wendelyn Piquette, Secondary Earth and Space Science
- Ciara Slaiman, Elementary
- Kathryn Szkotnicki, Secondary English 7-12
- James Rupert, Elementary (*returning*)
- Jessica Tsangaris, Elementary (Personnel Item #0910-01)

<p>The following additions to the 2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental List as recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bridget Ward – Seventh Grade Girls’ Basketball Coach</li> <li>▪ Michael Donovan / Bridget Ward – Equipment Manager (<i>shared</i>)</li> <li>▪ Daniel DeRenzo – Grades 7-8 Head Boys’ Soccer Coach (Personnel Item #0910-02)</li> </ul>	<p>Additions to the 2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental List</p>
<p>The Leave of Absence for Employee CFT#10-06 and Employee CFT#10-07 as submitted; (Personnel Item #0910-03)</p>	<p>Leaves – Employee CFT#10-06 and Employee CFT#10-07</p>
<p>Assign Michael Kozy and Melinda Oravitz to the positions of SAT Prep class instructors for the 2010-2011 school year (two sessions, fall and spring) in mathematics and English/Language Arts, respectively. Salary will be at the per diem rate as per the terms of the Carlynton Federation of Teachers Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement; (Personnel Item #0910-04)</p>	<p>SAT Prep Class Instructors for 2010-2011</p>
<p>An At-Risk Learners After-School Program in four subject areas for one-hour per week, funded by IDEA-ARRA monies, and to post for the anticipated positions; (Personnel Item #0910-05)</p> <p><i>Director Tassaro asked for clarification of this program. Mrs Myford said the program was held last year and is funded by grant monies. It is for identified “at-risk” students (academically) and provides tutoring in each of the subject areas for one hour per subject per week.</i></p>	<p>At-Risk Learners After-School Program</p>
<p>High School Assistant Principal Laura Burns to serve as attendance officer for the junior-senior high school for the purpose of filing citations and truancy reports and appearing before the magistrate for related hearings;</p>	<p>Laura Burns – Attendance Officer</p>
<p>The addition to the Curriculum Supplemental Contract List for the 2010-2011 school year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lee Myford – Secondary Special Ed / Guidance / GATE and Vocational Ed (Personnel Item #0910-06) <b>By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Addition to the Curriculum Supplemental Contract List</p>
<p><b><u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</u></b> <i>Director Schell asked what the next step will be with the Facility Study. Dr. Panza said the next logical step would be to hire an Architect of Record, but there was still much discussion to take place prior to doing so.</i></p>	
<p><b><u>NEW BUSINESS:</u></b> <i>None</i></p>	
<p><b><u>OPEN FORUM:</u></b> <i>Crafton resident Mike Kozy, Sr. said he is still finding errors in the Facility Report, adding that more time should be taken to review the amendments. Director Walkowiak said he reviewed everything carefully, and the numbers in the report appear to be correct. Dr. Panza offered to sit down and meet with Mr. Kozy, but he said he would prefer to speak in public. Mr. Kozy said his greatest concern was the square footage, stating that the new proposal appears to have less space than that available now with the two elementary buildings. Director DiPietro said that the board is still not satisfied with the report and will continue to review and discuss it. Mr. Kozy again expressed his concerns about the square footage, stating he believed the plans should be correct before hiring an architect. Dr. Panza noted that the square footage is</i></p>	

*different because a new building would contain only one gym, one cafeteria, one library, one main office (whereas two buildings require two).*

*Director Schell asked what happens upon hiring an Architect of Record. Dr. Panza said that once an architect is hired, the board would hold discussions for building designs. Director DiPietro stated that the board would also need to sift through the options and narrow the choices down to one or two.*

*Dr. Panza interrupted briefly to ask if the board had any objection to dismissing the principals and other administrators at the meeting. Board members said that would be fine. Time: 8:22 pm*

*The discussion continued. Director DiPietro commented that so many individuals are citing only the negatives about combining and building a new school and he questioned why, adding there are so many positives about the plan. Mr. Kozy pointed out that Crafton's PSSA scores are among the top in the area and said the district should stay with a good thing. Dr. Panza was quick to point out that Carnegie PSSA scores were equally as good in some areas and even higher in some grades. Mr. Kozy said that renovations can be done in a manner as to not disturb kids by working over the summers and sectioning off parts of the building to work and not allowing students in that area. He also suggested renting a building or empty school to place students while the work is done.*

*Mrs. Holt said she fears that property values will go down and asked if any consideration was given to decide what might happen to the empty Crafton Elementary if a new school was built. Director Hugan said that in her years on the board, she has seen many changes with other old buildings in the community, and referenced the Rosslyn Farms Community Center, which was once a school, and the elementary school on Railroad Street in Carnegie, which is now a retirement home. She said she believes good things can come from this.*

*Crafton resident Jim Schriver commented that in light of the looming pension crisis and the present day economy, he would suggest taking a monetary number, such as \$5 million for each building, and make whatever renovations to the buildings as possible with the money. Dr. Panza said something like that would not be reimbursable; to which Mr. Schriver said the reimbursable numbers are small in comparison to the costs of building. Director Walkowiak suggested Mr. Schriver should look through the Facility Study Report to see what the base costs are just by prioritizing and funding necessary changes/updates. Mr. Schriver said he was happy to do the research and would be glad to offer his time to further research the project. Referring to the Save Our Schools booklet he distributed to the board at an earlier meeting, Mr. Schriver expressed concern that the book said students perform better in schools with 300-400 students.*

*Carnegie resident Michael Walter came forward to say he favors renovation because local schools provide appeal and comfort to a community, maintaining a sense of connection. He then asked if choosing an architect of record predisposes the district to knowing where the building will take place. Dr. Panza said no.*

*Carnegie resident and Mayor Jack Kobistek called attention to the many partnerships Carnegie Elementary has within the community, naming the Carnegie library with the music hall and civil war room, the boys' and girls' club, the police department and even The Towers, where teachers host an after-*

*school program. He said the partnerships add value to the school and offer a viable argument for maintaining neighborhood schools.*

*Megan Schriver, resident of Crafton, said the positive outcome of the study is that it has unified the folks in the communities. She cited that Crafton, too, has many partnerships within the community. She said that during the previous meetings, she asked for one viable renovation option and said she doesn't believe this was done. She suggested several ideas or options and asked if the Glaser property across the street from Carnegie Elementary was checked out. Dr. Panza said they do have the solicitor looking into the property.*

*Mrs. Cooper said she appreciated the efforts of Director Schell, who tried to break down the process so the public could better understand what was taking place.*

*Carnegie resident George Honchar offered that the best example of an area with neighborhood schools is Mt. Lebanon. He said that he stands with Crafton and will fight against building and losing the neighborhood schools.*

*Doug Clark, of Crafton, asked if a deal had been made with Kimball, within the Feasibility Study, to hire them as the architect of record, should the district plan to build. Director Schirripa said no, adding that hiring an architect has been discussed, but nothing is locked or set in stone. She said that much more investigation is needed and the board is still in the early stages of the process. Director McCartney said the study is not a closed book; the board can go back and ask for more information. Mr. Clark said one of his concerns in the loss of major athletic field space, and said he has reservations with some of the presented options.*

*Mr. Kozy suggested an architect should be contracted through a competitive bid process and said the board is accountable to the community since the plan calls for a multi-million dollar project.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss, Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 7-0.**